

PRE-TOURNAMENT INTERVIEW
August 25, 2021



SCOTT HEBERT

CONNOR STANGE: Scott, can you just start by telling us how the pro-am went today and a little bit about the golf course?

SCOTT HEBERT: You know, the golf course is fantastic. Warwick is always a great place to play golf. The greens are absolutely perfect. It's unfortunate that the course is a little soft. It's hard for me, the ball doesn't roll very far, but I think it's going to play long for most folks. There's still a few guys that can really bang it. I don't see the scores being super duper low like they can get here unless it dries out and the ball gets rolling and guys get a little bit more scoring clubs in their hands.

Q. What's been your past experience at this course? How many times have you been here? How many times have you played it?

SCOTT HEBERT: I played a bunch of Buick Opens here. For me, this is my only PGA TOUR cut that I made, so I guess it has a special spot in my heart. I love Michigan grass, I love playing out of the rough and a premium on being in the fairway rather than just being able to bomb it somewhere and then be able to gouge it out on the greens. The rough is penal, so if you can keep it in the fairway, I think you get a leg up.

Q. Realistically, what are your expectations for this week?

SCOTT HEBERT: You know, I'd like to shoot 15 under and see where that goes. I look at this as just a real treat that Ally was nice enough to give me a spot to play and I'm going to try to take advantage of it, just have fun and enjoy it all the way around.

Q. What kind of score do you think it will take by Sunday to --

SCOTT HEBERT: I think it's really weather dependent. The wind, all that stuff's not going to bother it. I would say that it's mid double digits, I think, to win probably. If I had to guess, I would say 15 or so.

Q. I think there's more rain in the forecast.

SCOTT HEBERT: Yeah, that can work -- it all depends on the setup, so if it gets soft and they move it up, these guys are really, really -- these are the champions, so these guys can really, if you put the ball in their hand and you give them short clubs in, they're going to just tear it up on perfect putting surfaces like this.

Q. You missed the Michigan PGA last week, it's a tournament you've won a bunch of

times, to prep for this one. Is this really special for you that you get to play with the big boys, guys you played with a few years back?

SCOTT HEBERT: Oh, yeah, this is a big one. I didn't miss to prep for it. I had my invitational that I had to get ready for. I was able to practice a bit.

Yeah, this will be the highlight. I played the Senior PGA at Southern Hills and that's a little different than this one, right? This one is a little bit more about fun and there's no cut and everyone's going to -- I'll have a lot more people following me here. So my members will make the trip over, some of my old members from Grand Rapids will come over, so I should have a little bit of support whether I'm making birdies or bogeys.

Q. Do you feel like if you play well here, this might get the juices flowing for something in the future or is this a one-off?

SCOTT HEBERT: I've kind of put playing where it is, it's definitely a priority, but it's not the means to the end anymore unless something magical happened where I would have to rethink that. I'm just looking at this as just some fun and get to play with some of the best senior players in the world and excited to be there.

Q. As a follow-up, do you feel like the Michigan PGA, if somebody 50 or over wins it, that maybe this should be the exemption, and if it's 49 or under, like Ben Cook, that maybe they should go to Rocket?

SCOTT HEBERT: I think you're dead on point right there. The game is so much different at -- I was fortunate enough to play a practice round at Southern Hills with Ernie Els and we called them the kids, right? It really is, the kids play a different game than the seniors do. I think that's a great thing, and I'm part of that tournament committee and that may be something that we'll talk about.

Q. In my eyes, I'm just saying, I'm so glad that you're here. I was wondering why you weren't here a few years ago, but hey, better late than never. Thank you, I'm glad to see you here, Scott.

SCOTT HEBERT: Yes.

Q. You talk about Michigan grass. Is it this course or just playing in Michigan?

SCOTT HEBERT: Playing in Michigan. There's no time difference, the poa greens are what I grew up on and what I play on at my club every day, so you're not dealing with a crazy bentgrass or some Bermuda rough. It's just Michigan grass. As my caddie said, it's Michigan wind, it's Michigan grass, it's Michigan air. Hopefully we'll take advantage of it.

Q. Which club are you the pro at?

SCOTT HEBERT: Traverse City Golf & Country Club.

Q. How long have you been a pro there?

SCOTT HEBERT: I've been there since '15, so this is my sixth year.

Q. Do you anticipate like a fan club coming out at all to follow you around the course? How many people should we expect?

SCOTT HEBERT: I don't think we're going to be talking Tiger Woods-type of crowds. If I got 10 or 12 people, I think that would be a pretty good draw for me.

Q. What's the sponsorship exemption process like? How long have you known that you were going to be in this field and be able to play?

SCOTT HEBERT: I think they made their final decisions about a month ago. Doug Brody, we have a UP connection there. His wife is from the Upper Peninsula and I know Jenn and I know Doug well.

When he came out of the meeting he gave me a call and I looked at my phone and I was like, oh, Doug Brody's calling, and I was in the middle of junior golf, so I didn't answer it. Then I just put a note on my desk, I'll call him back in the morning. He called me on my way home to let me know. Super excited ever since, been looking forward to it, looking forward to the next couple days.

Q. Which players have you gotten to know really well who play on the Champions Tour right now?

SCOTT HEBERT: Players that I know, I don't know if I know any of them super well. Tom Gillis, I've played a lot with Tom, a great guy. Other than that, it's mostly just acquaintances. As I'm 52, a lot of the guys that I played with are still not up here yet. Cliff Kresge, Wes Short are some of the guys that I know.