

CAMERON SMITH

KATHIE SHEARER: Terrific to see you, pleased that you've come back to Australia to play. You're having a great time in the States. Tell us something about it.

CAMERON SMITH: It's not really much to say. It's been a really good year obviously, been playing some really solid golf and, yeah, just loving it.

KATHIE SHEARER: You've come in form to this tournament and you've played this morning. What's your thoughts on the course here, The Lakes?

CAMERON SMITH: Yeah, I like the course. Very tricky, especially in the wind. I think that's going to play a major factor this week. It's a little bit soft at the moment, but there's obviously some reasons behind that. I think it's going to get really windy tomorrow and Saturday, so they're obviously trying to hold on a little bit. I would like to see it a little bit firmer, but it is what it is.

KATHIE SHEARER: Questions, please?

Q. Cam, you're the leading Australian heading into the tournament. How do you feel leading the way for the home fans and how do you handle that pressure?

CAMERON SMITH: Yeah, I haven't really tried to think about it too much. You know, there's a lot of guys out here that can win this week, a lot of Aussies. They're coming off three or four weeks of tournament golf as well, so everyone's pumped and ready to go. Yeah, I mean, I don't -- like I said, I don't think about it. Yeah, I think there's a lot of guys out here, a lot of Australians that could potentially win this week.

Q. Cameron, congratulations on another good year.

CAMERON SMITH: Thank you.

Q. Looking back five years now, four or five years you've been a pro?

CAMERON SMITH: Yeah, I think it's four, four and a half.

Q. If someone had told you four years ago that you would be on the PGA TOUR and having the level of success that you are, would you have been surprised, or is what you achieved about par on what you had anticipated and expected?

CAMERON SMITH: Yeah, if you would have told me, I would have been dreaming, to be

honest. Yeah, Grant and I, my coach and I were talking about this actually only like a couple months ago, and we always thought that I could be a winner on the PGA TOUR, I could be on the PGA TOUR, but we didn't think it would happen this quickly, for sure. Just everything's kind of fallen into place and just been working hard. Yeah, it's just been -- yeah, it's been a whirlwind. It's gone so quickly. Yeah, to be where I am now compared to four and a half years ago is crazy.

Q. Cam, obviously guys playing majors consider that to be the pinnacle of the game. Where does this tournament rank for you? Does it rank alongside the majors since it's the national Open?

CAMERON SMITH: Yeah, I rank this tournament -- I rank every tournament in Australia pretty highly in my books. I always love coming home to Australia. I don't get to spend as much time as I would like to. Obviously here now. Yeah, for me it's just nice to be able to come home and just see everyone that I grew up with and catch up with friends and family.

Q. What would it mean to you to hold the trophy along with some of the legends of the game?

CAMERON SMITH: Yeah, it would be pretty cool. I've had a little bit of a different strategy into this year. Typically I kind of slack off after those Asian events and then come down here fresh off a couple weeks off. I've been working pretty hard the last couple weeks back in, Jacksonville and yeah, I really want to get this one. That's kind of been the determination, I guess, to the hard work.

Q. Some of that hard work (inaudible) younger Queensland peers, what does that all mean to you just to go and give back as you have (inaudible), warm your heart?

CAMERON SMITH: Yeah, it's really nice for me to be able to give back to junior golf. I've basically said ever since I turned pro that I'd love to do something like that and it kind of all fell into place this year. I've been meaning to do it for a couple years now. Yeah, couldn't have worked out really any better with Jed and Louis coming over. It's a good week, had a lot of good times and good kids as well.

Q. You've been a pro four or five years. Do you see yourself being someone to look up to now by the younger kids coming through, the next wave behind you?

CAMERON SMITH: Yeah, even just noticing the last couple days a little bit of an increase, I guess, in just kids coming up to me and wanting photos and autographs and stuff. It's been really cool. Not too long ago I was in their shoes, and for them to be able to look up to me now is really weird, but yeah, it's awesome.

Q. You sound a little more comfortable with it?

CAMERON SMITH: Yeah. Like I said, I would do anything for the juniors of Queensland

and Australia. Yeah, to be in a position to give back is pretty cool.

Q. (Question about cars.)

CAMERON SMITH: Actually, I haven't changed much in the last year or so. I've been pretty tame this year, yeah. Loving the cars and love getting into them.

Q. The turbo?

CAMERON SMITH: No, nothing extravagant this year. It's been a pretty quiet year on the car point.

Q. In two weeks time you'll have the opportunity to defend the PGA title. You won in front of family and friends at Royal Pines last year. How many of your family and friends are coming down for this week?

CAMERON SMITH: I've actually got a pretty small bunch of people coming out. I think I have a few guys from the golf club and stuff come down for the weekend. Yeah, but everyone's going to be there at the PGA, they love that week. Yeah, I mean, the whole -- seems like all of Wantima comes down and all the family and friends. A bit over the top, but it's a good fun week. I mean, I'll still get probably 10 or 15 guys come down for the weekend.

Q. Heading to next week to the World Cup, can you talk about the prospect of playing there and representing Australia in that regard?

CAMERON SMITH: Yeah, that was also one of the goals for this year was to get on that World Cup team. I knew it would be a bit of a tight fit with Jason, not sure what he was doing. Yeah, so I knew I had to play well towards the last end of the season there to get on that team. And for Leish to pick me is very generous. You know, that's all we've been talking about for like the last month and a half. We're really looking forward to it. It's going to be a lot of fun.

Q. On that note, so when he wins Malaysia and you're there, (inaudible)?

CAMERON SMITH: Yeah, we've spent -- Leish has been one of the guys that's been really helpful throughout my whole U.S. tour career. His caddie lives close by to me in Jacksonville so we spend a lot of time together. We don't really go out and have dinner or anything like that, we just spend a lot of time at the golf club, in the locker rooms just mucking around and doing silly stuff.

Q. (No microphone.)

CAMERON SMITH: I think I'm going for the world record this week, (inaudible.) I think we've had five already. But it is by far the best -- the most -- sorry, it's the thing I miss the

most, for sure.

Q. On a serious note, did you feel you were ready to win the Australian Open say two years ago at Royal Sydney?

CAMERON SMITH: Yeah, the one at Royal Sydney was pretty heartbreaking to miss in the playoff. Yeah, and it's been basically on my mind ever since. We've had a pretty good crack last year. Like I say, my preparation leading up to the event the last couple years probably hasn't been the greatest. You know, my focus the last couple weeks is thinking of lifting the trophy, so that's been -- yeah, it's been a good couple weeks of preparation rather than just lack of basically.

Q. Are you staying over Christmas? Are you here for Christmas? When do you go back to Ponte Vedre?

CAMERON SMITH: Yeah, I am here for Christmas. I'm going to spend a week at home after the PGA. I've got a junior event at the club I grew up at, Wantima, that I'm going to be present at or I want to make myself present at. Then I'm going to go back for a week or so just to do some stuff around home, deal with the adult stuff. Then come back down for Christmas.

KATHIE SHEARER: That's terrific. More questions?

Q. (No microphone.)

CAMERON SMITH: On the golf course?

Q. Yeah.

CAMERON SMITH: Yeah, I don't mind it. I think it's a good golf course. The wind plays a massive factor around here. I was just saying before how soft it is. It almost seems like American golf, it's what we play every week, so it would be nice to -- it would be nice to play on a bit of a firmer golf course, but I think they're just trying to save the golf course. I think it's going to get really windy, so I don't think they want another thing that happened four or five years ago, which is understandable.

KATHIE SHEARER: Okay, everybody, questions finished? Terrific, thank you, thank you for coming in.

CAMERON SMITH: Thank you.