

CAMERON CHAMP
TONY FINAU

PRESTON SMITH: We want to welcome both of you back to the QBE. If we can just get some opening comments on being back out here and competing again this year.

TONY FINAU: Thanks. Yeah, I'm excited. This is my third time playing. First couple years I played with Lexi, had a great time. This year she's at the U.S. Women's Open, but I have a great partner here in Cameron Champ and I look forward to the week competing with him and playing and enjoying the week here. It's an awesome week, a great cause and I've always enjoyed this event.

CAMERON CHAMP: Yeah, same on what Tony said. This is my second time playing, didn't play last year, so again just happy to be back. It's a fun event for us. Team golf in just a different format again just makes it a little more fun since just about every single event we play is just regular stroke play. Weather's a little nicer here than back home for me. Again, just to be able to play with Tony, have some fun this week, enjoy ourselves. Obviously the beginning of the season comes up pretty quickly.

PRESTON SMITH: As two of the longer players on Tour, how do you see your games meshing this week?

CAMERON CHAMP: Yeah, I think it will work great. I think iron wise we're pretty much the same. Maybe a few holes depending on who goes first or what, we can kind of try to play a little more aggressive depending on the format, which is fun. Again, this is just a fun week. It's relaxed, we're not sitting there stressing over shots. Obviously alternate shot, depending on if there are any bad shots hit, can put us in some tough spots, but again that's just the fun of it, the fun of the format and the event.

Q. How did you guys hook up? Who made the first phone call? How did two of the longest hitters get together?

TONY FINAU: Yeah, I got into this pretty late, I committed to this pretty late. You know, I had COVID back in October. I was looking to add some events toward the end of my season, towards the end of this calendar year since I had to miss those two that I would have normally played. Because of that, I looked at adding Mexico last week, which I did, and then this one just to get some more reps in. Cameron was available to play with. We actually have the same manager, Chris Armstrong, so he kind of coordinated it. He said, hey, I think it would be great for you guys to play together. That's how it happened. It happened pretty fast, so here we are.

Q. Is this a golf course where you guys can unleash?

TONY FINAU: Yeah, I think whether it's a golf course that is or not, we're going to unleash. We know what the people want to see. We played together yesterday and seem to be hitting pretty much driver on every hole. We're definitely going to be sending it whether it probably calls for it or not.

Q. A lot of times with the teams you don't end up with two longer hitters and the short hitter's always like, hey, this will be great, he can bomb it down there, I don't have to worry about it. How is that different for you guys when either one of you step up? How much of an advantage is it, especially depending on the format?

CAMERON CHAMP: Yeah, again, obviously tomorrow we can play a little bit aggressive depending on who wants to go first, which I think both of us really don't care who goes first or second. Some holes, depending on the wind, we can try to maybe get up a little further. The majority of the holes it's really out in front of you. You can't really overpower the place. Obviously the par 5s you can have, you know, not 3-woods in, maybe a 2-iron, 3-iron or 4-iron. The only drivable par 4 is, what is it, 13, but you have to get the right wind. It's really just straightforward. Again, no really overpowering, but just taking advantage of the par 5s.

TONY FINAU: Yeah, I think we'll make a great team.

Q. For both of you, how did the experience of going through post COVID help you in any way going into next year? What have you learned, what have you dealt with, especially you getting COVID-19? What will going through these past six months help in any way or change your thinking in any way going into 2021?

TONY FINAU: I don't know how much it changes. I did my best to follow the guidelines really throughout the year. I happened to get COVID and still don't really know exactly how, but I felt like I did my best to be as safe as possible. I was wearing masks often and I just don't think that's going to change.

Just experiencing COVID, I think I just have more of a respect for how strong it can affect somebody because I was affected by it for probably seven to 8 days and it was quite strong. For someone like me where I heard if you're kind of young, mobile, healthy, it wasn't really a big deal. It actually came as a surprise to me that I was symptomatic and then I was out for a week straight of I didn't want to get out of bed, I had no energy. I think just the strength of it, I think I understand some of the precautionary measures that we've taken as a country and maybe some of the guidelines more so.

Whether that was the case or not, I don't think much has changed for me. My family, we try to be as safe as possible and that's going to continue moving forward until once we know more about it to change the guidelines.

Q. Have you learned from the last six months that might change anything you do next

year?

CAMERON CHAMP: No, I mean nothing really. Pretty much what Tony said. I mean, as far as everything goes with COVID and the guidelines and restrictions and make sure you're staying healthy. As far as golf on a week-to-week basis, I don't think it really changes much. Obviously it may not be going away anytime soon and regulations and restrictions may stay the same throughout the beginning of the year or who knows how long.

TONY FINAU: A lot still for next year.

CAMERON CHAMP: Yeah. But no, for me I don't think it's really going to change anything as well. You really just go about things the same, being safe, wearing masks and doing what you're supposed to. As far as like a week-to-week basis on Tour, I don't really think it changes much for guys.

Q. Did you guys have any problem producing energy when there were no fans?

TONY FINAU: Yeah, a little bit early. I will say --

Q. Anything you can do differently for next year so maybe it doesn't feel like a practice round or is there something that you can do to motivate yourself?

TONY FINAU: I got used to it. It was mostly just for those first few events. When I went back out to Colonial, I did notice on the weekend just how low my energy was and I feel like due to just not that energy and the adrenaline that comes from hearing people, seeing people, the grandstands and just what that comes with after hitting good shots or bad shots. But I think I was able to adapt after a little while and played a lot better golf after that. I think I've adapted, I think most of us have adapted to not having people around.

You know, whenever they do come back, I think I speak for most of us, we miss having fans out there and having people out there. I think championship golf is made to be played with fans and that type of energy.

But we've been able to go about it in a safe way on the PGA TOUR. I'm proud of Jay Monahan, all the guys at the PGA TOUR that make the decisions. I think this has been great, a great decoy for a lot of people in a year that's been really, really tough and I think sports is a great way to kind of distract you from that and play and I'm happy that we've been able to entertain some amount of people in a tough time.