



PRE-TOURNAMENT INTERVIEW TRANSCRIPT: FRED COUPLES
Thursday, August 21, 2014

Q. You just played 18 holes, you must be healthy.

FRED COUPLES: Yeah, I have to get up this hill.

Q. Take a cart.

FRED COUPLES: I feel okay, I can't complain. I played yesterday, no complaints.

Q. You still want to win in Seattle?

FRED COUPLES: Yeah, if we were in Calgary, I would want to win in Calgary. This is a tournament that I always want to play well and I want to win.

I would say I'm certainly not the guy to beat even if I was playing well. It would still be Langer and a few other guys, but I feel okay. I've not been playing much and, you know, you have to pay attention when you play. So I played the British. I scheduled to play Greensboro months ago so I went there, and I wasn't very good the first day at all and I felt pretty good the second day, so that's really what I have to go by. It's not like I played last week and finished fourth somewhere. It's all mediocre golf so I've got to get off to a good start tomorrow like everyone else. You know the drill here, if you shoot 70 you're pretty much way behind unless you can shoot a 64 or 65 the next round. You've just got to be real consistent and make a lot of birdies. And the course is perfect, it's in great shape.

Q. There was a 59 last week. Is that possible here?

FRED COUPLES: I think this is just too big of a course. What's the lowest anyone's ever shot?

Q. 61 in '06.

FRED COUPLES: No, there's no 59s going to be shot here. There's a little rough out there but the guys shooting low aren't hitting it in the rough very often. I don't foresee -- I don't think anyone will shoot those scores. 63 or 64 is doable. Like I said, the greens, they're not as firm as they were last year but they will be by the end of the week, but they're perfect.

Q. The key to winning here is you've got to score on the par 5s?

FRED COUPLES: You know, I think par 5s, but I think if you pay attention to the par 3s here, they're brutal. If you can birdie three of the par 4s, the par 5s and maybe play the par 3s 1-under, you're 4-under right there. But their par 3s are really, really hard. The 9th and 17th holes are in my opinion as good as the par 3s we play all year. Then you get the one -- well, they're hard, yeah. The Masters, they'll play hard because of the pin positions and how fast the greens are. The 9th hole is like the 12th at Augusta except it's 30 yards longer. It really is, the 9th hole is unbelievable.

You're correct, the par 5s is where everyone thinks you score, but I'm telling you if you look at some bad rounds here, you'll look and someone will play the par 3s a couple over par or whatever. I think I've been above average on the whole course; par 4s, par 5s, par 3s. The par 5s have been not great when I don't shoot a good round and that's where you shoot it. You're not going to play 5-under par, but 2-under is good, 3-under is great and then you're starting at 69 and you go from there. If you make a couple other birdies, you've got 67.

Q. Any fun this trip, anything unusual?

FRED COUPLES: No, not yet. I just got in yesterday. I hit wedges at the Seahawks camp and that was fun, hit with a few guys and with Steve and he won. He hit the green more than us, so it was another nice win for him. He's on fire.

But no, right now I'm going to go back and get home and rest. I mean, my back is just not where I can go do other things another three or four hours. So I'm going to go practice at 6:00 tonight, hit a few balls at Broadmoor. But right now, I'll be honest, getting up that hill is a chore.

I wore my rain jacket all morning because I was a little cold, but now the weather's beautiful and I play at 12:50 tomorrow. What time is it? This is when we tee off tomorrow so it will be gorgeous.

Q. You're just concerned about the Seahawks, you're a season ticketholder?

FRED COUPLES: Well, biggest concern is they have a tough schedule, really tough. It's like golf, they play Green Bay and then they play Denver the third game. Then I don't know who they play, it's away.

Q. San Diego.

FRED COUPLES: San Diego yeah. Carolina. I'm a big believer in them but I don't know where their -- they're all healthy, they're all coming back so they should be ready to roll and it was very exciting last year.

Q. You raised the flag, too?

FRED COUPLES: I did, Monday night against New Orleans. That was a highlight, I'm not going to lie. I was relatively nervous for some reason.

Q. Really?

FRED COUPLES: Well, they hadn't lost a game at home in it seems like a year and a half and you've got the Saints coming in. Now it's on my watch getting them wound up. It was 17-nothing before I got to my seat really, so I was pretty comfortable. I don't know who raises the flag and they lose, do you even know?

Q. I don't know who raised the flag but Arizona got it here. You do it this year again --

FRED COUPLES: Well, I'll wait a couple years. If they need a W against New Orleans, I'll come and thrash that flag. No, that was a trip, a trip of a lifetime.

Q. You're living in L.A.?

FRED COUPLES: I do, right in Santa Monica.

Q. Baseball team's doing good, too.

FRED COUPLES: I came up here to play in this little challenge match, I stayed and watched King Felix roll right through Atlanta so I'm hoping to get back some of these early Seahawk games where they're playing maybe Friday and watch them play or whatever but I would like to see some more baseball but they're doing well.

Q. (Question regarding Bernhard Langer.)

FRED COUPLES: You know, he blasts all the time. He's the hardest working best player on the tour. There are other guys, they just don't win six times. A lot of guys, Tom Kite is hard working, but Bernhard, he's there on time, he doesn't get in there Wednesday night, play in the pro-am and -- he does it every week because he's just good. He's our top player. Monty was giving him a little push. Is it even close in the Schwab Cup?

Q. Six hundred, Monty's not playing for like a month or something.

FRED COUPLES: Yeah, it's pretty neat. I give him a lot of credit. Winning is very hard. Winning every week probably seems easy. It's like yeah, the last two months it's either been Monty or him winning.

Q. You've won every year out here on the tour.

FRED COUPLES: Yeah, I need to win again. I don't have many left in me but this

would be a good one. I've got a lot of work, a lot of work. I just want to go practice, I'm just hitting bunker shots and putting.