

**FINAL ROUND INTERVIEW: PAUL GOYDOS**  
July 10, 2016

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**MAUREEN RADZAVICZ:** Paul Goydos, our 2016 Dick's Sporting Goods Open champion. Thank you for joining us. You came so close last year and then came back and earned your third PGA TOUR Champions win here in Endicott. Just your thoughts on today.

**PAUL GOYDOS:** Tough day out there. It was windy and coming from a different direction; I think a harder direction for the golf course. The par 5s played into the wind and it was a grind out there. I kind of made a commitment to be as patient as I possibly can, something I've been severely lacking the last four, five, six months playing golf. You know, it was one of those days where everything kind of worked out. You know, just one of those days where things worked out and I hung in there really well. When the conditions get tough, you make a bunch of pars and you feel like you're losing ground. The round is playing hard for everybody. Very proud of the way I hung in there all day.

**Q. The approach shot that you hit on 6, after you hit that and then made that birdie, it looked a lot smoother after that, it looked like you were trying to maybe fight a little bit but after that it looked like the guy I followed in the final round last year, just fairways and greens. Did that kind of settle you down?**

**PAUL GOYDOS:** I drove it in the left rough there but caught just -- considering the shot I needed to hit, I couldn't have caught a better lie in the rough. In order to win golf tournaments and have success, just about everybody needs to have kind of some good things happen. I had a lot of good bounces the first two days and that was kind of a continuation that hey, things are going your way, take advantage of the situation, and it does kind of calm you down.

You feel like I hit a bad shot off the tee in a sense but I ended up in pretty good place, and that will at times allow you to maybe be a little calmer and a little bit better later on in the round. And I did, I think actually as the day went on I did hit it better. I drove the ball really well on the back nine. It's not an easy golf course to drive the ball. So I get your point and I think it wasn't necessarily the shot that I hit as much as the fact that I kind of didn't hit a good shot but still kind of got away with it and that tended to make things a little easier.

**Q. The key tee shot I thought was the putt on 16 after John made birdie to get to 1. Did you feel like that was a big putt?**

**PAUL GOYDOS:** Yeah, I mean John couldn't have hit a better putt. He hit that putt and I'm like wow, that thing's rolling great, (inaudible) like nobody's business.

But again, I was very happy with the way I kind of didn't rush it, I kind of stayed in my routine, kind of went through whatever I needed to do to hit a good putt and I read it pretty

good and I hit a pretty good putt there.

Again, a lot of times you get ahead of yourself and you get quick and you want to get it over with, you're nervous, all these different things. I thought I did a good job all day of being patient and staying slow, and then that was an instance of that. It was a situation where maybe in the past I might have rushed a little bit. I really thought I did a good job of staying in my rhythm there and I hit a good putt and it went in. I'm happy it was a downhill putt, it's a lot easier when you're nervous. That's kind of like the shot that kind of gives you this idea that you can face adversity. And John making the putt makes it a little bit tougher on me and to handle that makes the bunker shot on 17 easier, the tee shot on 18 easier.

**Q. Are you surprised that your score today was good for the win and good for a two-shot win?**

**PAUL GOYDOS:** Maybe a little. It didn't play that easy. I'm sure the vast majority of people were following the group in front of us with John and Wes and Neal. All of them are very long hitters, and from looking at the scoreboard it looked like they were burning up the par 5s any more than we were. John Riegger made two eagles today, which is pretty impressive.

But I would say the wind direction kind of -- the wind velocity and direction made the golf course play a little harder than say the previous two days. I knew it was going to be a pretty tough day with the showers and just kind of one of those days, it's cooler. I had a pretty good idea that if you just kind of make pars and a couple of birdies, you'll be all right.

We had a pretty good cushion. 11 under was leading, I want to say you had to be -- 6 under was 10 so it wasn't a a lot of guys -- I mean, there's only five guys that could shoot 67 and pass me if I shoot 70. So the fact that there was a gap, I look at the finish I had yesterday kind of making 69 a much better score than anything else.

**Q. Would you have taken 69 if I offered it to you at 10:00 a.m.?**

**PAUL GOYDOS:** Maybe. We obviously want to play, but in a theoretical world, yeah, I got the impression it was playing pretty tough.

**Q. You said before the tournament that your MO was two good rounds and then a mediocre round.**

**PAUL GOYDOS:** Yeah, my MO this year has been 12 holes as a Tour player and six holes as a 12 handicap. That's how I played all year. I think I made three -- I think the first round and the last round I didn't make a bogey and then I made three bogeys the second day. I mean, three bogeys, that's nine holes all year making it for 54. Golf's one of those things. You know, my game's kind of like a jack-in-the-box, kind of keep spinning it and it pops up every once in a while. There was no inkling that I was going to play well other than the law of averages. Things hadn't gone well, I hadn't played well, my attitude was bad, so naturally

I won.

**Q. Both of you were in the sand trap on 17 and you were really deliberate in (inaudible.) Could you take us through that?**

**PAUL GOYDOS:** Well, you have to recreate -- John's ball, John didn't really affect my lie too much, but it did take sand and put it on top of where my ball would have been, so I'm allowed to recreate the lie that I have to the best of our ability. We've had that situation in bunkers before, it happens. But again, John hit a nice little bunker shot out there. Him going first I think was an advantage, quite frankly, for me. Got to see a good shot, got to watch a guy hit a shot, watch how the sand reacts, stuff like that.

It's a bunker shot where you have a decent margin of error in the sense if I catch too much sand, it's going fly short, hit the downslope and roll down by the hole. It's not one you really should hit thin because you've got the margin of error in the other direction. You know, throughout the practicing -- I didn't hit in a whole lot of bunkers, but throughout practicing I liked the way the sand felt, I had a pretty good feel for the sand. It's excellent, quite frankly. It's nice to play out of. You know, again, I couldn't hit the shot better, but there was definitely in a sense it made it a little bit easier having a margin of error, one, with a two-stroke lead, and two, I've got options of how to get the ball close to the hole, not just one.

**Q. Yesterday you said course conditions were very good. Same today and especially for a public course?**

**PAUL GOYDOS:** Yeah, I mean, I want to say -- I want to say I looked out the window this morning at 8:00 in the morning and it was raining. When we got to the course it was drizzling here and there in spots. You wouldn't have even known it. I don't know how they get the golf course that firm and that lush. That's hard to do, that's just hard to do. You can get it firm and dead and you can get lush and soft, that's easy to do, but they've found a way to make it firm and healthy, which is hard to do. Again, on a public golf course with what I'm guessing is not a great budget, it's pretty impressive. The improvement of this golf course conditioning since the BC Open to this tournament is as big a leap as I've ever seen. It's phenomenal. You've had some big floods here.

**Q. Two floods, 2006 and 2011.**

**PAUL GOYDOS:** You've had two massive floods here which you have to deal with, but they've obviously done a great job of building a subsurface and getting the grass healthy, but the golf course is in phenomenal condition. You talk about great playing and great scoring in golf. One of the greatest improvements in our game over the last 30 years has been the lawn mower. The greens are immaculate, the fairways are immaculate. The fairways here in spots were 7 on the stimpmeter. That's the greens 40 years ago.

**Q. Where is home for you and what's your home course?**

**PAUL GOYDOS:** I live in Orange County, California. Home course probably -- that's an interesting -- I've got a few. Probably Virginia Country Club in Long Beach. I grew up in Long Beach and I go out there and practice and play. One of the guys I worked with, Jamie Mulligan, is there. Then a place called Coto de Caza where I live, and Duck Canyon. So I've got three places I really kind of hang out and play.

**Q. Virginia, is that a tight course?**

**PAUL GOYDOS:** Yeah. I mean, John Cook who was following our group, he works with Jamie Mulligan also and plays Virginia Country Club. They just redid it. It's a small, little 6,500-yard golf course. It is tight and you do need to drive your ball to play there. It's a fun little golf course to play. Again, I grew up and been there -- how old am I -- 30-odd years practicing and playing out there. It's a great place.

**Q. Talk about playing this course, especially out of the fairway, and last year it helped you --**

**PAUL GOYDOS:** You have to drive your ball -- if you drive it in the rough -- I didn't drive it great the first day but it got better as the week went on. Eventually, if you don't drive the ball well, you're going to fall down the leaderboard, you're going to slip. Not only are the fairways good but if you drive it in the rough, you get a bad lie and you get a tree in your way, which can be problematic at times. But this is a golf course where you need to drive it where you're looking first and foremost. If you don't do that -- it's amazing John Daly won. Shows you how great a player he is. He won the BC Open here in '91 or something.

**Q. '92.**

**PAUL GOYDOS:** '92. It's a hard driving golf course, but I like that, it fits me pretty well. But once you get in the fairway, you basically, if you drive it in the fairway you're turning every hole into a par 3. You've got a perfect lie and you can pretty much know exactly, if you make a good swing, what the ball's going to do on these fairways. They're just that good, so it's almost like you're hitting off a mat once you drive it in the fairway.