PRE-TOURNAMENT INTERVIEW: BRUCE PEARL
Tuesday, July 14, 2015

Q. Just talk about why you're here, why you want to be a part of this.

BRUCE PEARL: Anytime we get a chance to impart a little bit of wisdom and motivation on some kids, it's a great opportunity. Golf is a great game. It teaches you a lot of things about sportsmanship and leadership. All those kids from the Boys & Girls Club, on the back of their shirt it said, "Be Great." Talking about how they can be great and to have a pro like Will here, kind of a local boy that's done so well, he did so well last week, to impart some of the his wisdom and his discipline and just give these kids the confidence that if he can do it, I can do it.

Q. Talk a little bit about what you were saying to the kids about being great and encouraging them.

BRUCE PEARL: That's the question, what do you have to do to be great? It was interesting, their response was "helping others" more than anything else. I could be great if I helped somebody else do something. Obviously these kids are getting the great message. But every answer the kids give is the right answer and then our job is to try to provide them with the opportunity.

Q. Are you a big golfer yourself? I know you have a tournament yourself you did this past year, right?

BRUCE PEARL: Yeah, I love the game and I'm not very good, but I really enjoy it. My sons like to play so it's a great time for us to kind of bond. Alabama Power is one of the sponsors out here and they also sponsor Bruce Pearl Fore the Kids to benefit Children's Harbor. So the game of golf has been really good to the communities and I hope that this tournament sponsored by Barbasol is successful in Auburn because it will give back to the community.

Q. I was going to ask you to expand on that a little bit. What does it mean to this community to have an event like this and how does it improve the community?

BRUCE PEARL: Well, I think, first of all, it's great for the economy. This is the golf capital of the world. There are so many beautiful courses within an hour of here and this obviously is a treasure. And I know the Auburn golf program, both the men and women, one of the top programs in the country, it brings us credibility and it brings us great visibility and exposure and there's a lot of people that do enjoy the game. There's great sightlines, it's a great venue for it, and I just hope that the tournament catches on and builds some momentum as we move forward.

Q. As a coach and also as a father, what sort of advice would you give to parents of young golfers?

BRUCE PEARL: Well, you know, I'm not a golf professional but I think anytime you can do things with those kids and you can spend time together, that's obviously a great thing. Something really interesting happened to my son Steven when he was at the University of Tennessee. He was a student-athlete, played basketball, but he fell into a group of friends that were on the golf team. It was interesting what a difference, what an impact that made on his life in a sense that those guys, they weren't as physical as Steven, but they were much stronger mentally and they taught him so much about some of the disciplines and some of the work ethics and some of the training. Golf is a good game. There's a lot of really good people that are playing, so it's great for the kids to get into that game and be surrounded by other kids that are enjoying it.

Q. Coach, what was the biggest goal for you with the kids today, what did you want them to take out of it?

BRUCE PEARL: Just it's always good when you get an opportunity to make sure the kids understand that they matter. Why is this all out here, why are the TV cameras out here for them, why is a golf pro out here for them, why is a coach out here for them? Because we care about them, we want to encourage them and give them a chance to, like the shirt says, be great.

Q. Again, what did you come out here to speak to them about?

BRUCE PEARL: Just that, just give them the confidence, the ability to understand that to learn they've got to listen, and to understand how to practice and who to listen to, to have that discipline to try to be great and just give them some ideas and just have a fun time.

Q. Are you planning on watching any golf this week out here at Barbasol?

BRUCE PEARL: I have to recruit. July is our evaluation period so I hit the road tonight and we'll go out there and bring some good players back to Auburn.