

**RASMUS HOJGAARD**

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**MARK WILLIAMS:** We would like to welcome Rasmus Hojgaard to the 2020 Bermuda Championship. Thanks for joining us for a little bit, Rasmus. We just want to get to know you. You've played once on the PGA TOUR at the U.S. Open, missed the cut. Just talk about that experience first, your first trip or first time playing in the United States on the PGA TOUR.

**RASMUS HOJGAARD:** Yeah, obviously the U.S. Open was -- that was pretty cool. I haven't really played any tournaments in the U.S. before, so to get to play the biggest tournament of them all the first time was a good experience.

**MARK WILLIAMS:** What led you to come to the Bermuda Championship to play in this event this week?

**RASMUS HOJGAARD:** I mean, obviously my goal is to get to the PGA TOUR so I can play over here. When I heard I got an invitation, it was a no-brainer for me to come over here and play. Yeah, everything in Europe now is (inaudible,) but nice that they've put on other good events now, but I couldn't say no to this opportunity.

**MARK WILLIAMS:** And speaking of Europe, you won earlier this year in the ISPS Handa U.K. event in a playoff. I think you became the first player that was born in the 2000s to win on the European Tour. When you do something like that, anytime you do something that's a first, how does that make you feel and how does that sort of stand out in your career as it goes along?

**RASMUS HOJGAARD:** It's obviously very nice. Afterwards when people come to me and tell me that I'm the first one in the year 2000 to win on Tour, it's not something that I'm thinking of or really using any energy on. Yeah, it's obviously very nice, but I've got so much -- got so many other different things to think of right now.

**MARK WILLIAMS:** And just after playing in this event, maybe talk about your form coming in here. Do you feel really comfortable with your game or is there something that you're kind of thinking that you need to work on a little bit? I guess you're constantly working on stuff. How's your game shaping up?

**RASMUS HOJGAARD:** It's a bit so-so if you can say that. I've had a little struggle over the last two months, but I feel like I'm on the right track now and I've had a good couple days here to practice. I'm feeling good right now.

**MARK WILLIAMS:** And before we take some questions, Rasmus, what are your plans after

this week? Traveling during this time is difficult for a lot of people, but what are your plans? Are you going to stay in the United States and play a little bit more or what are you doing for the rest of the year?

**RASMUS HOJGAARD:** The plan right now is to go back to Cyprus next week and play the event on the European Tour there, unless I play really good here and get myself into Houston or a different event, I'll stay over here. But as it is right now I'm going to Cyprus and I'm not sure after that. Think I'm going home for a couple weeks and then I'm trying to get myself ready for Dubai at the end of the year.

**Q. I was wondering if you can kind of talk about your inspiration as a kid to pursue pro golf. Who were your heroes and what kind of put you on this path?**

**RASMUS HOJGAARD:** Yeah. I mean, I started playing golf when I was 4 years old, so I started at an early age. It didn't get serious until I was 10, 11 years old when I can see I was better than average and that kind of gave me a bit of motivation to get better. Obviously watching some of the Danish players like Thomas and Thorbjorn doing well was like an inspiration. Then obviously my big idol is Rory, I've always looked up to Rory and watched him play quite a lot. Yeah, it's quite cool to be able to compete against them now.

**Q. What have your interactions been like with Rory? Do you remember the first time you met him and kind of a couple memorable moments with him?**

**RASMUS HOJGAARD:** Yeah, so I met him the first time at the U.S. Open. My caddie knows Rory and his caddie quite well, so I told him if he could arrange nine holes with Rory, and we did that on Wednesday and that was a pretty cool experience. Such a nice person to be around. Yeah, it's pretty cool to see him hit the driver as well.

**Q. What impresses you the most about him, about Rory in general?**

**RASMUS HOJGAARD:** About his game or --

**Q. Anything, just him in general.**

**RASMUS HOJGAARD:** Anything? I think probably that he's probably so down to earth, such a nice person. When you think of how big of a player he is, he's like just saying hi to everybody and I think that's a really cool thing to do when you're such a big name because it really makes a difference for a guy like me that he's able to do that.

**Q. What course did you grow up playing and did any of the Danish golfers help you along the way?**

**RASMUS HOJGAARD:** I grew up playing in a small club called Gyttegard in Denmark. It's five minutes from where I live. Yeah, I mean, I didn't really play with any -- obviously my brother and I started out playing together and that was pretty special. We've always been

competing against each other. I think that's helped us quite a lot to become as good as we are now. We can probably make each other even better while we're practicing and playing together, so that's been pretty cool.

**Q. What would you consider to be a successful week here at the Bermuda Championship here this week?**

**RASMUS HOJGAARD:** That's a good question. Obviously I want to finish as high as possible, you always want to do that in a tournament, but I think for me, if I can put four good rounds in, I think the big thing for me that I can say to myself after every round that I've given myself 110 percent. So if I can do that over four rounds, I think I can finish up there.

**Q. What do you like to do when you're not playing golf? What are your interests outside of golf?**

**RASMUS HOJGAARD:** So I do watch quite a lot of sports, all these different sports, like basketball, tennis and football, but I also play quite a lot of video games with my friends. Yeah, I guess that's my interest outside golf.

**Q. What do you consider the best part of your game and where do you need to do the most work on your game to get to the PGA TOUR?**

**RASMUS HOJGAARD:** I think the best part of my game right now is my driving. I've been driving quite well over this season actually. Definitely the best part of my game.

I know I need to practice a lot on my short game and putting. I don't feel like I've been quite there. If I can get a better short game and putting, I think it will be quite good.

**MARK WILLIAMS:** I understand you have a twin brother. I'm not sure if you're identical twins, but did you guys play any tricks on people when you were younger?

**RASMUS HOJGAARD:** Yes, we did actually. We are identical twins. So when we went to school I had -- I think I had a German class and he had maybe, I don't know, a history class or whatever and we decided that we're going to change class. So I went into his class and he went into mine. The teachers didn't notice anything until an hour and 30 minutes later and they just laughed about it. We found that quite fun. We tried to do it a couple more times, but they noticed.

**Q. How did you make the decision to turn pro at such a young age and did you consider playing college golf in the United States?**

**RASMUS HOJGAARD:** Yeah, the decision was I had to finish high school and then go to college or I just go 110 percent in being a professional quite early. Yeah, I've never been the biggest fan of school. I came to the decision where I dropped out of high school when I was 17. I played the last four months as an amateur and then decided that from 2019,

January '19, I'm going to turn professional. It's quite early, but I feel like I've had a decent amateur career, so I feel like I was ready for it.

Yeah, that college idea was definitely in mind and in the discussion, but yeah, I couldn't see myself at any school in Denmark, so I decided to turn pro.

**Q. What is your favorite video game for play?**

**RASMUS HOJGAARD:** It's Counter Strike. I do play a bit of Call of Duty as well, but mainly I'm playing Counter Strike.

**Q. How would you describe your own game personally? Like what is your -- your game in golf?**

**RASMUS HOJGAARD:** How would I describe it? That's a good question. I feel like I'm a good driver of the ball, hit it a fairly good distance as well. An average iron player, average wedge player as well I would say. Yeah, definitely not the best short game and putter at the moment, but that's something I keep working on and hopefully I can get to another level there.

**Q. In terms of distance, do you kind of -- with Bryson and his distance evolution, do you play around with stuff in that regard like different tweaks to hit it further or are you good with how far you hit it?**

**RASMUS HOJGAARD:** Not really. I feel like I have a decent distance. I think the most important thing right now is to hit it straight, and if you're hitting it a decent distance, I think your focus would be on hitting fairways, so that's my thing right now.

**MARK WILLIAMS:** Rasmus, we really appreciate you taking the time to join us. It was nice to get to know you a little better. We wish you the best this week and we hope to see you more on the PGA TOUR.