

PRE-TOURNAMENT PRESS CONFERENCE

October 21, 2026

ADAM SCHENK



Q. Adam, welcome back. Just under a year ago when you were in this same room. You made a comment walking in saying it seems like it was yesterday. Does it really feel that way?

ADAM SCHENK: It really does, and it's crazy how fast time goes. Every year seems to get a little faster but that last year, last 11 months was the fastest for me coming back here. Just good to get back, relive some of the memories, remember some of the shots back on the course, so I'm excited for this week.

Q. Yeah, you just played nine holes in the pro-am. It was probably different conditions than it was on Sunday last year. Can you just explain what that was like last year? We're kind of expecting a little bit more of the same this year.

ADAM SCHENK: Yeah, I think with it being so windy, obviously made the golf very creative. You had to really control the flight and the spin of your golf ball and that's stuff I'm usually pretty good at doing. With as windy as it was in the final round, it really kind of made the day go by pretty fast because you didn't have time to stop and think about your situation. You know, something's wrong in your swing and you do something different, none of that kind of really mattered. You just had to really focus on how you were going to complete that hole to the best of your ability when it's blowing whatever it was, 30 or 40 or whatever it was gusting up to.

You'd be putting golf balls and they'd just be sitting, not moving, just sitting there oscillating back and forth. So that was something that, that was maybe the most challenging part to deal with was putting honestly. Hitting wasn't easy, some shots were extremely hard, but putting was where it was maybe the most difficult, to get steady over it. You have a right-to-left putt but the wind's blowing so hard off the left, it's actually breaking left to right or it's straight down. So it was a little bit of luck making some putts, but the breaks all fell my way last year and hopefully we can find something similar to that this year.

Q. Do you kind of relish that challenge of playing in conditions like that? It's not something we get to do often, but when you do, do you feel like it benefits you in a way?

ADAM SCHENK: I feel like it does. And with me saying that, that's why I always say generally the harder the golf course is, the more thinking that's required, the better I do. And I always follow that with I could probably still finish last if the conditions are like that, but like over the course of a lot of tournaments and playing in those conditions. Anytime you need to keep the ball down and flight it, those conditions are going to benefit the guys that hit it lower



and then have the ability to keep their ball down.

Maybe if there's courses where you have to hit it high, I feel like everyone out here feels like they can still hit it high and low, and I feel like I can still hit it high, but anytime it's that windy it just makes being able to hit it low and have a little draw to your golf ball just makes the wind affect it a little bit less.

Q. You holed a nice putt on the last, the 72nd hole last year to beat Chandler Phillips by a shot. What do you recall of that moment and how often do you kind of relive it?

ADAM SCHENK: I guess the first time I actually saw a replay of it was probably a month later. Because I kind of stayed off social media, not necessarily because I didn't want to watch it but the first time I saw it, I was doing an event at the Brinker's jewelry store in Evansville and that was the first. They had it up on a projector, a big TV in there and they had it on a loop, like the last two or three holes. It was the first time I saw it.

Yeah, just for one, I guess thank goodness it went in because if a big gust comes up and blows it one way or the other, the putt's going to miss. So I just told myself to hit it off the center of the face, hold your followthrough, nice short little pop stroke, and it was rolling up about a foot before the hole and I'm like, oh, my goodness, it's going to go in, and it fell right in the bottom, fortunately. That putt went in. You get in a playoff, I guess it's kind of a coin flip to be honest. Hopefully a playoff would have went well, but that was an unbelievable putt for my career to go in at that point.

Q. How challenging has it been since that victory? Your results haven't really been probably what you hoped they would. What's been the challenges? What's been going on with you?

ADAM SCHENK: Yeah, pretty kind of two, three years not great results after my best year ever making East Lake. But I still believe. I've been working hard. Figured out some stuff the last couple of months, especially the last couple of weeks so I'm excited going forward. I'm able to swing the club a little freer, not have to worry about some of the misses, which has been very freeing. So a couple shots I've been fighting this year, I don't feel I have to fight those as much anymore so that makes me really excited for this week and for the rest of the year and for next year.

Yeah, challenge this year and everything, golf's been not great but everything outside of golf's been absolutely phenomenal. So I guess the stuff that's extra important, family and all that is -- has been great.

I still care a lot about golf and the results and the scores that I'm posting, and they've been pretty abysmal this year if that's even a word, but I feel like I'm getting back on the right track and this would be a great week to start that trend.

Q. Coming back here as defending champion, how much different does it feel and



does it give you even more incentive to perform this week?

ADAM SCHENK: Yeah, people were asking me before this week, do you hope it's as windy again, and I'm like, you know, kind of not, but then I'm like, well, I won last year when it was blowing like crazy so maybe it should blow again this year. If we're going to be here, might as well see if we can do it again.

So sounds like we're going to get those conditions this weekend I think. So yeah, I mean, I feel like when there's no wind I'll hit a lot of wedge shots to 15, 20 feet sometimes and everybody else out here I feel like is sticking it pretty close and then when it's windy I'm still able to hit it to 20 feet. I guess the windier, the better this week. It kind of suits my golf game. I know how to play this golf course in the wind. I believe this is my fourth time here, so yeah, I feel quietly confident I guess.

Q. Was the arrival at the airport any different this year as the defending champion?

ADAM SCHENK: Not terribly. I had like a first-class little shuttle ride here, so I was picked up at the airport. Shuttle to the airport last year as well.

So I think last year -- actually I know last year we were waiting in line for I want to say like a big PGA Tour shuttle and someone was like, hey, let's just take a cab. I'm like, all right, I've got -- I've heard 50-dollar bills are unlucky so I had one in my wallet and I paid for our taxi with a 50 and then won. So maybe I should have done that again this year, but yeah, everyone's -- everyone obviously involved with the tournament's unbelievable. And being the past champion, I've been extra spoiled this year with the hotel, upgraded room. Went to a nice champions dinner last night at Intrepid which was very fun, food's incredible. It was a really good time getting together with all the guys and some of the people that help put on this tournament and we had a good time.

Q. Benefits of victory are good?

ADAM SCHENK: That's right.

Q. I recall you putting one-handed last year in stretches, not all the time, but what's the update on that? Are you still doing that?

ADAM SCHENK: Yeah, still from time to time if I'm off the fringe and using the putter, assuming it's not blowing hard, so hard where I can't like hardly steady with one hand, but I'll probably hit -- I'll definitely hit a few putts this week at least. I'm pretty good from off the fringe with one-hand. Significantly better, significantly.

