
Q. Colin, you finished second at the Senior PGA Championship a couple weeks ago, obviously in good form coming in. Just talk about being here at the Philadelphia Cricket Club for the SENIOR PLAYERS.

COLIN MONTGOMERIE: Sure, you said it all really. You know, it was a good performance two weeks ago, you know. I must admit 16 under I thought was going to be enough to win. I think we all did and you lose by three. So you think, okay, well, hat's off to the winner, good luck to him.

But yeah, I went home last week. I went back to Scotland, it was my father's birthday so we went home, the family got together and played Royal Troon Golf Club so that was good and ready for the Open, and come back yesterday back into Philadelphia. Stood in my immigration line for too long with the rest of the world and here we are.

This is a good golf course. I've heard a lot about this golf course. A lot of people have spoken about it over the months and years that we've been thinking about coming here. Every word has been true and it's been very, very positive. You know, it's got a feel of Oakmont to it in many ways now with the trees being cut down and you see most of the fairways, as the ladies who lunch from Philadelphia pass here. But it's a great golf course. You've got to keep the ball below the hole, got to know your way around, got to know the distances with your second shots having hit the fairway. So it will be a good test, a great test of golf and a very difficult test of golf as well, which is super.

Q. Has the Senior Tour been what you thought it was going to be? I don't know what people think it's going to be.

COLIN MONTGOMERIE: Yeah, yeah, I heard good things about the Champions Tour. PGA Champions we call ourselves now, PGA TOUR Champions. I heard good things about it. All I can say is that those -- those thoughts and those expectations have been beaten hands down. This is an amazing place to play.

Q. What makes it so --

COLIN MONTGOMERIE: I've often said that -- well, there's no great -- there's no great egos out here. Everyone's made it to a certain extent, that's why we're here. There's no envy as such. Everyone seems genuinely delighted with everyone else's success. It's more relaxed. There's an appreciation for us from the fans and we appreciate them. The pro-ams work in a much more relaxed way and beneficial to the tour, and I think that generally it's the best tour I've ever played on, including European Tours, PGA Tours in America, whatever.

It's by far the best tour that I've played on and therefore the best tour, best tour really in the world out here. This is a fantastic place to play.

Q. Would you have thought that like 15 years ago if people would have said that to you?

COLIN MONTGOMERIE: Not at all. When I was 36, 37 15 years ago, I was in the middle of trying to -- trying to get to No. 1 in the world, you know, so there's other things on my mind and trying to keep that Money List going in Europe. So you don't think about -- you know, Senior's Tour's a long way off, 50's a long way off. Now it's here and I'm glad it is here. Anyone who's thinking about and looking forward to coming out here, they should do it, it's a fabulous place to be.

Q. How do you feel -- there was a time where you didn't seem to be very well received by American audiences.

COLIN MONTGOMERIE: Sure, yes, I understand.

Q. And now how do you feel the reception has been toward you?

COLIN MONTGOMERIE: Well, I feel there's two words I would use, very welcomed and there's a warmth here as well of respect, I suppose. Okay, what's gone on before, come on, that was when we were growing up, we were maturing, we were trying to get to a position in life, a lifestyle for one's family, whatever. Trying to win so-called these Ryder Cup things that I was sent over to try and do. That's really, I mean, okay, it's not forgotten but it's been respected more as we get older. And there's a warmth and there's a hospitality here and there's a welcome that I've found that's superseded my expectations dramatically and that's why I'm enjoying it, and I think that I'm doing well out here because I'm enjoying myself as well, yeah, yeah.

Q. Do you think that, fairly or not, there was maybe a misconception of you, whether it was by American fans or --

COLIN MONTGOMERIE: I think a bit of both. I think I wasn't as relaxed myself. I think I wasn't giving -- so giving of myself and I don't think the fans -- and I think the fans went along with that. So yeah, I mean, I think we were both to blame, to be honest. Now, now, I think they're great and I'm in a better place, too, so I think it works both ways, yes.

Q. It made for some good sparring in a sense and you seemed to feed off it, too, sometimes.

COLIN MONTGOMERIE: Well, I do, and it was great. I mean, I was playing with Rocco Mediate there in the last major and I found that in the major championships that I've contended in recently out here that there's -- there seems to be as much support for myself as there are for the popular American players, which is all I can say is thank you and

fantastic, and it's really helping all sides, yeah, yeah.

Q. Bygones being bygones?

COLIN MONTGOMERIE: I think so, I think so. We all mature, we all get older, we all get wiser hopefully, and we all learn. And I think if you don't learn in a day or if you don't learn after a round of golf or whatever, you've missed out sometimes. I think learning is most important, yeah, yeah.

Q. You talked before about the Senior Tour but what is it like to have like a new lease on life?

COLIN MONTGOMERIE: It's great, it's another chapter, isn't it. The book's definitely in the back nine but it's nice to have different chapters and it's nice to open up a new one. And the way this is going, it could be a new book, never mind a new chapter. I'm thoroughly enjoying it, I really am. I'm thoroughly enjoying myself and, as I said earlier, that's probably why I'm doing better than I thought I might.

Q. Learning a new course such as this, what is your MO for learning a course you probably had not seen before this week?

COLIN MONTGOMERIE: I haven't seen this course. I heard, as I said, a lot about it. The idea here is to keep the ball below the hole, it's a must. You're going to three-putt your way around if you don't. So you've got to keep the ball below the hole. Keep the ball below the hole, you have half a chance, but therefore that means you've got to start off by hitting the fairways because you can't control the ball from the rough. Total golf, it's great. I love it, love it.

Q. When you win senior majors, is it the same as what it would have been as --

COLIN MONTGOMERIE: Yes, it's the same feeling, yeah, yeah. My first senior major was the PGA Seniors over at Benton Harbor two years ago and playing with Bernhard Langer in the last group, it felt like a major. I was just saying to Alastair, my caddie there, 24 years we've been together, this has the feeling of a major championship and it's nice to feel that, you know? You might -- you know, the fans, the fans that are listening or watching or whatever might think they're not majors. They are majors, they are majors. I'm competing against the guys I used to compete against so there's not much difference really. Not much difference. I'm competing against the same guys as I did by definition all around the same age and it has the feeling of a major, this championship does definitely.

Q. So if somebody said you're the greatest player or one of the greatest players never to have won a major, you would say to them I've won three?

COLIN MONTGOMERIE: Well, yes and --

Q. Yes and no?

COLIN MONTGOMERIE: Yes and no, yes and no. I'd like to think that these count and I certainly count them because I never won before. But at the same time, I wouldn't change anything, you know, yeah, yeah.

Q. And speaking of majors, how was Royal Troon?

COLIN MONTGOMERIE: Royal Troon was great. It was a great evening. I played with my father on his birthday. He has a buggy out there now. It's quite dangerous a buggy at Royal Troon because it's not the flattest of fairways. We had a great time, we played in three hours and didn't rush. That's how golf is supposed to be played. The three of us, my older brother and I and my father, had a great time. And all the stands are up, it's looking really very impressive. And the weather was like this. It was 24 degrees, which in your terms was 75, 76 degrees. It was amazing. So fingers crossed that the weather remains.

Q. How can Troon ever be a bad idea?

COLIN MONTGOMERIE: It can't be.