ROUND 1 INTERVIEW: VIJAY SINGH

June 9, 2016



Q. Vijay, do you want to just talk about your round, how it started, how it finished?

VIJAY SINGH: It started okay. It's a tough day. Regardless of what club you've got in the hand, wedge or 9-iron or 3-wood, it's still long, gusty crosswinds. I played pretty good. I kept the ball in play most of the day, and unfortunately, you know, had two three-putts but that was pretty easy to do out here.

Q. Did you come close to a hole-in-one there on, what was it, 14, the short par 3?

VIJAY SINGH: It was a short birdie putt, but couldn't see the hole, couldn't see the bottom of the flag so must have come close.

Q. Hit at the edge of the cup. Pretty nice shot.

VIJAY SINGH: Oh, I'll still take a 2 there.

Q. Vijay, on a day like today there aren't really many high scores so you've got to feel like getting into red numbers has got to be a good spot?

VIJAY SINGH: Yeah, shooting even par today was a pretty hard task. A lot of cross holes -- holes with crosswind and very gusty though. I don't know how strong the wind was but it was at least 15, 20 gusts. So get the wrong gust and you can get in trouble. It's not too -- you know, if you miss a fairway, it's not too punishing so you can actually get away with that.

Q. Your general impressions of the course?

VIJAY SINGH: It's beautiful. It's in unbelievable shape, condition wise it's great, and it's just an old-style golf course. I think everybody enjoys playing it.

Q. What goes on in your mind as far as juggling your schedule between the PGA Tour and the PGA TOUR Champions?

VIJAY SINGH: I guess when you come over here you've got to forget about the other one, just play this as a tournament. I think early part the last three or four events when I came over here, I kind of put too much pressure on myself that I have to win, you know, and I just came this week just to have a good time and enjoy it and play good golf.

Q. This is your second Champions Tour --

VIJAY SINGH: This year, yes. You know, trying not to put too much pressure on myself. If I keep playing the way I am, I'm going to be in contention come Sunday.

Q. Is the rational of putting too much pressure on yourself, well, if I'm competing on that other tour and I'm making cuts and times I'm in contention, well, of course I should win here, is that the rational or is it a different mindset?

VIJAY SINGH: I don't know. To me I think I'm supposed to win here, which is the wrong thing to say but that's the way I feel. Coming over here the golf courses aren't as long, get a lot of birdie opportunities, and if I play the way I know how, I'm going to have a good chance to be in contention every week. So it's kind of what my mindset is. This week I'm just going to come in, enjoy it and see what happens.

Q. What has been the secret to your longevity in being successful on the PGA Tour?

VIJAY SINGH: I don't know, working out, eating correctly, keeping your weight down and practicing, working hard, I guess. Staying away from a lot of injuries I think is the key. The last few years the injuries kind of show up without even any -- no reason. My elbow showed up two weeks ago and it's been killing me ever since, so things like that. But if you just keep it intact and keep going, working out is very important as well, keeping yourself fit.

Q. Does genetics play a part? I mean, do you have relatives, older relatives --

VIJAY SINGH: I don't know.

Q. -- that produced deep into their --

VIJAY SINGH: I don't know. I don't think it's got anything to do with that. I guess I'm blessed with a lot of flexibility, I'm pretty limber and loose, so that kind of helps with the golf swing, you don't get tight. You know, I have a very strict routine with my working out. No matter where I play, a practice round or a tournament, I try to make sure I get in the gym at a certain time and do my due diligence. There's no shortcuts. I think that's the key.

Q. You're known as a player who really practices a lot. As you get older, do you find you're practicing as much or are you limiting a little more?

VIJAY SINGH: I know my golf swing a little better than I did 10, 15 years ago so the practice part has come down. If I'm actually working on something I will practice a little bit more, but just keeping the rhythm going and just make sure that you're aggressive through the ball is the key.