



CHRIS REIMER: Welcome Henrik Stenson here to the interview room at the World Golf Championships Mexico Championship. Henrik, just some opening comments about being here in Mexico city at a World Golf Championships event.

HENRIK STENSON: Yeah, it's my first trip to Mexico. I've been traveling the world for 20-plus years and never been to Mexico, so it's a first for me and so far so good. Everyone seems to be very excited to have the event here. Could tell on the fans out on the golf course, I just came off now, played the back nine and there's a lot of requests for autographs and selfies and I think everyone's very excited for the week ahead, so that's good. That's good for the game of golf to take an event like this to new territory, and yeah, we should have a good week ahead.

CHRIS REIMER: You mentioned the golf course, first impressions of Chapultepec?

HENRIK STENSON: It's kind of an old-style tree-lined golf course. It's a bit tricky. And of course with altitude, that's going to make it that much trickier because the ball is traveling for sure and it's going to take some extra figuring out in the club selection and calculations. I wouldn't be surprised if you see one or two players chipping back from some odd places this week.

Q. Henrik, you mentioned traveling the world for 20 years. Do you keep a tally of how many countries you've won in? People talk about having a game that can travel.

HENRIK STENSON: Well, I haven't won that many, so I start losing track of the wins, but how many countries I've played in, I'm not sure. It would be a few, even though we seem to come back a lot of times year in and year out to the same events. Yeah, when I have a bit more time on my hand, I'll sit down and maybe try and figure out how many I've actually played in because it would be kind of fun to know.

Q. And what's the most sort of foreign you've ever felt at a golf tournament, where were you and what were you having to sort of adapt to?

HENRIK STENSON: It could have been -- yeah, it wasn't in Tampa. Possibly with the food in the Far East. You know, you open the lid on the buffet and there's a few things looking back at you that you're normally not, you know, used to seeing on the buffet. I think it would probably be Philippines. Had a big seafood platter coming in at this very nice restaurant, I was 18 years at the time I think and all I could think about was take me to McDonald's. There was some rare things on there that I didn't try.

Q. I know you just mentioned this but Rory talked about it. Can you talk about the importance of the WGC specifically being played outside the United States? Is it

important at all?

HENRIK STENSON: Yeah, I think so. I mean, for a lot of us who live in the States, of course it's out of convenience. It's easy enough if it's just down the road and you jump in your car and two or three hours later you're at the venue. But I think for the game itself, it's pretty good. They're called World Golf Championships. We play one in China, and of course it's good for the game to spread that love a little bit and play different places.

Q. Henrik, the rule proposals, five years in the making, came out today. What was your reaction? Have you had a chance to look them over?

HENRIK STENSON: No. We were getting a briefing in Abu Dhabi at the tournament committee meeting and I missed that one. I was a bit late, running a bit late. Must have been some journalists that held me up, so I didn't make that one.

I had an email the other day with the explanations but I didn't have time to read it through. Since it's not a super urgent matter, 2019 is still some time away, right, so I'm sure I will have time to look into it. I kind of have a rough idea that it's to make it simpler in many ways and also to speed up in ways. So I think that would be good overall, but I can comment more when I've had time to get my head around it a bit more.

Q. After all these years playing professional golf, how well do you know the rules? I mean, you have the rules officials always available. How complicated, I guess I'm asking, are the rules for even you?

HENRIK STENSON: I think speaking for myself, I would say I've got a pretty good idea about the rules. It's hard to put a number on it, but maybe given how many years I've been out on Tour and how many tournaments I've played and how many rulings I've encountered both for me and my playing partners, I think I probably have an above-average knowledge about the rules out here on Tour. But it's still a question of given that we're being watched on television and you just want to make sure that nothing ends up being done the wrong way and then you normally take the safe route by having a rules official monitoring the drops and so on.

I think playing tournament golf you're going to encounter many more situations that are a bit more complicated than what you do on your Saturday game with your friends, you know? You've got TV towers and grandstands and everything else, balls that end up in Coke cans and umbrellas and spectators and backpacks and whatnot. So there's more situations that we can encounter out on Tour than you do on a Saturday. So given all that, we normally take the safe option and call a rules official.

Q. Henrik, is Augusta yet on your mind? If not, at what point does it come into your mind, and is your attitude towards it or approach towards it any different now that you've got a Claret Jug sitting on your mantelpiece at home?

HENRIK STENSON: Yeah, Augusta is always on the mind when you start a new season and that is the first major of the year and something we're working towards. I'm here this week, this is my first tournament of five out of six weeks with Augusta being the last one, so of course I'm trying to pick up some pace and form and work towards having a good game coming into Augusta.

And also I think this week patience is going to be key. It's normally -- it's always important to stay patient, but on this golf course I'm sure you can encounter a few scenarios where your patience gets tested, so it's a good week to start getting your mindset into that place.

Q. And do you think you'll feel different about it now that you've got a major in the bag or does that not affect your mindset?

HENRIK STENSON: Yeah, I mean I never really felt pressured, but of course there's some bit of extra confidence when you manage to win your first major and then you're going after your second. So I'm sure that's going to be, to a degree it's going to be a help.

Yeah, maybe you can go out and try and go after it just a little bit more than you have before. I think for me it's been about figuring out how to play Augusta and how to get to the 15-, 20-under because I think I've had too conservative of a game plan at times. And also there's a few challenges in terms of my strength in my game and what's required at Augusta, and I think I'm pretty much looking at the same here this week. I wouldn't say this is a course that's right up my alley. It's going to have some challenges and I see it as a good opportunity to practice those things and see where we're at.

CHRIS REIMER: Any other questions? Perfect. Good luck this week.