

LIV Golf Riyadh

Saturday, 8 February, 2025

Riyadh, Saudi Arabia

Riyadh Golf Club, Saudi Arabia

Legion XIII

Jon Rahm

Quick Quotes

Q. Jon, second straight year you guys have won the season opener, fifth time you've won in 15 starts. That's a pretty good winning percentage. How would you sum up the week from a team standpoint? A dominant performance.

JON RAHM: It was outstanding. That first round was incredible. To shoot 24-under, that was quite incredible, and to follow it up with another great second round -- it's not the easiest week, especially for the youngsters. None of us have really played at night, so it was new for all of us.

But Caleb coming from a year where he hadn't played his best but he had really good memories here from December, almost winning the Saudi International, and then Tom is a fantastic player, an incredible talent that it's not surprising that he played well, but I think if you're ever going to have a debut, this could be one of the harder weeks because everything being so different. But he showed a little bit of what he's made of. He's a superstar talent, just hasn't proven it to the world yet, and really glad that we were able to steal him and get him on the team.

Q. You were never really threatened from a team standpoint. Did that allow you --

JON RAHM: I got a little worried early on. I bogeyed 1, Caleb bogeyed 1, he bogeyed 2. You don't want to give the opening. It's 10 shots; you drop three early on and then two birdies, it can change in a heartbeat. But luckily we turned it around and Caleb finished strong, and obviously we finished with a dominant performance.

The first few holes were a little nerve-racking. More than I would have liked.

Q. A runner-up individual result for you. You gave it quite a run. You and Tyrrell were both in there. Is it bittersweet? How do you look at it from an individual standpoint?

JON RAHM: It's just frustrating. Every day I've made, I

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would say, two big mistakes that I think were avoidable, two very easy ones to say I bogeyed two par-5s without any penalty strokes and being in play, in a decent spot or a good spot on my third spot at least.

If I could at least clean that up and clean up a couple very, very fixable mistakes, it would have been better. I think I played good enough to win. Obviously it just maybe wasn't my week.

But I could go through the rounds and tell you a couple moments a day that could have changed things.

Q. How would you sum up night golf? Does this make you the "night kings"?

JON RAHM: I don't know. I don't know. But I must say, there is a golf course in Dubai where Tom lives that's fully lit, so he did have a little bit of extra practice compared to the rest. Luckily in Phoenix we have Grass Clippings, and it's a par-3 course that is lit at night, as well, so I got a couple rounds before coming here in very cold weather, so I kind of had an idea of what to expect this week.

I wouldn't say the night kings. I think if we come next year and win, then maybe we can start talking about that, but one week doesn't really prove anything.

Q. You have the youngest team in the league by far. To throw out this early warning shot to everybody else in the field, how good does it feel to go into the rest of the season knowing it's only going to get better?

JON RAHM: You know, there's no coincidence that I've tried to keep the team young. The idea here is hopefully find four really strong players and form a team that lasts together for a long time. Hopefully we can create a powerhouse that can do what many other teams in other disciplines have been able to do. I might be a little early to say that, but the goal is there. Me and Tyrrell having the experience, and then having two younger guys with that much talent, yeah, I like our chances to possibly see the podium again, and I was very hopeful coming into this year, and I think this week only proves what we can do.

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