



Q. Have you seen the course, what do you think so far of Madison and University Ridge?

FRED FUNK: I've got a lot of opinions on that and they're all good. I came in on Tuesday and played a practice round right away and love the golf course. It's really a beautiful golf course, in great condition. The front nine is a little different than the back. The back nine is more in the trees and front nine is a little more open, but the golf course is really fun to play. It has a really neat diversity of holes, but you have a unique setup with the five par 5s and five par 3s. It's very unusual to do that. And the par 5s, the way they're playing, even though some of them are really long, the long hitters on our tour, the way the fairways are running out, they're all reachable. I can see a guy if he got really hot could be 15-under on the par 5s alone -- I mean, that would be ridiculous, but he really could do it. And then there's some really scoreable par 4s, but the par 3s are really good. So I really predict that the scores will be really low because the golf course is in great condition and just the way it's playing right now. And even though we'll play the golf course probably a little over 7,100 yards, it will be still playing pretty short. I think for some of these long hitters they can cut the corners and do some things on some of those par 5s.

And then I did some events last night with Stryker, I did one at the Edgewater Hotel and that was a beautiful venue, and then the pro-am party was at Monona Terrace and that was beautiful venue. The downtown is just really pretty on those lakes.

Q. I'm proud you remembered all those names.

FRED FUNK: I did pretty good with that.

Q. Your knee is good?

FRED FUNK: The knee is great. The knee gave me my -- Stryker gave me my career back. I had it replaced at the end of '09. I was done, I couldn't do anything really. I played pretty good through '09 and at the very end of the year, I was kind of stumbling here, but at the end of the year I didn't have any chance of playing. My knee got really painful. Any uneven lie any time I was in a bunker I couldn't hit those shots, so my game went to the toilet. And I finally just said enough's enough and I had it replaced at the end of '09 and it gave me an opportunity to rehab the knee and get it strong again and it acts like a normal knee. Now there's no thinking about it. If I ever play bad it's not because much my knee, that's for sure, because I don't think even think of that anymore. It's just working on my golf swing and everything else. Knee's great.

Q. Do you think that's what happens to a lot of guys out here is their body just kind of -- all the stress you put on your body?

FRED FUNK: You know, what it is out here, it's overuse injury. I didn't hurt my knee because of golf. I hurt my knee because of other stuff. But when we get hurt out here and at the age we are we don't heal like we used to. It's a lot of overuse type injuries out here, but we have had quite a few people with knees and hip replacements. I've become the walking talking testimonial to how you can get your life back with replacement parts basically, and it's worked out really perfect with Stryker and really my message to them is why wait? A lot of people are really scared of going through what they think is --it really is an invasive surgery, but the back end of it is it really gets you back to where you can do the everyday things. And the everyday things are just the simple things you don't think about when you're not aching in the knees or the hips is getting in and out of a car and going up and down steps, simple thing as gardening or even walking the dog, and, you know, you get all that back and you can do it and you don't think about it anymore so it's really cool.

Q. For a guy like you, you turned 60, is that right?

FRED FUNK: Yeah.

Q. Sorry about that.

FRED FUNK: Thanks for that.

Q. Does that add to years to your career, does it make you kind of get you back to where you were at 55 or --

FRED FUNK: Well, my career was done at 2009. If I didn't get my knee replaced I couldn't play golf at a high level, I couldn't do anything really. So for me it was great. And in hindsight I wish I would have done it earlier, that was the big thing. I wish I didn't wait for the two years I waited. I played two years with a really bad knee and dysfunctional knee. So once I did all the rehab -- got the replacement, did all the rehab, off and running literally, not an issue.

Q. So you feel competitive again?

FRED FUNK: Yeah, yeah, I won tournaments right after I had the knee replaced. This year's been the worst start I've ever had, but it has nothing to do with my knee, it has everything to do with my putting so far this year. But I'm playing well, I'm healthy, I love being out here, I walk all the time out here. Sometimes we're allowed to have carts and I don't take them. So it doesn't matter how hilly it is or anything else, I work it out pretty hard.

Q. How do the guys who don't have the length that (inaudible) or Bernhard might have --

FRED FUNK: They're not the long hitters. Those two, you mentioned two guys that are, they -- yeah, I mean they're probably a little above average or above average, but they're not

the long hitters. The long hitters are the Kenny Perry and John Huston and John Riegger and those guys that can absolutely kill it. Doug Garwood and Scott McCarron is playing really well, Billy Andrade is longer than people think he is. These par 5s, they're going to eat them up so you've got to beat them with the wedges and the putter. It's still going to come down to putting. You can't out ball strike a good putter. That's my saying. If you're putting good, that's the equalizer, so you can't out ball strike them. So it's still going to come down to the guy making the pars, but there's going to be some eagle putts out here. The five par 5s and number 15 is a very short par 4, actually one day I think on Saturday we're going to play it on the up tee and make it drivable and it's going to be -- that's a fun hole, I played it yesterday up on the front tee and really fun up there even for me. I reached it.

Q. You've got to shoot low? Is everything a green light?

FRED FUNK: Yeah it's pretty much green light out here. I think the defense would be the wind is always tough. The golf course is in great condition, fun golf course, aesthetically pleasing to the eye. There's about, you know, the par 3s are very good, there was a couple par 4s that are very good that you have got at 10, No. 4, No. 4 is really a tough hole. But other than those, you know, you've got a lot of green light specials. You've just got to get by a couple of those holes and don't make any big boo boos and set up all the birdies and knock them down.

Q. (Inaudible.)

FRED FUNK: I don't think anybody plays defensive out here very often. It's not very -- you know, we don't have U.S. Open setups like Oakmont last week where, you know, it's hard to let it go because you have got rough this high and green speeds that are just ridiculous. That puts you on defense when you have extreme conditions like that. And the regular tour doesn't play those conditions very often and we don't play those conditions very often. We'll try to get there with our majors, but not defensive golf, no. Guys are green lighting it all the time. You see Bernhard's scores, everybody like that. In three rounds it's amazing how good and how low guys shoot because we play golf courses, we average almost 7100 yards. People think we're playing at 65, 6,600 and we're not. We're back there pretty far.

Q. (Inaudible) what's the difference in the experience as a golfer on the Champions Tour versus (Inaudible) how is it different?

FRED FUNK: There's not much difference really. Other than we've got to two pro-ams and that's a big difference, but that's what's our selling point. We're really friendly to the corporate golf really and all the entertainment we do. So it's a big deal to have the pro-ams and do the two days of those, really entertain the sponsors and everybody else for two days and then give them a good show on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday. So that's a little bit different, but competitive wise it's the same, it really is. The guys want to win. We competed our whole life. We know each other really well, we're all really good friends, but we want to beat everybody's brains in on the golf course. We want to win. We're hungry to win. The guys that worked hard on the regular tour are still the guys that work hard out here.

Nobody's really changed up. But the one thing is when guys are coming off the regular tour and they turn 50 they get really hungry again, they reignite their fire and they're ready to come out here and take an opportunity to try to what they think beat up on the old guys, but they become one of the old guys, but you're actually kind of a teenager at age 52 statistically on what you do out here. Other than Bernhard, who is outside the box, and a couple other guys that play really well later on in their career, but -- or in this age. But it's very competitive out here. That's what we do.

Q. (Inaudible.)

FRED FUNK: I think we're doing really well. We have 26 events, we're doing really well for what we do, which is entertain the corporate. We have a good name recognition, that's kind of the biggest thing. We have a lot of guys that follow golf that -- people who do follow golf know a lot of guys out here because they've been following it a long time. And they don't know on the regular tour a lot of these young guys yet. They're doing a good job, but there's just so many good players out there. Out here we have 81 guys every week and it's half the field almost and a lot of guys people have been following their whole career, so it makes it fun for people to follow and see how we're doing.