

ZACH JOHNSON (-17)

Q. We'll get to the golf in a second. Emotions going through yourself right now?

ZACH JOHNSON: Pure gratitude. You know, it's times like this where you really reflect on obviously the journey, reflect on the people surrounding you and helping, encouraging you. That's where I go. That's where I go first, that's where I go last certainly.

I mean, given this week and all that it entails being back home, then literally in a place I used to live, I felt like I had already won before I teed off. That honestly gave me a lot of freedom to just play. Hard to really encompass all the emotions in that regard, but a lot of peace. Like I said, a lot of gratitude, but excitement, too. This is why I play, I love competition.

Pure gratitude.

Q. I asked you on Friday morning about if you got nervous when you get to the first tee. You said of course, it's only natural. Was it ramped a little bit Sunday morning?

ZACH JOHNSON: Yeah. You know, I said I don't really think I get anxious. I might have been a bit anxious. I really don't have a ton of anxiety.

Maybe it surfaced a little bit there. I like to think I have a pretty good grasp and ability to manage my emotions, but I care. So the bottom line is that's OK, you have to embrace those. I mean, I think any athlete does. Fortunately, the first two holes I didn't hit many good shots. Even if I was playing a thousand miles away and hit poor shots like that, you're still going to pay the price.

But making that birdie putt on 3 settled me down and I knew I had a lot of golf left. After that it was pretty solid for the whole week. I think I made three bogeys the rest of the way if I'm not mistaken. Given what I was up against early, I mean, I'm proud of it. At the same time, it is a marathon, it's not a sprint.

Q. A lot of clubs, baseball, football, basketball, they circle events on the schedule when it comes out. Was this one circled?

ZACH JOHNSON: Highlighted in bright neon lettering, yes, sir. Once I hit the big 5-0, it was on. And granted, I've heard good things from my peers about it. I think if anything, it exceeded any and all expectations. Obviously there's a bias for me. Yeah, amazing.

Q. Let's get to the golf. It wasn't easy out there, was it?



ZACH JOHNSON: No. Today was a hard day. Today was trying. Completely different wind for the most part, completely different wind. Not 180, but close. So managing your golf ball, your trajectory was imperative. For the most part I did that, I hit a lot of nice shots today. Feel like you left some out there, but I hit some good putts that didn't go in, I hit some good putts that went in.

It was course management and that's usually where I flourish.

Q. Can you exhale now?

ZACH JOHNSON: Oh, it's a big exhale. I'm hungry, and a little thirsty. But I'll be at Drake University and I can't wait.

Q. (No microphone) hard to articulate what this week meant to you. How about now?

ZACH JOHNSON: Well, it still, I mean, it's kind of surreal right now. It is, it's hard to fully grasp and encompass all the emotion of it. Other than pure gratitude and bliss, I don't know how else to really explain it.

This was a week where managing my emotions was imperative and key. For the most part, I did that. My caddie did a great job of noticing if I needed a little bit of this or a little bit of that. He was very astute in that regard.

But as I said earlier to some folks, I probably should have said it Wednesday, I haven't teed off yet, right, but I kind of felt like I won -- certainly felt like I won before I played today. Almost felt like I won before the week started.

I mean, if you're talking about being able to do what I love to do in this state, in this town on this golf course, I mean, everything after that's just kind of icing on the cake. That gives you a lot of peace, it gives you a lot of freedom and in this sport, freedom's great. Free golf in some regards and I love those feelings. I hope I can put those in my pocket, carry them with me for a minute.

Q. You mentioned before that you live in Georgia now, but you always make sure that you're announced as being from Cedar Rapids, Iowa. To be able to get your first appearance, first win in Iowa, how much more of a script could you have written?

ZACH JOHNSON: Can't write any better. You know, I would have loved to get off to a better start on Friday, that was about the only thing. I got a little emotional at that point, not good ones either.

I can't write it any better. I had an amazing two days at Cedar Rapids Sunday, Monday. Weather wasn't cooperative, but Cedar Rapids turned out, Iowa turned out, which they typically do. It's just like I felt like I turned one page and I was in Des Moines. Again, it's not like I'm not far away from Cedar Rapids, this was like home, I lived here for four years of my



life. You can't write a better script.

Q. How would you describe this moment right here where you finished on 18 and it was just --

ZACH JOHNSON: Yeah, fortunately, the pressure was off, I didn't have to do anything overly wowing, but at the same time I remember going into my approach shot -- I thought I actually drove the green. I thought my ball was right of the bunker, so I thought I drove the green.

However, I told myself, I'm like, hey, we're tied. Like, hey, let's get this up and down. You get this up and down, you win. That may sound kind of simplistic, but it's a good way to approach it. The next time around I may not have that cushion. When you have to execute on this tour, you execute. Fortunately I built a nice little cushion prior.

But a lot of emotion. Family was up here, that is special. I don't get to see my Iowa family a whole lot. I don't need to explain that, there's a reason behind that. They're busy and certainly I am, too. As a family, you're not going to forget this one. I wish my crew was here. My three kids and my wife, Kim, I wish they were here. I had them in my first win, so that was special.

Q. How do you celebrate?

ZACH JOHNSON: Well, I've got some commitments tonight. My alma mater is here and I've got some friends, I would call it Drake Bulldog family, we've got something planned. I can't wait to embrace that and hang out with some good peeps.

Q. Did you get any flashbacks from playing in college when you were on this course this weekend?

ZACH JOHNSON: Flashbacks? Oh, flashbacks. Yeah, my practice round, the first one. When was that, on Wednesday? Tuesday, Tuesday. Tuesday was nostalgic, good ones, too. I had one of my teammates and roommates with me, so that was a special day. Even though there was no one out here and I'm in a cart driving around with just me and my caddie, my buddy, that was pretty awesome.

