

**CHEZ REAVIE**

---

**MAUREEN RADZAVICZ:** We would like to welcome Chez Reavie into the media center here at the Rocket Mortgage Classic.

Chez, you're coming off a win last week at the Travelers Championship. Can you just give us your thoughts and emotions about the victory?

**CHEZ REAVIE:** Yeah, you know, it was a great week, had a lot of fun, had a great battle with Keegan on Sunday coming down to the end and was fortunate enough to come out on top.

**MAUREEN RADZAVICZ:** The win in Hartford also put you in a good position for the FedExCup and Wyndham Rewards Top-10. How much will that influence of rest of your season and where you'll play?

**CHEZ REAVIE:** Yes, so I'm going to play a bunch. I'm going to play The Open Championship next and then I'll play in Memphis, and then I will play the Wyndham Championship. Having a chance to be one of the Wyndham Reward winners is huge and I plan on taking advantage of that and giving myself every opportunity to be one of their winners.

**MAUREEN RADZAVICZ:** You had a chance to play the course here today. Just give us your impressions so far.

**CHEZ REAVIE:** Yeah, it's a fantastic golf course. It's in great shape. The fairways and greens are perfect, the rough is up and thick in some spots. It's a fun golf course. You've got to shape it both ways, you've got to be smart off the tees. The greens are tough, the pin placements will be really challenging because there's a lot of slope in the greens and you have to make sure you keep the ball below the hole.

**Q. Chez, just 2008 to 2019, like just in general how's your life different from the first time you won to now?**

**CHEZ REAVIE:** Yeah, you know, I would say the biggest difference is just my perspective. Going through those injuries there for a few years just kind of helped me figure out life a little bit, have a good perspective and really appreciate my opportunities out here on Tour and really love every second of it.

**Q. When you go that long between wins, how many moments -- are there moments of frustration that you experience along the way?**

**CHEZ REAVIE:** Yeah, I would say the most frustrating part was when I was in a long-arm cast after my wrist surgery. Just the unknown, not knowing if I was going to be able to play golf again or play good golf again, so that was the toughest time. But once I was able start playing golf and started working with Mark Blackburn, my coach, I've seen progress every year, which has been very encouraging.

**Q. And you just talked about the golf course really quick. But it's an old-style course, it's the oldest course in the rotation. you guys don't get to play a lot like this. If there was any comparison on Tour, something similar to this, can you think of anything?**

**CHEZ REAVIE:** Yeah, I mean, we still play some classic golf courses on Tour like Colonial is pretty comparable. I'd say it's firmer and faster at Colonial, but you have to shape it both ways, tree lines, doglegs.

Riviera, I would compare this to Riviera as well, same style of greens. You've got to be really smart with your approach shots and even though you have shorter clubs into holes here, if you get on the wrong side of the hole, you've got your hands full. So you really have to be cognizant of that and pay attention on every shot.

**Q. Was there any note or message of congratulations over the last few days that stuck out among the masses?**

**CHEZ REAVIE:** Man, there was a lot of them. Jon Rahm sent me a great message, Paul Casey sent me a great message after seeing him on Sunday. There were a lot of them, a lot of supporters there that have been rooting hard for me for years and to see me play well.

**Q. With all the fairways that you hit, how many weeks per year do you feel like that gives you a real advantage over guys who may be 10 yards longer but a little more inaccurate?**

**CHEZ REAVIE:** Yeah, you know, it's different, and it all depends if you play to your strengths. When I'm playing with Dustin and Brooks and those guys, they don't have to be as sharp as I do because they hit it so far and they get shorter clubs into the greens. So for me, I have to hit fairways. If I'm hitting 6- and 7-irons out of the rough all day long, I'm going to have a tough time, whereas when they hit it in the rough, they're hitting 9-irons. So I just have to be sharper but it's definitely an advantage to be in the fairways.

**Q. In the modern game, obviously we see bomb and gouge and Brooks and DJ and all those type of guys, and maybe 20, 25 years ago you had Jeff Sluman, Corey Pavin, Fred Funk, there were a lot of those style players around. For you to just focus on what you do well and put blinders on, how difficult is it to just trust that your game will stack up with what your contemporaries are doing?**

**CHEZ REAVIE:** Yeah, I'd say that's probably been my biggest challenge over the last six,

seven years for sure. I would say I looked at it as a big disadvantage, so I would play too aggressive trying to force the issue, and for me, I'm never going to compete that way.

The thing that's so special with like Brooks and Dustin sand Rory is that they hit it so far, but people forget how straight they hit it too. You can't tarnish a guy who can fly it 320 and split the fairways like Brooks and Rory do. I mean, I watched Rory do it on Saturday and Brooks on Sunday. They hit it really far, but they hit it really straight, too. I think some people just forget that they fly it 320 and they're just bombers. Well, there's millions of guys out there than can fly it 320, but they just can't hit it as straight as those guys do. So I think that's what makes them such great players, and for me, I mean if I could fly it 320, I obviously would love to do that but that's just not in the cards.

**Q. Chez, in the back. Here we go, thanks. Now that you won after not winning for several years, does it change your perspective? Are you circling different dates on the calendar saying, "I'm exempt, I'm exempt," thank you so much for -- you know, thanks for the patience that you had during the injury period?**

**CHEZ REAVIE:** Yeah, you know, it -- I'm sorry, I forgot your question. What was his question?

**Q. Sorry, I got my mic taken.**

**CHEZ REAVIE:** You're good.

**Q. Have you changed -- is this vindication that the win, you didn't win for a while, you had to be done a little bit. Now you have a little bit of air in your shoes again, circling dates, got exemptions and all that?**

**CHEZ REAVIE:** I would say the biggest difference for me is the fact that I finally finished it off. I think the progression I've shown over the last few years has really created a solid foundation for me. I came close to winning a couple of times over the last couple years and didn't do it. Obviously I was disappointed I didn't win, but I was still really excited that I had a chance to win.

So keeping that perspective going forward and then now that I finally finished one off was like, hey, we can do it. It was one of those things I felt like I could do it, but there's a big difference between feeling like you can win and actually winning, and losing in playoffs and finishing second.

So I was always upbeat about the way I was playing, but now that I actually finished one off and won again just gives me that much more confidence.

**Q. Chez, going back to what George had to say, you've had some experience in the last couple weeks playing with some of the longest hitters on Tour. You're going to have another chance this week for the first two rounds. Is it almost easier for you to**

**play with someone who's so much ultra longer that you're not trying to play a comparison game than maybe playing with someone who's five, six, seven yards further and you might try and stretch?**

**CHEZ REAVIE:** Not really. I'm to a point now where if I'm playing with a guy who hits it the same as me or a guy like Rory who hits it 20 by me, it doesn't really affect me, I have my game plan now. When I was younger and I'd play with a guy like Rory, I'd try to hit it harder so he was only 10 yards past me or 15 yards past me, but then I was swinging out of my shoes to hit the ball five yards further, 10 yards further, eight yards further. It just doesn't make sense. So I guess now I'm older and wiser I guess you could say and it just doesn't affect me, I just play my game.

**Q. Did you ever reach a point where you wondered if you were ever going to win again?**

**CHEZ REAVIE:** I mean, not really. I didn't look at it that way. I would say when I was hurt and I couldn't golf again, when I was waiting to be able to play golf, I just questioned whether I was going to be good enough to play on Tour again. I wasn't even really contemplating winning at that point, it was just getting back out here and being a regular PGA TOUR member again. Then once I started practicing and playing and getting better and giving myself some opportunities, I felt like I had a good chance to win again.

**Q. Going back to Pebble, what was it like for you to have that front row seat watching Brooks try to chase down Gary, and what did you gain from seeing him try to do that?**

**CHEZ REAVIE:** Yeah, the biggest thing I learned is he was making birdies early and I was having birdie looks and I kept missing them, but I never changed my game plan. I didn't get more aggressive and start making silly bogeys. I just kept playing the way I had been playing all week.

And watching him challenge for the lead going for a three-peat at the U.S. Open is unbelievable, and just watching how he played on Monday when I played with him to Sunday, it was the exact same. So it just gave me a good perspective of how he's chasing history but yet he's doing the same stuff on Sunday as he was on Monday.

**Q. How will, I guess maybe relief being the right word, change going into a weekend now when you're not thinking like, man, 11 -- all that stuff that you're getting asked about right now, that's over?**

**CHEZ REAVIE:** Right. So like coming in, say I have a chance to win Sunday and I'm playing late again this week, I'm going to have last week and the week before to just lean on and just realize, hey, I've played well under the gun and in the heat, and if I have a chance to win, I'll have a good opportunity to make the putts, I'll be comfortable in that situation. Whereas before I hadn't won and it's like I feel like I can play well in that situation, but until you do it and experience it, you really don't know how you're going to feel and react to it.

Now I know how I'm going to react, I know how I feel and I know I can do it, so it's just going to give me that much more confidence on a Sunday coming down the stretch with a chance to win.

**Q. With the new schedule this year, what have the pros and cons been for you so far? Does it feel weird that it's June and it feels like we're kind of winding down coming up on the last major?**

**CHEZ REAVIE:** Yeah, it's definitely different. This was the first year, to be honest with you, in years that I really looked at the schedule because I've been playing out here for a while because I just knew where the tournaments were, I knew where I was going, I knew where I was going to be. This year it's like, wait a minute, what's coming up, where are we going, what are we doing.

But I think it's great. I mean, I think we're playing a lot more golf in a shorter period of time, which yes, you get tired, but at the same time you can be sitting at home and have nothing to do and that would be worse. So playing a lot of golf and playing in big tournaments and World Golf events and majors, it's exciting, it's a lot of fun.

**Q. You talk about getting tired and how easy it can happen. Playing Pebble and then playing last week, you win last week, is there any part of you that says, all right, skip Detroit, going to take a week off and enjoy it? What's the motivation there to keep going, and do you worry about burnout?**

**CHEZ REAVIE:** Yeah, you know, I was always planning on coming here and playing. And yes, I could have withdrawn and gone home, but I had committed to coming here and that's something I feel I need to live up to and honor my commitment. I'm going to take two weeks off after this and I'm going to play six weeks in a row. So even after winning, I never thought about skipping this week, especially I heard such great things about the golf course and I wanted to come and see it and be a part of the first year.

**MAUREEN RADZAVICZ:** Thanks, Chez, appreciate it.

**CHEZ REAVIE:** Thanks, guys.