

PRE-ROUND INTERVIEW
June 22, 2019



JACK NICKLAUS
ANDY NORTH

CHRIS RICHARDS: Good morning, everyone. I would like to welcome Mr. Andy North and Jack Nicklaus. They've been kind enough to join us for the American Family Insurance Championship Celebrity Foursome hosted by Andy North.

I'll open with one question for each gentleman and then I'll open it up to the media.

Andy, what does it mean to you to have a great friend in Jack Nicklaus here today to play in your Celebrity Foursome and support the American Family Insurance Championship.

ANDY NORTH: Well, we've had an awful lot of fun over the first three years we've done this. We've had some great people here, we've drawn a lot of people, and it's been a great addition to the tournament.

But having Jack here takes it to another level. You get the best player who's ever played the game, still plays unbelievably well, and --

JACK NICKLAUS: Okay.

ANDY NORTH: -- and it's going to be a lot of fun.

JACK NICKLAUS: It started already.

ANDY NORTH: Usually we're partners in these deals and that's not the case today.

JACK NICKLAUS: I needed you as a partner.

ANDY NORTH: Well, I need you today, too.

So, it will be an interesting afternoon and it sounds like we're going to have a ton of people. And it's a beautiful day, it couldn't be any better.

CHRIS RICHARDS: Jack, over the years you've done so much to support children's hospitals. What does it mean to you to have friends like Andy and Steve follow in your footsteps and do so much to raise money for the American Family Insurance Children's Hospital?

JACK NICKLAUS: Well, I think that for the most part, I think most of the tour gets it today. When we were playing, you know, charities were involved, but the amount of money that

went to charities was fairly insignificant back in the old days. Now it's actually a focus of what goes on in golf and it's become a big focus.

To have Andy and Steve and all the guys that are really involved, it's kind of neat to see. Even the young players today, the young players today, they get it, they understand and they support. It's kind of fun.

Every time that -- I love the guys down in our area because anytime that we have an event, Barbara will get a call. It will be from Rickie Fowler or Justin Thomas or one of those guys, and they'll say, "I understand you're having an event." He says, "I don't know what it is, but count us in, we'll make it work." So they understand. I mean, when we were playing, it was like pulling teeth.

ANDY NORTH: It's because you had to drive to the next week. There's no time.

JACK NICKLAUS: It was not the focus. Today it's a big focus and that's great.

CHRIS RICHARDS: Thank you, Jack. I'll open it up to questions.

Q. Jack, you made two tournament appearances in Milwaukee, of course '85 at the Greater Milwaukee Open, but a lot of people also don't know that you also played in Milwaukee in '60 or '61 as an amateur.

JACK NICKLAUS: '61, yeah.

Q. Can you tell us what you recall from those two tournaments?

JACK NICKLAUS: Well, '61 was -- that I recall? (Laughs.)

'61, I was one shot out of the lead after three rounds. It was July 23, 1961, and I remember calling my wife that night and talking to her for about 45 minutes. And it was our wedding anniversary, our first one, and I had forgot it because I was so excited about the golf tournament. I had a chance to win as an amateur and I ended up finishing fourth, I think, in the tournament. It cost me, it cost me dearly when I got home. So that's what I remember about 1961.

Then I played here -- I didn't play again until '85? '85, I remember -- I don't remember much about the tournament, but I remember I got mugged here in town. That was pretty interesting. I walked down the street and a guy came up to me and he says, "Give me your wallet." He stepped in front of me. And I said, "Get out of my way, get out of here."

He says, "I'm going to shoot you." I said, "Get out of here," and I kept walking. Walked about 10 more steps and he says, "Well, if I hadn't forgotten my gun I would have shot you."

Absolute truth. That was downtown, that's all I remember. I guess I finished second. Is that

the one Jim Thorpe won?

ANDY NORTH: I've accused him for 30 years he did it on purpose so he didn't have to come back, but you would never do that.

JACK NICKLAUS: No, I wouldn't do that.

ANDY NORTH: Was it Thorpie? Was it Thorpie?

JACK NICKLAUS: Lost by a shot, yeah. Okay. Another second.

Q. Jack, did you ever play in Madison as a collegian?

JACK NICKLAUS: No.

Q. Have you ever played an exhibition here?

JACK NICKLAUS: I played here when -- Marty, is that where we played or did we play in Green Bay?

Q. Oneida.

JACK NICKLAUS: Oneida? Where's that?

Q. Green Bay.

JACK NICKLAUS: I played up there. I played here?

Q. You played with some local amateurs.

ANDY NORTH: '66, somewhere in the '60s.

JACK NICKLAUS: Did I? I don't remember, but that's all right. It was a beautiful golf course and a great day. (Laughs.)

No. Ask me that 30 years and I says, "Ah, wasn't much of a golf course, we didn't have a good time." I've changed. I don't remember anything about it, I'm sorry.

Q. Jack, it seems like you've had a thrill playing in lot of these things, the par-3 contest in Augusta. In this part of your life, how has golf come to you and how are you able to enjoy it with the grace that you are?

JACK NICKLAUS: Well, this is the golf I play. I play probably, oh, half a dozen or maybe about half a dozen of these type of events where I've come to some of the senior tournaments to be part of it as they call it -- what do they call it? The Golf Greats is what

they call it. That's what 3M called it in a couple events we played.

You know, things like this, what it does, it keeps me involved in the game of golf. It allows me just to see the guys again, which I don't see very often. It allows me to, you know, have a little bit of fun. Don't have to keep a score. Last time I -- last time I actually played a round of golf and putt every putt out was 2005, so that's the last time I did that.

It was fun. You know, you're doing it for a good cause. Frankly, it's how I make a living too today. I do speaking engagements now, and I do probably 20 speaking engagements a year and I play about six or eight of these. You know, Barbara can do all the shopping she wants when I do that.

Q. Jack, can you speak a little bit on your relationship with Steve Stricker, and obviously then your thoughts on him being named Ryder Cup captain?

JACK NICKLAUS: Well, I go back to college days with Steve. Steve was, I guess, a couple years ahead of Gary, and Gary was playing at Ohio State, so I saw Steve play quite a few events as a junior -- not as a junior, but as a college player. Steve was a really good college player, won most everything back at that time. He defected from Madison to Evanston and -- not Evanston, but Champaign. But he was a good player, so I got to know Steve a little bit while he was playing college golf.

Then Steve came out on tour and I always wondered how good Steve was going to be. And I think it took him a while before he really caught on to playing well and then he did start playing well. He won the Memorial tournament, one of his tournaments he won. He's always handled himself well, he's always represented the game of golf and his family and frankly, Madison well.

Now he's going to a different phase of his life where he's involved in this tournament, involved with what he's doing here. He's a good guy. Well, you know he's a good guy, you all know him here. I think he's handled himself well. And I always enjoy talking to him, always enjoy catching up.

Q. Andy, when do you first remember meeting Jack and what is your favorite Jack Nicklaus story?

ANDY NORTH: Wow. The first time I actually spent any time around Jack or in his presence was --

JACK NICKLAUS: Good question, I don't know when this was.

ANDY NORTH: -- the 1969 U.S. Amateur at Oakmont. You came and spoke.

JACK NICKLAUS: Really?

ANDY NORTH: You were the speaker at the National Amateur that year.

JACK NICKLAUS: Really? Did I talk about anything?

ANDY NORTH: Your normal just rambling on.

JACK NICKLAUS: Talked about nothing?

ANDY NORTH: Pretty much, and really good at it.

That was really the first time that I got to see him, been around him at all.

I think we first played my second or third year on tour. I got a chance to watch Jack win the TPC playing with him, '70 -- do you remember what year across the street at the old golf course?

JACK NICKLAUS: Sawgrass?

ANDY NORTH: Yeah. Was that '77 maybe?

JACK NICKLAUS: I won it in --

ANDY NORTH: He won it -- this is hard because he won it like a lot of times.

JACK NICKLAUS: I think it was -- I won it '74, '76, '78. '78.

ANDY NORTH: Got a chance to play with Jack there when he won. I ended up finishing fourth and was never near it, Jack had it under control the whole time.

JACK NICKLAUS: Had nothing under control that week.

ANDY NORTH: Over there, that was a hard place.

JACK NICKLAUS: I shot 1 over par to win the tournament. Beman asked me, he said, "Well, what did you think?" I said, "That was the most unenjoyable win I ever had." The golf course was impossible.

ANDY NORTH: It was impossible. The wind blew, it was impossible. I mean, that was -- to me, to be able to be in the last group and watch him go about the process of winning helped me a lot I think later that year win the Open.

And I got the chance to play with him again that year in the third round at the Open. So I think playing early in the year really helped later on.

But he's been -- I've watched him. My very first year at Westchester, the 10th hole at

Westchester is a really nice par 4 about 300 yards long, narrow fairway, and if you don't hit the fairway it's a mess. I'm playing last off on a Thursday. Jack's in the prime time, hour or so before me.

So I walked over and watched him tee off on 10 and he took a 1-iron out of his bag. Oh, that's pretty cool, that's how I'm going to play the hole. You could either try to drive it on the green, which wasn't really smart, or you'd take a 1-iron and hit it down there 50 yards short, wedge it, try to make birdie that way.

So I'm feeling pretty good about myself that this is how I'm going to play the hole. Jack hits his 1-iron and hits it right on the green. I'm like, you've got to be kidding me. It's like 304 yards or something, he hit a 1-iron on the green with a pumpkin and a blade that was this big.

I said that's not how I'm going to play this hole. I figured out right at that point I needed to go practice a little bit and get better immediately.

JACK NICKLAUS: You won that tournament, didn't you?

ANDY NORTH: Did you?

JACK NICKLAUS: No, you won it.

ANDY NORTH: No, not that year. But that was pretty impressive.

Q. Jack, what do you like about playing in these things with someone like Brett Favre or Toby Keith, who comes from very different worlds?

JACK NICKLAUS: I've not met Brett, so I don't know him, or Toby. I've met Andy.

Actually, I enjoy it because, as I say, I don't have to keep score. I don't have to have a score. I can hit the ball, we can laugh and giggle a little bit, just be part of what's going on.

I still like to hit a decent golf shot if I can hit it, but I throw my 85-mile an hour clubhead speed at it now and the ball just goes [makes noise.] Seriously, if I carry the ball 200 yards, that's a big carry for me.

I played last week. We were at Pebble Beach and we played Cypress, and the first day -- we played twice -- on the 16th hole at Cypress I laid it up because I didn't think I could get there. Second day I said, I've gotta try it. I hit it on the front fringe.

ANDY NORTH: That's a big shot.

JACK NICKLAUS: It was for me. All the driver I could hit. You know, I don't play very well anymore. You put me at home, on the board I'm a 6 and I have no business playing with

these guys. But, you know, evidently I won some tournaments back then and they like to have me around just to pick on.

ANDY NORTH: Easy pickings, it really is easy.

JACK NICKLAUS: But anyway, we have a good time, we have good fun. It's kind of fun.

Q. Jack, you mentioned Rickie and Justin, your friendship with some of the players of today. As you look at the state of the game, I guess both of you as being major championship winners multiple times, when you look at a guy like Brooks Koepka, what do you see about him that really stands out in the way he's been able to do what he's done the last 36 months?

JACK NICKLAUS: Andy's been commentating on him for with the last two years, so you've talked about him a lot.

He's strong. He's a confident, very focused young man who has his mindset on what he wants to do. His mindset is very unusual. He doesn't really worry too much about how he plays week to week, but he comes back and focuses on majors and he raises his game to them.

What he did at Erin Hills and what he did at -- up at Bethpage, and I don't know, where else did he win? Wherever he does, I just like his focus. Gary Player likes that he works out. That just happens to be what he does. He's a strong, focused, good player.

ANDY NORTH: Jack was really the first player that we all noticed really worked his schedule around trying to be ready for the major championships and I think a lot of people have followed that lead.

As Jack was saying, Brooks, he'll go to an event to practice to get ready for the major. I think that's a wonderful way to do it. He's able to raise his level of his game when he gets there, which is really hard to do, and he's able to get prepared so that that's the best week. I mean, you work to get ready to play your best that one particular week and he's been able to do that. That takes a real skill.

You told me once that you won a whole bunch of tournaments like the week after that you missed out by a week.

JACK NICKLAUS: My schedule was always I liked to play two weeks before a major, and I liked to go to the major championships site because I -- two weeks before I got my game, a little competition to get ready. And the week before I went and learned the golf course and learned all the things and all the things that were tough about that golf course, and the week of the tournament all I had to do was play golf.

Brooks, which I'm not wild about it because the Memorial tournament, because he skipped it

the last couple years, but he likes to play the week before and he really doesn't care much how he plays the week before.

ANDY NORTH: Yeah, it's all about just getting the work in.

JACK NICKLAUS: Getting ready, getting the work in. But Andy's right, I've gone out, I don't know how many times I've come home from the Masters and I didn't win and I said, "Barbara, I really don't want to go to Tournament of Champions." Used to play it at La Costa. "I really don't want to go." She says, "You've gotta go, you won the tournament." I says, I know I've gotta go, but I really don't want to go." And I'd go out and I won it, I don't know --

ANDY NORTH: A bunch of times.

JACK NICKLAUS: A bunch of times. Four, five, six times, I don't know what I won it. But anyway, I won it a lot and it was a result of the preparation of the work that I put in prior to that that carried through.

ANDY NORTH: But Brooks is going to be around for a while. The guys need to worry about him.

JACK NICKLAUS: You're absolutely right. He's going to win a lot more.

ANDY NORTH: He's going to win a bunch.

Q. Jack, early in your career designing golf courses you were in Wisconsin and did Brier Patch with Pete Dye, I believe. Can you comment a little bit on working with Pete Dye as a golf course designer?

JACK NICKLAUS: Sure. Well, that's how I got started. Probably about '65 or '66, Pete was working on the golf club in Columbus, Ohio, and Pete and I played amateur golf together, been friends for a long time. And he called me and he says, "Jack," he says, "I'm doing a golf course out here for a fella named Fred Jones." He says, "I want you to come out and take a look at the golf course, tell me what you think."

I said, "Why, Pete?"

"Well, I want your opinion." I said, "Really? I don't think anything about golf course design." He says, "Oh, you know a lot more than you think." He says, "Come on out here."

So I went out, we went through the golf course site. He asked me to do some things and I told him what I would do and he did it. And so he said, "Would you consider consulting with me," and I said, "Yeah, that would be fun, Pete. I enjoyed coming out here today."

A couple years go by and Charles Frasier from Sea Pines called. Was going to do a golf

course called Harbour Town. He called Mark McCormack and he said, "I need somebody who I can put a name on the golf course." He wasn't interested in the golf course, he was interested in trying to sell lots.

He said, "Well, Jack's interested."

So I met with Frasier. I said, "I have no clue how to do a golf course," but I said, "I had a guy who wanted to have me consult with him, a fellow named Pete Dye." He says, "Never heard of him."

Well, he had only done a couple golf courses. Nobody would have heard of him.

So I said okay, so we did the golf course. Had a big fee of \$40,000, which we put back into the golf course. I made 23 visits into that site, never got a dime returned. Expenses paid. Best experience I ever had. It was just absolutely wonderful. And of course Pete's great.

But during that same period of time, right after that, which that was the first one I did, came along the Brier Patch, which was up here at Lake Geneva. I'll never forget that Pete said, "Well," he says, "I got the contract put under escrow." He had a contractor named Maddox and he said he got \$300,000 put away for Maddox because he didn't think they would ever pay to do the golf course.

So he was right. We did the golf course. Maddox got paid the \$300,000. Of course, Pete and I put our design fee back into the golf course again, which is what Pete did every time. They got done with \$300,000 and they didn't have money to finish the bunkers.

Now, I don't know if you all remember the golf course or not, but the lining on the bunkers was flapping in the wind for 10 years because they wouldn't put ten cents into the golf course.

So it was a cute little golf course. I think they had the other golf course was done by Robert Bruce Harris and it was a bigger golf course. This was supposed to be sort of the fun little golf course, which it -- I don't know, does it still exist? I assume it does.

Q. They redesigned it.

JACK NICKLAUS: They redesigned the course?

Q. They upgraded it. It's the easier of the two.

JACK NICKLAUS: With little tiny greens and steep banks and all kinds of places to hide your golf ball.

But I really enjoyed working with Pete. I did probably half a dozen golf courses with Pete. After about six golf courses, I said to Pete, I said, "Pete, I can't afford you any longer. I'm a

30-year-old kid trying to play golf and I'm sure I'm winning some golf tournaments, but also if I'm spending a lot of time," which I was, I said, "I can't just give it all back again, because it's a lot of time."

That's about the time I started Muirfield, and I didn't use Pete at Muirfield. I found -- actually, my business partner found a fella named Desmond Muirhead, which Desmond has a pretty good name, but Desmond was a land planner. He did golf courses, but he -- the land plan part was what I was more interested in at Muirfield than the golf. That was when Jay Moorish worked for him.

So Jay did that, and then Jay worked for me after I left. It's been progression. I had Pete and Alice. Alice was terrific, too. Then I had Desmond and Jay Moorish. Then we hired Bob Cupp.

It wasn't until about 1983, I'll never forget. Now, I've been doing golf courses now for 15 years and my business -- my CEO came to me and he said, "Jack, don't you think it's about time we made your avocation a vocation?" Never made a dime doing golf courses, I just loved doing it.

So we finally made a business out of it. The business has served me well and I've had absolutely just -- what nice rewards you have from being able to leave something that's here long beyond your golf game and your lifetime.

So the Brier Patch was part of it and it was fun. I remember going up, I played a couple outings up there and I don't remember who I played them for. I says, "Aren't we ever going to finish this golf course? Aren't we ever going to put sand in the bunkers?"

I assume it's all right now. It's no longer the Playboy Club, is it?

Q. No. It's a nice resort.

JACK NICKLAUS: It's a nice resort now? It was the Playboy Club is what it was before. I don't know who bought it.

ANDY NORTH: Multiple.

JACK NICKLAUS: Multiple times?

ANDY NORTH: Yeah, multiple times.

Q. Cupp did the redesign.

JACK NICKLAUS: On the -- on the Brier Patch? Well, he would have stayed with the same feeling of it then, yeah.

CHRIS RICHARDS: Anything else for Jack and Andy? All right. Thank you very much, gentlemen.

ANDY NORTH: Thank you, appreciate it. Have fun today.

JACK NICKLAUS: Thanks, kids.