

PRE-TOURNAMENT INTERVIEW TRANSCRIPT: FRED FUNK
Wednesday, June 4, 2014



Q. So this par 3 deal, this is a different strategy. You're playing with the defending champion. How does that strategy change when you're playing on a par 3 course?

FRED FUNK: You know, a lot of times you're usually picking whether you want your guy to hit off a par 5 or you want your guy to hit off a tight par 4, try to figure out your strategy on what's going to fit. Now, on a par 3 it might be a little different. Who's the better short iron player, who's the better mid iron player, might have to figure that one out. Yeah, it's going to be interesting. We haven't really talked about strategy yet because we're both just learning the golf course.

Q. So would you suspect that the better player would hit first on the par 3 or hit second?

FRED FUNK: No, I think the guy that's the most -- well, you're going to have alternate shot anyway, so odd-even holes. And I think you're going to try to work out because a couple of them are 5-iron holes and most of them are wedges and 8-iron, 9-iron holes. So who's really feeling good about those 8- and 9-irons versus a 5-iron and see if you can work that into your strategy that way.

Q. For the Champions Tour to be playing this event on a par 3 golf course, nine holes, how does that change the face of golf? You saw the Drive, Chip & Putt at the Masters and now you're seeing your generation playing on a par 3 course.

FRED FUNK: Well, it will be interesting how this all unfolds. I think marketing wise it's probably a great idea because you're trying to get the concept where people can come out and play a par 3 golf course, and this is not your normal par 3 golf course. But time is an issue, always a big issue with playing golf and how much time it takes out of your family time or your down time, marriage time, whether you're going to have a happy marriage or not and you like to play a lot of golf. Now you can go out and play, especially a par 3 like this, have an unbelievable experience and finish in an hour and a half and you're done and just go. Or if you want to go around again and it's a lot quicker. You can play 18 holes in probably three hours easy on a par 3. It's a neat idea. It's a great idea to try to grow the game this way.

Q. So having said that, when the spectators come out here to see that, your first impression of when you came to see Top of the Rock, what are they going to experience?

FRED FUNK: Well, it's a wow factor because it's just unbelievable what kind of

money went in. You can just see the extravagance of the clubhouse, and the driving range is so unique. Then you get on the golf course and it's like coming to Disney or something. It's incredible. There's just so much going on with the imagination of building those par 3s, not only the design of the holes but the look around them with all the boulders put in place and the lakes put in place. They even have a par 3 with a little boat that goes from one little launch to another launch up by the green. It's very unique. It's just hard to comprehend. Probably the biggest statement is you won't believe it until you see it, or you won't have any appreciation for it until you see it. It's true, you've got to see it before you can believe what they've created here.

Q. So they should come out and watch or watch it on the Golf Channel?

FRED FUNK: Oh, absolutely. It will be a great spectator sport. It should film unbelievable on TV, it should show really well, so it will be fun. It is a hard golf course to walk. It may be a par 3 and it's not that long, but you've got to do some climbing.