

**PRE-TOURNAMENT INTERVIEW TRANSCRIPT:  
JOE BUCK & GREG NORMAN  
Tuesday, December 9, 2014**



**Q. Joe, why don't we start with you. Your golf history, we don't know much about you and golf, so this is going to be a new thing.**

**JOE BUCK:** Nor do I on a daily basis. Some days I think I'm good, some days I don't. I come at this as a guy who just loves the game and loves to play and loves to be out with friends and try to get better at this game. It's been something that I didn't grow up playing. I started playing when I began broadcasting when I was in my early 20s. One thing that you probably know, when you're a broadcaster and you do Major League Baseball, a big part of your life is golf. It always has been. I love the sport. And now getting into it from this side, just going in literally with eyes wide open trying to learn as much as I can. It's been a while since I've gotten into a situation not knowing what to expect and I like that. I've been doing this for a long time now and I've gone from being the kid and trying to prove myself in baseball and football to somebody's who's done it for a long time and I think understands TV.

Greg knows the golf part of it and I think together we'll make this thing work. But we're going to have fun, first and foremost. And I've already really grown very fond of my partner, who is just a big-hearted guy and somebody who's there to give me whatever answers I need.

**Q. How exciting is it that Fox is delving into golf, something it really hasn't been involved in too much, and what does that say about the state of golf in America?**

**JOE BUCK:** Well, I think the one thing that we've done at Fox is I think we heavily promote. I think we are definitely not understated. I think Fox is usually in your face and you know when Fox is there.

But this is a different venture. I think golf doesn't really lend itself to that, and I think the people that are going to be on the air, the people we've assembled understand that. The guy that's in the truck that's going to be calling all the shots, Mark Loomis, has been at this a long time. I sit around him and really take on the form of a sponge and try and learn all I can about what it's like to cover golf and just the mechanics of it. It's something that we're both talking about. We played golf together today. We're talking about the mechanics of how hole-by-hole really works on television. It's not something I'm used to.

So a couple things, and I know you want to get to Greg. I'm used to seeing everything in front of me. I'm used to covering an event. Whether it was this last Sunday in Philadelphia, I'm looking at all the action whether it's a World Series, it's all

right in front of me.

Now obviously we're in a fixed spot on multiple acres covering an event that has people coming and going and finishing after starting on the back. There's a lot of moving pieces and a lot of different announcers in different positions. I think you have to go at it slowly and really understand who's supposed to talk when, and then when we do talk, you know, enlighten and have fun.

**Q. Covering football and baseball and now golf, what would your dad Jack say? What kind of advice would he give you?**

**JOE BUCK:** Take a breath, kid. What the hell have you gotten yourself into?

Well, it was one thing that he and I did even at the end of his life, golf, he and Stan Musial played golf every Monday at a place in St. Louis called the Missouri Bluffs. Those two, just to see them interact on a golf course is I think why every casual golfer loves the game. They laugh, they had a beer, they made fun of each other, and it's what I love about in game. When the sun's going down and you're walking up the 16th fairway and you're with your buddies and you've got a couple bets out there, there's nothing like it.

So I think he would be proud, but I know he would tell me to know what I don't know. And that's a lot. I'll know more as we go, but I'm smart enough to know what I don't yet understand about covering golf. So I'm going to lay back and pick my spots and really kind of rely on the experts to guide me through, and eventually I think we'll be really good at this.

**Q. I think you've talked about in the past when doing a broadcast kind of copy Jim Nance, do what he does. But when it comes to like the mechanics, the voice inflections, the pacing, is it much different than baseball?**

**JOE BUCK:** Yeah, it is. I'll tell you, Greg and I sat in the back end of a trailer at Pinehurst and we were listening to our producer, Marc Loomis, while we had the NBC feed and their natural sound. It was a great learning tool. I got the DVD and I went home and I popped it on. And my daughters were both sitting on the couch with me and I'm like, listen to this, girls, listen to dad do golf. About two minutes in, my youngest daughter Trudy, who's 15, turned to me and said, nah, doesn't sound good. All right, get off the couch, you're grounded. She was -- it sounded like you're doing baseball and football. I've been thinking about that, there's a much more easy -- when I'm at home and I'm watching golf, I think Nance is so great and Tirico and Hicks and all of them because they have a pace and a feel and a tone that makes me relax. When I'm doing the Eagles and the Seahawks this last weekend, there's excitement. The big plays are sometimes when we may be -- I'm not going to pull a groin calling a birdie going into the hole. I have pulled many groins, some not even my own, when I've called big touchdowns or home runs. This is a different discipline

and I'm going to have to find what that tone is. And it won't be on Saturday and it probably won't be in June at the first U.S. Open. It's going to take some time. Unfortunately for me, we live in a world where guys don't get a lot of time before you're skewered in social media. And this is a very closed group, it seems, and it's hard to crack into something like that at this stage but we'll give it a shot.

**Q. Do you guys get the feeling though in the years that you played that golf has gotten too serious of a tone, it needs to have a little fun in it?**

**GREG NORMAN:** Well, look, I can speak to that one because I've been through this for 40 years, right, and I thought the best producer ever of golf and the best team in the '80s was the CBS team. Joe was touching on how we break into this, but what we've done is we have put together a great team. It's like-minded people, right. Now you've got to get the team to gel, how do we all gel. I've played golf with the three of them, four of the team members competitively. So when you're playing mano a mano in the final round of the U.S. Open and get beat like Corey did me, it's a little bit different than sitting on a team and you're talking about it. So it's the gelling of that, number one. But I always look back to how I answer the question, look back to that team Frank Chirkinian, God rest his soul, put together and how he got them to be a little light-hearted about it. Then there was a transition away from that. Quite honestly, everybody kind of got stuck in this square box, you know, and they really didn't lighten themselves up a little bit. Joe and I have talked about it a lot. We want to get that light-hearted approach.