

**PRE-TOURNAMENT INTERVIEW: JESPER PARNEVIK**  
**Wednesday, August 26, 2015**



**PHIL STAMBAUGH:** Okay, Jesper, thanks for joining us here. First appearance on the Champions Tour at the Dick's Sporting Goods Open, but a familiar site, you played here a bunch in the old BC Open. Five-time winner on the PGA TOUR, three-time Ryder Cup player on the European Tour. Thoughts about coming back to En-Joie for this event?

**JESPER PARNEVIK:** Great to be back. I didn't remember the course being quite this claustrophobic, tight. It's very narrow actually. But it's in great shape, I've never seen this course in this good of shape ever all the years I've been here before, that's great. I heard about the two floods you had here and it's unbelievable what they've done with the golf course. It's one of the best shapes all year.

**PHIL STAMBAUGH:** This is your 11th appearance on the Champions Tour. Just talk about your rookie season out here.

**JESPER PARNEVIK:** It's been a little bit sporadic. I didn't play at all -- I played the British Open this summer, then I haven't played much. I spent most of the time in Sweden with my parents and my family and my sisters and all that. My parents are getting a little bit older now, so I see them once a year in the summertime. I made sure we spent a couple months there this summer, so I didn't get to play much. I missed out on Canada and Minnesota and Chicago and a few like that. But I'm pretty much going to play a full schedule now this fall.

It's been great out here. I love this tour, I think it's a great tour. You meet great people, not only the players. Every week you have legends playing in every tournament. I talk to the sponsors I play with in the pro-ams every week and they are very happy about the whole -- you know, two pro-ams. And the whole week is just a great event with all the things we do at night. And if you take any tournament we play, you see names that all these guys grew up watching and so on. It's just great to see all these legends. I don't think there's any other sport where you can do that. You can play with guys you grew up watching and you actually can beat them sometimes.

**Q. What's it like to be a rookie again at this age?**

**JESPER PARNEVIK:** It's great to be a rookie. That's what's so good about this sport of golf, that you can be a rookie at 50 and you can come out. I had a lot of injuries the last seven, eight years, so it's been a lot of fun to come out and compete again and it's fun. Even though the atmosphere is relaxed and it's a little bit different, guys are having a lot of fun. It's a lot of laughs, a lot of talk. It's fun to see how competitive everybody is. They're still grinding it out, wanting to win every week and so on. So we're lucky that way in golf that we have that, we can go out there and compete again at this stage of life.

**Q. And are there any adjustments that you've had to make coming on the Champions**

## Tour?

**JESPER PARNEVIK:** Not really. I mean, I'm happy that my body is holding up so I can practice and so on, I can hit balls. I'm going to go hit balls this afternoon again. For six, seven years, if I hit half a bucket I could hardly get out of bed the next morning, so that's good. It's just been a great time meeting all the guys you haven't seen for a few years and so on, to come out here and compete against them. Adjustments in golf, you adjust pretty much every day. Even though I've been a pro now for 30 years, if you can have a swing thought the last two days, we're very happy. It's weird. It's not like biking or anything like that, every day's a new day.

**Q. You talked a little bit about how the course was claustrophobic. Can you talk a little bit more on that, how important it's going to be to hit the ball straight?**

**JESPER PARNEVIK:** Yeah, there's a lot of really tight holes where you need to hit in the fairway because you have these huge trees, overhanging trees that you pretty much can't get to the green. But then you also have the par 5s are actually a little bit longer than I remembered them being. I don't know if they lengthened the course at all because we've got to bomb it pretty good to have a chance to get up on all the par 5s. I thought we were going to play a little bit shorter. That's a little bit of a disappointment actually on this tour; I thought we were going to play shorter golf courses. We're still always all the way back. I don't know why that is, but we always play all the way back. It's a good test of everything. You have to have the distance, but the main thing is to keep it in the fairway.

**Q. The past two years have been really low numbers that won this tournament, we even had 59 on this course last year. You played a few holes, a few rounds now. Is it going to take more numbers like that like it has in the past?**

**JESPER PARNEVIK:** Well, if you're Bernhard or someone like that that hits every fairway, I can see those scores, but otherwise you have a lot of birdie chances but you can mess up on a lot of holes, too. A 59, that's a very good score, I have to say. I don't see too many of those this year because the greens are firm this year as well, so it's a little bit tougher, I would think.

**Q. Phil mentioned you have five wins on tour, I think it was seven top 10s in the majors. What's your perspective or angle on winning out here on the Champions Tour and winning a major as well?**

**JESPER PARNEVIK:** I mean, that's pretty much what I said before, that even though everybody's out there enjoying golf at all the different levels than maybe they did when they were 25, everybody's out there to win as well. Everybody wants to win every week. And we have, I think it's during like six weeks we have a lot of majors going on on this tour. You treat it pretty much like any other major you play on the regular tour. You can feel it's bigger and you can feel the course setup is a little bit different, so it would mean a lot to win a major out here, of course. Talk to Colin, he was very happy to win when he won the U.S. and all

that.

**Q. You kidded about being able to maybe beat some guys you didn't back in the day. Can you tell a couple specific stories or some of the ribbing that goes on out there?**

**JESPER PARNEVIK:** I competed against most of these guys on and off for many, many years and then some guys when I came over on this tour, and then I got injured so I haven't seen a few guys for a while. Like Thorpe, for example, he's a legend, he's so much fun. Guys like that are fun to see. You have guys that, I have to say, there's so many personalities on this tour, and that's one thing the sponsors and the people in the crowd I think really enjoy, too. To go out there and watch guys like Stadler, Fuzzy, a lot of really fun guys. I think most guys interact and have more fun with the crowds and so on maybe than what we did on the PGA TOUR. I think it's a great feeling. It's a different way to enjoy the game now, I would say, in a good way.

**PHIL STAMBAUGH:** Jesper, thank you very much. Good luck this week.