

PRE-TOURNAMENT INTERVIEW TRANSCRIPT: WOODY AUSTIN
Wednesday, August 13, 2014



PHIL STAMBAUGH: Woody, thanks for joining us this afternoon. Going to make your second start on the Champions Tour and you're going to do it at a place that's pretty familiar to you, En-Joie Golf Club. You tied for third at the U.S. Senior Open. Thoughts about playing this week and memories you may have of playing in the old B.C. Open here?

WOODY AUSTIN: Well, this is obviously a good starting for a regular event because I know the golf course obviously. I still remember the layout and remember most of the holes, so that was good. I'm not having to completely learn a new golf course and everything, so that's good. The Senior Open was good. It worked out perfect because I haven't been playing good all year and the only thing I could do was shoot even par, which on the regular tour ain't worth a pot to piss in. So it worked out good for the Senior Open to shoot even par every day, so that worked out good. But I need to get some confidence for the start of the new season next year, and hopefully in these next six weeks when I play a few out here I can gain some confidence to go back there. That's my thought process anyway.

PHIL STAMBAUGH: Okay. Any thoughts about your impressions of the Champions Tour? This will be your first three-round event, which is a little different than four.

WOODY AUSTIN: Yeah, definitely going to be different, you know, but like I said, I'm looking to keep playing. I'm starting to play a lot better. I played pretty good the last couple events that I played on the regular tour, just not scoring very good. It's really pretty much a putting contest every week, so once you start hitting it good, you'd better start making a lot of putts or you get run over. So the game's coming around and hopefully I can just -- I just need the segue for the next six, seven weeks that I'm off to get me started for the new start of the regular tour next year.

Q. Going forward, what will determine how much you're out here versus how much you're --

WOODY AUSTIN: If I play this poorly again next year, I'll pull the plug a lot quicker, but I had a two-year exemption, all this year, all next year. Because I was in no hurry, I don't want to be the guy that pops back and forth because I don't want to have the mindset where this week it's no big deal, I get a free tournament, no cut, I can relax, I can giggle and have a good time, and then I've got to go next week and I've got to grind my butt off because now I'm 40 yards behind everybody, I'm playing with guys half my age. I don't want to be that guy that has to keep switching back and forth. I feel like I can still compete out there if I'm playing well, so until I feel like I'm done, then I'm going to play there more. When I'm done, I want to be done, and right now I

don't feel like I'm done. I'm close but I don't feel like I'm done. This year kind of bit me pretty hard how bad I played this year. If I play this bad again at the start of next year, I'll pull the plug a lot quicker. If not, I'll stay out there because I want to push myself harder still. To me, this is the caveat of my 20 years of grinding. I'm not looking for the caveat yet, I'm still trying to grind. I don't want to come out here and still be grinding. When I come out here, I want it to be my caveat for all my hard work. I don't want to be the guy that comes out here and busts his butt to play out here. I still want to bust my butt out there because when I come out here, this is supposed to be -- everybody tells me how laid back and fun it is. I want it to be that, which for me is very difficult. So I want to make sure that I've completely given that every chance it has so that when I am out here, I can just shut it down and just relax and enjoy it as much as I can enjoy it.

Q. How do you gauge success then over the next handful of weeks; is it results, how you're hitting the ball?

WOODY AUSTIN: It's still a matter of how you're scoring, how you're playing. Like I said, I'm playing a lot better. Out there, like I said, just like out here, I'm sure it's the same thing here. Now, obviously the courses are different and I'm playing from a little bit different position in the fairways and what have you, but all the game has become out there is a putting contest. Well, if you're the guy that happens to be 40 yards behind everybody and you're not playing well, then it shows up that you're not playing well. But if you're playing well, you still get run over because everybody can play out there because everybody hits it 300 yards, there's no rough, you can hit it wherever you want to hit it, the greens are soft and it's just a putting contest. So it's tougher to gauge out there than it is out here. But I still feel as though when I'm playing well, I can still do that, I can still compete. I'm still in that in-between stage. Until I feel like I can't, then I'm going to keep going. I'm not somebody who likes to give in. I don't give in very well.

Q. How's your jumper these days?

WOODY AUSTIN: Not very good. I haven't played much basketball in a while.

Q. Form looked good, I saw you --

WOODY AUSTIN: Yeah, well, I like to play with my sons. My oldest will be a junior in high school and he's a pretty good little ball player so I still play with him. Obviously that's not for another few months. He's been getting ready for his soccer season and playing golf, so we haven't played much basketball lately but I still like to play. I get ripped by Mazziotti, who is Paul Goydos' caddie, who is an avid basketball player. We played years ago, so we're always ripping on each other because he keeps playing. He wants me to get back out on the court again.

PHIL STAMBAUGH: Any memories of this golf course over the years?

WOODY AUSTIN: Yeah, like I said, I remembered pretty much every hole except for -- the only problems I was having remembering the layout was 3, 4 and 5 were the holes that I couldn't quite remember. I remembered 3 as a par 5 but then I couldn't remember how it went to get back to No. 8, so when I saw that today I was like okay, now I remember. The 7th hole was the one hole that I could not remember in my head, but the rest I remember the routing, where you played, what club you hit off the tee. I remembered it all except for that one little section there. There was no surprises, which is nice. Like I said, I'm not -- whereas next week when I go to Seattle I'm going to be like where am I going, what am I doing. At least I knew everything, I knew where I was going, I stand on the first tee, the 10th tee, and I know what clubs to hit, where to go. That way this week is nothing rushed whereas next week might be a little rushed or where am I going, what am I doing, do I feel comfortable with the course. Here, it hasn't changed.

PHIL STAMBAUGH: All the best this week.