

PRE-TOURNAMENT PRESS CONFERENCE
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MILLER BRADY
MIGUEL ANGEL JIMENEZ
CARA GAINER

MIGUEL ANGEL JIMENEZ: Of course, It's very nice for me to be here at this amazing golf course, probably one of the best we play all year round. Congratulate to the Trophy, it's wonderful 50th anniversary. We're very pleased to be part of this situation here.

Well, I don't know what more to say apart of congratulate and support the golf and the golfers for so many years. Thank you very much and here we are for whatever you need.

CARA GAINER: Yeah, obviously very excited to be back here in Morocco. As Miguel said, it's an absolutely incredible venue in great shape. Obviously playing slightly later this year so the greens are a little firmer than we had last year.

So yeah, I'm really excited to get the week started and yeah, thanks again for the support of the tournament. This is one of the best stops all year we have on tour, so it's really exciting and I know all the players are very happy to be back.

MILLER BRADY: Good morning. It's always great to be back here in Morocco, especially here at Dar Es Salam, although as you mentioned we're here a few months later than we've played in the past. A little warmer, golf course has a lot more grass on it so it may be a little bit more challenging for our players.

But on behalf of our players and our tour, I would like to thank his Royal Highness for once again hosting us this week. He has a tremendous love and passion for the game of golf and you can see that. Obviously 50th anniversary, congratulations to the Federation for 50 great years. It's amazing. This is only our fifth year in Morocco with the Champions Tour and it seems to get a little better every single year, so thank you for that.

This is our 10th event of the season. Miguel coming off a top-10 finish in Texas a couple weeks ago, so he's playing well. But he had an amazing tournament last year. Obviously it's a hard test of golf. He won by two, he shot 11 under. He's finished in the top-10 I think every year he's played at this event, so a little fun fact for everybody there.

But I'll also share a story. Miguel loves cigars. He finishes, he wins last year, has the press conference and goes back to the hotel and we're all having dinner upstairs in the hotel restaurant, and here's Miguel in the corner with a good group having a good time and next thing you know, they're all standing up singing and smoking a cigar and singing good times and, you know, no one celebrates better I think than Miguel. You can share a little bit more about your story, but congratulations on that.



We have 18 players here this week that have played in every event here in Morocco. We have four Hall of Fame members. We're just really excited to be back here. It's such a warm culture. To see all of you guys each and every year is just great for our tour, great for our players. Our partnership with the LET Tour is also amazing, so we're looking forward to a great week. Thank you guys once again for having us.

LET REPRESENTATIVE: Welcome, everyone. On behalf of the LET, we are delighted to be here at the Royal Salam Morocco for the 29th edition of the Lalla Meryem Cup. This is one of the most important and long-standing tournaments on the LET schedule.

The players are extremely excited to be back in Rabat, Morocco, and to play on the magnificent course, which is in pristine condition I have to say.

Lalla Meryem Cup is a more than a golf tournament but a symbol of the evolution of the women's sport and a showcase for Morocco on the international stage.

We extend utmost thanks and congratulations to the Royal Moroccan Golf Federation and the Hassan II Golf Trophy Association shared by (indiscernible) on both the 59th edition of the Lalla Meryem Cup and the 50th edition of the Hassan II Golf Trophy on the PGA TOUR Champions. That's quite a milestone. The organization had an incredible vision and dream of his late majesty, King Hassan II. I'm sure we are all looking forward to what I'm sure will be an exceptional week. with two world-class professional golf tournaments. Thank you from our players and from all of us and enjoy the week ahead. Thanks.

(Question for Miguel Angel Jimenez.)

MIGUEL ANGEL JIMENEZ: It's always nice to come here to play this golf course. As I said before, it's one of the best courses we play all year round. I think the greens, some of them, they're a little bit too severe. I note also a couple of changes, but the golf course is nice and always nice to come here to play.

Looking for the weekend, I hope I keep my rhythm, look at the ball, keep your head down and (indiscernible) come to you. We'll see what happens.

Q. Mr. Jimenez, you are admired and loved all over the world not only because of your exquisite game of golf, but also because of your flamboyant way of life. Is it difficult to find a good balance between the two of them?

MIGUEL ANGEL JIMENEZ: No, it's not difficult. The only thing you need to be is yourself. If you like to smoke, you like to have a glass of wine when you're eating, you're going to have it. You don't need to hide anything. The only thing I do in my life, I don't hide what I like to do. I don't hide playing golf, I love to play golf. I enjoy a beautiful cigar, a beautiful wine when I'm eating and a smile with my friends and enjoy myself, that's the main thing. You have to be in good balance with your life.



(Question for LET representative.)

LET REPRESENTATIVE: I think for our players, the venue itself, it's, as I said, a pristine golf course in pristine condition. It's fabulous, I can say, so it's a real test of golf.

In terms of sharing all those facilities, we need to be honest, if we are honest with ourselves, we know that if we were playing a tournament just by ourselves alone, we wouldn't have all these conditions. We have a fantastic players' lounge that is probably just possible because we are sharing with the Champions Tour. We have this media center that we don't have often in our tournaments. All the journalists that we have here, all the attention is attractive because of the ladies, I trust, but also because of the Champions they're playing alongside. So for the LET Tour, it's a fantastic opportunity to bring visibility to the world and to showcase our players. They deserve that attention. I hope that I've responded to your question.

Q. A question for Cara. We haven't forgotten about you. You won last year, you had some good results during that year. How is your form going into this event?

CARA GAINER: Yeah, not too bad. I had a second in South Africa a couple weeks ago and a fifth in Joburg as well. So yeah, a couple top-5s in the last three events, so yeah, I feel like my game's in pretty good shape.

And I feel like this course definitely suits me. You've got to be super accurate off the tee, a very narrow golf course, and really quick greens, which I really enjoy. Yeah, I'm hoping for a good week obviously.

Q. One for Miguel. We know you like the finer things in life. We know that, the story was there, but also we do see you with videos of you working in the fitness room, so there's two sides for you. There's the finer things in life, the enjoyment and then there's the work you put in.

MIGUEL ANGEL JIMENEZ: Of course. I like to do things, you know, I'm here because something happen behind the scenes that people don't see. Every morning when I wake up in the morning, first thing I do is go to the gym and start a workout and stretch myself. (Indiscernible). You need to work. That's the main thing. You need to be very, how you say, you need to be (indiscernible) in what you are doing to keep yourself in good shape and that's you need to work.

Q. I wish you both, Cara and Miguel, the best for this week and hopefully you can repeat.

MIGUEL ANGEL JIMENEZ: We will try to repeat.

CARA GAINER: We'll be here on Saturday, yeah.



Q. Cara, I just wanted to ask you, what does it mean to you and the ladies, obviously we've got some Irish girls this week as well. What does it mean to you on the LET to be part of this magnificent -- this is my first time here, so I'm just enjoying it, but what does it mean for you as an LET player to be part of the Champions Tour and part of this Hassan Trophy?

CARA GAINER: Yeah, obviously as JP said, it's a really great exposure for the LET to be alongside the PGA TOUR Champions Tour with such amazing players that have had very long, very successful careers, which we all hope to aspire to as well when we carry on with our careers. We can get inspiration as well from seeing these top players walking around, sharing the same practice facilities with them as well.

Obviously it feels like such a big event. It's almost set up close to a major championship atmosphere and a lot of great extras that we don't necessarily get on tour. So I know the girls really enjoy this tournament.

And for me last year winning, it was definitely one of the top ones to win other than major championships. Yeah, it's really exciting to be back and I know all the girls are so thankful to be able to play this tournament.

