

ROUND 1 INTERVIEW: PAUL GOYDOS
Friday, August 28, 2015



PHIL STAMBAUGH: Okay, Paul, 33-33 and 66, you're tied with Gene Sauers after round one of the Dick's Sporting Goods Open. A few thoughts. You've played En-Joie a bunch, bogey free today, pretty good.

PAUL GOYDOS: Yes, last year I came here, it was my second event on the Champions Tour and I made an 8 on the par 3 seventh hole, so I played that hole six shots better today. It was one of those weeks where I was five over after eight holes or seven holes or whatever. It was kind of tough on the Champions Tour when somebody shot 59 that week. It was nice to kind of come here and play well. The golf course is in terrific shape. I really, tee to green, played as well as I probably have played all year. I drove it -- it's a hard driving golf course, I drove it in most of the fairways. I think I hit every green. So it's a good solid tee-to-green day. I did make a birdie on a par 5, which I think -- we were talking about it, there's a mathematical term called a mode, and on the front nine I shot 4-under par and my mode for the time was five because I made more fives than anything else, and I shot 3-under, which is very odd, by the way. I hit a good shot on two and made about a five-footer for birdie there. I hit it about four inches from the hole on No. 4 and I made that one.

PHIL STAMBAUGH: What club?

PAUL GOYDOS: 5-iron. I hit it about four inches from the hole, six inches from the hole on seven and made that.

PHIL STAMBAUGH: What club.

PAUL GOYDOS: 6-iron. I hit a 9-iron to about four feet on No. 9 and I made that. And I hit sand wedge to about six feet on No. 10 and I made that. And then I made a bomb on 17, I hit a 7-iron to about 25 feet and made that. Until 17 the longest putt I made all day was my second putt on 13, which was about 10 feet after a poor lag putt. Real happy. Tee to green this is probably the best I've played all year. I had pretty good control of the golf ball today. We'll see how that goes in the future, but it was a nice start.

PHIL STAMBAUGH: As somebody that's in the 59 club, you're a good friend of Kevin's and he shot that last year.

PAUL GOYDOS: I mentioned to my caddie, I birdied 17 to go 6-under and I said if we were playing with Kevin today, we would be eight back. He was 14-under after 17. It was a good solid day. I generally don't play well on courses that Kevin plays well on, but we'll see.

Q. 18 for 18 greens today. Even when you've been playing well, how rare --

PAUL GOYDOS: I don't do that very often. I think if you look at the stats, I think I had a streak this year where I hit 30-something in a row. I don't know how or why, but I did. I tend to be -- when things are going well, I tend to be able to go well, and when things are going badly, they generally don't. Hopefully, that will carry into the weekend.

I wasn't thinking about it too much, but that's not something you necessarily want to matter because you don't want to get too unaggressive, you don't want to worry about that. I think it's a bit of an overrated stat. On the regular tour, they have the ShotLink and they have the stat proximity to the hole, which I think is probably a better state to judge how you're hitting this greens in regulation. When you have pins tucked in corners, and we did have a few today, sometimes being aggressive with a shot and pulling it to a back-left pin and getting on the left fringe is probably a pretty good thing, it means you're swinging it pretty good, as opposed to hitting the middle of the green 30 feet. But I hit the ball really well today, quite frankly. I have no complaints about how I played tee to green.

Q. As calm as it seemed out there today, any surprise at all that -- not necessarily like what Kevin did, but something --

PAUL GOYDOS: To some extent. We couldn't have had better conditions to play golf. But the golf course this year in my opinion is a little firmer, especially the fairways. Firmer fairways sounds like the course plays shorter. Well, that's not true. It does play shorter, but it also makes it harder to hit into the fairway because the ball tends to bounce into the rough. So I think the golf course is probably playing a little harder this year for that main reason, I think it's a little firmer than it was last year. I don't know what the leader was after the first round last year.

PHIL STAMBAUGH: 65.

PAUL GOYDOS: 7-under, so it's not that much different. We'll see how it works out, but the golf course is firmer.