

# PGA Championship

Sunday, May 21, 2023  
Rochester, New York, USA  
Oak Hill Country Club

## Zach Johnson

### Quick Quotes

#### Q. Talk about the performance of Brooks Koepka

ZACH JOHNSON: Well, there's only 54 holes in. The golf course is amazing. This is one that has withstood test of time and every renovation, restoration, whatever it may be, it has probably gotten better. Whoever has done it, I don't know the specifics, but has maintained the integrity of it, and the nuances are terrific. I think it's a great test. I think it's a great championship. I wish we played these type of venues more often. But they are gems. They are few and far between.

#### Q. So assuming Brooks goes out and wins, what's your assessment of him as a player?

ZACH JOHNSON: Well, look at his résumé prior to this week. He's an amazing player. It wouldn't surprise me if he won by five, and it wouldn't surprise me if somebody else from behind him came up and challenged him. I mean, the amount of talent that's on that leaderboard, and then you throw in the mere fact that -- what I appreciate about Brooks is just how he goes about his work in massive tournaments. He's a rare breed mentally where he just is able to bring out his best in the most difficult and trying of circumstances.

#### Q. If he wins, it's probably a moot point, isn't it? Wouldn't he move to No. 2 in the points?

ZACH JOHNSON: I have no idea, based on numbers, I don't know but it would vault him up substantially. Well, it would vault anybody up substantially if they are an American player, right. I don't know the actual science behind that.

#### Q. You talked about character and chemistry as part of the makeup for choosing the teams. Is he a guy that most guys would get along with?

ZACH JOHNSON: Well, that's not an accurate statement. I mentioned chemistry. I don't think I mentioned character. So take that in context.



I mean, chemistry is important on any team. It's important with any leadership of any team. It's important with anything you're trying to construct if you want to go out and win. My No. 1 goal as the leader is to go put these guys in a position to win, whatever that looks like. Time will tell.

#### Q. Do you feel comfortable -- would you feel comfortable having Brooks or any LIV player in your team given the chemistry you're talking about?

ZACH JOHNSON: I think it's too premature, frankly irresponsible, to even have any sort of opinion about that. I think given where we are at right now, there's a lot of points out, No. 1.

No. 2, you have a bunch of elevated events.

Shoot, No. 3, if you go back on history, there's names right now that probably on both tours that we're not even mentioning that could have a chance given what's from us.

So I haven't even begun to discuss picks with anybody that I trust in my circle, specifically the vice captains. I feel like it's irrelevant to even discuss.

#### Q. Would you feel comfortable, is what I asked?

ZACH JOHNSON: Would I feel comfortable with what.

#### Q. With having a LIV player on your team?

ZACH JOHNSON: I don't know. I can't answer that. I'll say this: The guys that are on the PGA TOUR that make that team, they have direct ownership in that collectively.

So for me to stand here and say that I would feel comfortable or uncomfortable with it would be, I would think, responsible on my behalf because it's not my team.

#### Q. Have any of them told you they would be uncomfortable with a LIV player?

ZACH JOHNSON: No one's voiced it to me but we haven't talked about it. There's been no comfortable or uncomfortable talk.



**Q. Earlier in the week you said you have not witnessed the LIV Golf, you haven't been going out and watching it. Is that something you'll change? We have seen at the Masters, we are seeing it here --**

ZACH JOHNSON: Are you expecting me to go to LIV events and spectate?

**Q. Yeah. As a captain, it seems logical if these guys --**

ZACH JOHNSON: I think the luxury of me being captain I'm still relevant and prevalent out on the PGA TOUR and that's where my status holds. So for me to abandon that on a week where I could be out there and go where the bulk of my players are certainly going to come from there, I don't know, what time will tell, but the bulk are going to come from there would be irresponsible on my behalf and inappropriate if I were to leave what I am trying to do as a competitor and as a leader.

**Q. Would that stand as the whole season? Do you have no plans to go to any?**

ZACH JOHNSON: Hasn't been discussed. I'm not one that's ever to say never but it's not been discussed.

**Q. How did your faith play a role in preparing for this tournament and doing as well as you did?**

ZACH JOHNSON: Well, that's every week and every day. To say that this week is special because of that would be -- you know, this is my vocation. This is what I'm called to do. I look at it as a complete luxury and blessing.

**Q. What would you say to other golfers looking to establish their ranking in the golf world and their purpose, as well?**

ZACH JOHNSON: I can't speak on behalf of them but I like perspective. I know where my foundation is. A lot of us guys out here have a great band, specifically, on the PGA TOUR. We meet every Tuesday night and discuss things and talk about things.

You know, we try to keep things straight and narrow in the sense that, hey, we are playing golf for a living. It's pretty crazy.

**Q. If you can explain why you couldn't or wouldn't go to watch a LIV event but can you access stats or numbers to assess performance there?**

ZACH JOHNSON: Oh, 100 percent.

**Q. Do you get the CW event to watch their broadcast or YouTube?**

ZACH JOHNSON: CW?

**Q. That's where it's on television?**

ZACH JOHNSON: I didn't know that. I do get to see it -- I have to ask my kids. I think I get the CW.

**Q. The point is, you can still assess and analyze the players without going to watch them?**

ZACH JOHNSON: Sure, that's what I'm saying. I don't need to be present. I'm not in the U.S. Open, and given my travel schedule and what I have behind that and in front of that, there's no reason for me to go out there and spectate when I can watch to continue television.

**Q. This question is going to persist and persist and persist, but being asked about LIV guys and whether they are or are not going to be on the team. Is there any question that will be solely your decision, or is there influence, from?**

ZACH JOHNSON: Oh, I've voiced that. It's not solely my decision. It's going to be my leadership council and it's going to be those that finish in the top six. I mean, specifically, if I'm going to get down to the meat of it because there's 13.

**Q. What about The PGA of America?**

ZACH JOHNSON: You know what, this is my first go around. I don't have any idea what their intentions or motivations are. You'd have to ask them.

I do know that they have given me liberties to construct my own leadership, and then from there, obviously my duties and responsibilities are a given.

**Q. So if a LIV guy is in the top six, he will have a say in what happens?**

ZACH JOHNSON: If he makes the top six?

**Q. Yeah.**

ZACH JOHNSON: Yeah, he's on the team. He's got direct ownership in that, absolutely.

**Q. Have you spoken to Brooks or DJ specifically about The Ryder Cup and whether they want to be there?**

ZACH JOHNSON: Let me think about that. I haven't seen DJ this week in person. I've seen Brooks a couple times in person. Don't believe -- you could ask him, too. I don't believe we've spoken about the Cup. I may have spoken to Dustin at the Masters about it but I can't -- I can't -- if it was, it was something very obscure.

I mean, we'd be lying to ourselves and say that they don't want to be on the team, right. I've heard that narrative. I mean, I get it, too. I'm an American. I want to be on my own team. That's your goal every two years.

**Q. All of this seems very complicated and difficult and not anything that captains previously had to deal with. Do you feel that way?**

ZACH JOHNSON: Well, that's your feeling?

**Q. Yeah?**

ZACH JOHNSON: Well, I don't know if it's difficult yet. I think the difficulties could come. I just think there's so much golf. Honestly, it would not surprise me if there's a guy, like I said, on either tour that pops up that we are not discussing because that's happened so many times: When Scottie Scheffler came out of the blue two years ago; Ryan Moore came out of the blue in 2016 because of his play coming down the stretch.

Quality of play and form relative recent to the event, either Cup, Presidents Cup or Ryder Cup, has shown to be a proven factor. Horses for courses is a proven factor. I have no idea. It could be a really no-brainer, easy decision. I don't -- I don't want to have any sort of misconceived notions or pressures because there's nothing there yet. There's just so much fluidity and so much unknown.

**Q. He will vanity is in the room and you're constantly being asked about it?**

ZACH JOHNSON: Well, that's on you. I'm not asking the questions.

**Q. That's what I mean --**

ZACH JOHNSON: That's my responsibility. That's what I signed up for. I'm willing to take any and every -- whatever takes the burden off the players, that's my responsibility. I'm happy to do it. It's not a difficulty for me.

**Q. Do you worry about the perception from the LIV guys, respectfully, what you're saying here is, you're too busy to go and watch them play. You've got too many commitments elsewhere. It's probably not a**

**massive leap for them to think that you are not in their plans.**

ZACH JOHNSON: Again, that's your opinion. You're making something up.

**Q. It's my interpretation, I agree.**

ZACH JOHNSON: Yeah.

**Q. But that is how it could look?**

ZACH JOHNSON: I don't speak in hypotheticals.