

**PRE-TOURNAMENT PRESS CONFERENCE**  
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**JHONATTAN VEGAS**



**MODERATOR:** Good morning. We would like to welcome Jhonattan Vegas, the defending champion of the 3M Open, to the interview room.

Jhonattan, you captured your fourth Tour victory here last year. Can you just share some opening comments on what it's like to be back?

**JHONATTAN VEGAS:** Yeah, obviously it's good to be back, I mean, a place where you've had great memories. Obviously wins always come with great memories but just kind of stepping back onto the grounds and reliving a little bit of the moments from last year with the family. Even my kids are really having a blast. So that's really good energy that's always good to have when you come to a place like this.

**MODERATOR:** You're having a solid season so far, 53rd in the FedExCup rankings. Can you just talk about the state of your game heading into this week?

**JHONATTAN VEGAS:** Game has been solid all year. Feel like I played pretty decent golf all year. Put myself in really good positions kind of throughout the year. Haven't really had that great consistent year that I would have loved to have so far but it's been really good. I can't really complain much about the way it's going. Just kind of working on making it a little bit better, especially as the Playoffs are coming. It's good to come back to a place like this where you played good golf before and hopefully we can come out of here and make a good run to the Playoffs.

**MODERATOR:** You're looking to become the first repeat winner in tournament history here. What would a win here this week do for your confidence heading into the rest of the season?

**JHONATTAN VEGAS:** Well, it's massive, right? Every time you win obviously it's a huge boost of confidence. Like I said, it's exactly what happened to me last year here that kind of propelled to a pretty solid year this year. So it would mean a lot. It would really put me in a great position to make a great run through the FedExCup, which at the end of the day that's kind of what we all are fighting for this time of year. Yeah, we're going to go out and give it our best.

**Q. Welcome back. You're one of a handful of players who are here this week after being overseas for a couple of weeks. How difficult is it to come back and play right away and how is your I guess strength right now?**

**JHONATTAN VEGAS:** Yeah, everything feels good, right? Obviously it's always a little change when you come from that side of the pond with jet lag and all that type of stuff. But



like I said, I think we do a good job of managing all of that. Yeah, it's been really good.

I mean, obviously a little bit playing nine holes yesterday, course is a little bit soft from all the rain that they've been getting and so just plays a lot different than what we've been playing overseas where everything is firm and fast. So just kind of takes a little bit of time to kind of change the mentality when it comes down to executing but shouldn't take more than a day or two.

**Q. I think there's about three guys in the field finished in the top 6 at the British last week. Can you just speak to kind of the strength of the field here this week?**

**JHONATTAN VEGAS:** You know what, to be honest, it's been kind of nice to see a pretty solid field this week. And I mean, these tournaments are so important right now. I was talking to some other players early on where it doesn't matter where you are in the standings right now, you're always fighting for something, and with so many little tournaments before the Playoffs now, especially this kind of few tournaments at the end of the season mean a lot.

So one is great to see a great field for a great tournament here, the sponsor deserves it, to have a great field. And it's fun. Like I said, everyone is ready for the Playoffs so we're all pushing with the pedal down and just kind of hoping for a good finish.

**Q. Did you feel many emotions driving back in here the first time?**

**JHONATTAN VEGAS:** What was that again?

**Q. Did you feel many emotions when you got back here this week driving in?**

**JHONATTAN VEGAS:** Yeah, I think the emotions are excitement, the excitement of coming back to a place where you've had success, seeing your face everywhere, seeing the past champions signs around the place. Even going through the course and reliving a lot of the memories from last year, making birdies here and pars here and bogeys here, that's really good energy. So just kind of to try to feed on that and try to put it together again this week.

**Q. I just wanted to ask you, Jhonny, real quick about coming here last year in a very different part of your career and what you needed to overcome and being on a medical, I guess how do you kind of compare mentally and physically where you were at entering this week last year and where you are now?**

**JHONATTAN VEGAS:** Yeah, obviously two different scenarios. Last year when I was coming back from shoulder surgery and I was just kind of getting back into the grind of things, didn't really have a clue kind of where my game was and how it was developing week after week.

But obviously a year after -- a year later I feel like I come in a way better position physically,



mentally, everything is there just to make a really good run here at the end of the season. Obviously, like I said, a lot more focus on playing good golf than just trying to get my body ready to play.

**MODERATOR:** Thank you for the time. Good luck this week.

**JHONATTAN VEGAS:** Thank you.

**Q. Did you have a conflict when they had the media day here? Did you take your dad like on a golf trip?**

**JHONATTAN VEGAS:** Yeah, so I wasn't here. My dad turned 70 about a month ago, and at the beginning of the year we made a trip for that week to go to Scotland and play golf. He's never been, he's never played golf over there, so we wanted to give that experience to my dad. Unfortunately, it was the same week as media day, so you know, family first.

