

**PRE-TOURNAMENT INTERVIEW: JEFF MAGGERT**  
**Thursday, August 27, 2015**



**PHIL STAMBAUGH:** Okay, Jeff, I thought I would have you in as the current Schwab Cup leader. Three big victories this year, two in majors. It's been quite a year on the Champions Tour for you and there's still some golf left. You come back here to a golf course you know from the PGA TOUR days. Just went around this morning, tell me what you think of it and about coming back to play in the Dick's Sporting Goods Open.

**JEFF MAGGERT:** Well, I had to look at the tour media stats guide and figure out when I was here last. It was 2003, so it's been a while. To be honest, I remember most of the course but I don't remember a lot of the subtleties. So a little bit it's maybe playing a new course again, but definitely the routing and the layout I'm familiar with. Looking for a good week. I know they shoot pretty good here so I need to come out and play aggressive and play strong. It's a tight golf course, so it suits my game if I drive the ball well. Greens are putting good. You know, just want to kind of buckle down tomorrow and get focused in and play aggressive and try to get off to a good start.

**PHIL STAMBAUGH:** With the Schwab Cup race down to basically three players, you guys are all real close now, just talk about every week's sort of important, right?

**JEFF MAGGERT:** Yeah, definitely. And Top 10s are important because 11th place is zero points, so that just means playing competitive with having a chance to win every week. That's going to be important. Colin's not here this week, so he's kind of opened the door maybe for me and Bernhard to have a good week and maybe grab the lead. Just kind of, you know, trying to play well, definitely that's a goal of mine finishing out the year to maybe have a chance to win a few more times and also win the Schwab Cup.

**Q. A lot of things go into the kind of season you're having, but if you had to put one aspect of it, the game, what's going on between the ears, what above all, what's been behind it?**

**JEFF MAGGERT:** I can't say I can peg one thing, but everything's been good. Good attitude, just having a lot of fun, not getting frustrated when things aren't going perfect, and just playing a lot of good golf. Driving the ball well, hitting the ball, ball striking's probably a little better than last year, and giving myself a lot of 10-, 15-footers for birdies as opposed to 15- and 20-footers. That little five to 10-yard or five to -- yeah, five to 10-foot difference just makes a lot of difference being able to make the putts and making four, five, six birdies a round as opposed to two or three. So I think driving, ball striking, putting and a good attitude, good combination to have working all at once.

Just trying to have fun the rest of the year. We've got a nice break. Unfortunately, the China tournament got canceled, so we've got a three-week break after this week. So I'm really looking forward to really working hard this week and trying to finish this part of our

schedule off. Then that leaves us with, what, six more events to finish out the year, or five?

**PHIL STAMBAUGH:** Five, I believe.

**JEFF MAGGERT:** Five. And just to play strong at the end, trying to set myself up to either be right there near the lead or in the lead on the Schwab Cup after this week.

**Q. What are you working on specifically, if there is one thing that's got your attention now on the range?**

**JEFF MAGGERT:** I think going into tomorrow's just going to be just a little bit of putting, getting a feel for the greens. The greens last week out in Seattle were a little bit different than what we're playing this week. They were really firm out there and a little bit bouncy. These greens are putting really smooth and well, maybe a touch slower than last week, which might correlate into a lot of birdies this week. I know Kevin Sutherland had a 59 here last year, so it wouldn't surprise me at all to see a few scores in the low 60s this week. Hopefully, one of them will be mine.

**Q. Just wondering, it occurred to me and I may have this stat wrong, but just this year you've equaled on the Champions Tour the amount of wins you had in your career on the PGA TOUR.**

**JEFF MAGGERT:** That's true.

**Q. Do you feel like this is the best golf you've played in a while?**

**JEFF MAGGERT:** Well, I can say I'm having a lot of fun, that makes a big difference. The last seven or eight years for me on the regular tour were a struggle. I had a bone spur in my shoulder that I played with 2008, 2009, and 2010 I finally had it fixed and started hitting the ball again, but by that time I was kind of ending my career. There was just a lot of frustration and not having a lot of fun the last five or six years on the regular tour. Then coming out here and feeling good, having good health and playing well just kind of rejuvenated my game. Seeing a lot of guys I hadn't seen in 10 years. And the regular tour's tough to win on. It's not easy to win out there. You know, I thought I would have won a dozen times or so on the tour, but for whatever reasons it didn't work out. I had a lot of second-place finishes, close calls in a few majors, so for whatever reason it didn't work out that way. But I don't have any -- I don't look back on it and say gosh, I wish I would have done this different or that different. I'm not beating myself up, you know. It's been a great 25 years, I played 25 years in a row on the regular tour without missing a year in 25 in a row, so just to be able to do that I felt like was a huge accomplishment. And being able to stay on the tour in my late 40s and work my way through there and keep my tour card and to be able to come right out here feeling good about my game.

**Q. And you mentioned a little bit earlier, how important is it for guys like you and Bernhard to perform well, especially when Monty's not here. Do you feel like you**

**can't miss that opportunity?**

**JEFF MAGGERT:** For myself, I don't feel like you can take any off weeks out here if you're going to compete for the Schwab Cup because in the past there's always five or six guys that are playing really, really well for the entire year. Last year it was Kenny Perry. Bernhard played well last year, Colin played well last year and I expected kind of more of the same this year. Kenny's maybe been a little bit off, but he's played quite a few tournaments down on the regular tour. But certainly Bernhard and Colin are playing good every week. When you know those guys are going to be the top of the leaderboard, you can't just sit back, you've got to play aggressive and try to win every week.

**PHIL STAMBAUGH:** Jeff, good luck this week.

**JEFF MAGGERT:** Thank you.