

PRE-TOURNAMENT PRESS CONFERENCE
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TYLER WATTS



Q. Tyler Watts, welcome to Bermuda. I believe this is your first trip here. What's your experience been so far the last couple of days since arriving?

TYLER WATTS: Yeah, it's been great. Island's beautiful. It's very remote, not used to it, but yeah, it's been beautiful so far.

Q. What have you done since you've been here?

TYLER WATTS: I've ate a lot of food, and sun was out yesterday and Sunday so I kind of came out here on the course and just got some nice practice in, played the golf course. It's a very beautiful place.

Q. What were your first impressions of the golf course? Pretty hilly, isn't it?

TYLER WATTS: Yeah, it's a tough walk for sure, but it's definitely going to be windy. It's got some pretty cool views of the ocean and stuff. Really nice.

Q. Are you used to playing in the wind? Do you have much experience playing in the wind?

TYLER WATTS: Not really. Back at home it's not very windy in Alabama, but when we go to our tournaments sometimes it's pretty windy in amateur golf and you get used to it playing in competition, but I think this will be a different test for sure.

Q. You're left handed, correct?

TYLER WATTS: I am, yes, sir.

Q. Do you think that this golf course has any advantages for a left-hander as opposed to a right-hander?

TYLER WATTS: You know, I think that's hard to say. I've only played -- I played 18 yesterday and nine on Sunday, so it's kind of hard for me to tell. I think the wind is the biggest factor. You've got to be able to flight the golf ball and I think that's going to be the biggest advantage.

Q. Do you like playing in the wind?

TYLER WATTS: I like the challenge of it. I wouldn't say I really like playing in the wind



because you shoot higher scores, but the challenge is very fun.

Q. Have you learned a lot of variety of shots knowing that it's probably going to be like that here this week?

TYLER WATTS: Yeah, absolutely. I went and got a lesson with my coach last week and I told him I'm going to have to be able to hit the ball really low with not a lot of spin on it, so we worked on that. I feel like I'm pretty prepared.

Q. Who's your coach?

TYLER WATTS: Craig Bocking.

Q. This is your second PGA TOUR start, I believe. You played at Napa in the Procore Championship, made the cut, had four rounds there. A lot of good players in the field. Did you get to interact with any of those Ryder Cup players during the week, and what was your first impression of playing a Tour event?

TYLER WATTS: Yeah, I'm obviously very thankful for my debut and stuff like that, but it was a good experience. I didn't really talk to the Ryder Cup guys too much, they were kind of doing their own thing, and I was also doing my own thing. They were pretty busy that week with the Ryder Cup being the next week. But it was an amazing experience. Napa was unbelievable.

Q. Are you 17 or 18?

TYLER WATTS: I just turned 18. Yeah, I was 17 in Napa but I'm 18 now.

Q. So obviously you've had a pretty stellar amateur career already and still playing as an amateur, but you set a lot of records, young age records. Out of all those, is there one that kind of stands out to you the most?

TYLER WATTS: Yeah. I broke the Alabama State Amateur record for youngest winner in 2023, and 2024's kind of a struggle, and this year, the Sunnehanna Amateur, I was the youngest to win and I broke the scoring record. It was my first win in a very long time it felt like. That was a big confidence boost, it felt really good.

Q. Do you set goals? What do you sort of anticipate this week? What would be a good result for you like in achieving something, experiencing something?

TYLER WATTS: I'm very big on not setting goals and expectations. I like to just come out here and play, have a clear mind and just do as best as I can. I can only control my emotions, I can't control the conditions. Just try and come out here and have fun, enjoy the experience. I'm very blessed to be able to make my second PGA TOUR start.



Q. I think you played in the Junior Presidents Cup?

TYLER WATTS: Yeah, I did, last year, yep.

Q. How was that experience?

TYLER WATTS: Yeah, that was unbelievable. Up there in Montreal, in Canada, it was a very beautiful place. I forget the name of the golf course we played, but it was a really good test of golf. And the International Team had some great players, and obviously the U.S. team, I was glad to be a part of it. All my best friends, we came together as a team and were able to get a W so that was nice.

Q. Did you get to stay and watch some of the competition, the actual Presidents Cup?

TYLER WATTS: Yeah, we got to stay for the opening ceremony the next day on the first tee and that's really all I had time for. I had to get back home. And last year it was during recruiting kind of, so I had a couple of visits that I had to go back home to and stuff like that, but I did get to stay and watch and see some of the pros and it was pretty cool.

Q. You're still high school, right?

TYLER WATTS: I am, I'm a senior.

Q. Do you have any exams or studies that you have to do this week?

TYLER WATTS: Yeah, I've got a lot of homework to do. Thankfully, not any exams right now, but I do have homework to do.

Q. Are you enjoying school?

TYLER WATTS: No, no. No, I'm kidding. I've got to get through it. It's just one of those things, everybody has to do it. Yeah, I'm just blessed that I'm able to still travel and play as much golf as I do.

Q. And you said there's been some active maybe recruiting. What's sort of in the back of your mind there?

TYLER WATTS: Yeah, that was last year. I committed last October to University of Tennessee. Actually am going to sign tomorrow, so that will be important.

Q. Congratulations.

TYLER WATTS: Yeah, thank you. I'm super excited to get there and get going there at the University of Tennessee, it's a great place.

