

CELEBRITY SHOOTOUT PRESS CONFERENCE
August 28, 2021



Matt Stepnes
Andrea Brimmer
Jack Nicklaus
Lee Trevino
Tom Izzo
Jeff Blashill

MATT STEPNES: Golf's greatest champion, Jack Nicklaus; fellow World Golf Hall of Famer, Lee Trevino; NCAA men's basketball title-winning head coach, Tom Izzo; Detroit Red Wings head coach Jeff Blashill.

I would also like to recognize some special guests that will be with us today. Barbara Nicklaus is here.

Lee's son Daniel will be joining us.

Coach Izzo's son, Stephen.

Coach Blashill's son, Teddy, who's an up-and-coming player himself.

I would like to now introduce our chief marketing officer with Ally Financial, Andrea Brimmer.

ANDREA BRIMMER: Good morning, everybody. Thank you so much for being here with us. We appreciate the support of the media. You guys have been great in promoting the Ally Challenge and we're super excited to be here for our fourth year of the tournament.

It's pretty awesome to think that in three years this tournament has raised \$3.2 million for local charities. This year the United Way of Genesee County is our primary beneficiary and hopefully we'll get a good number to give to them. This is super exciting for me. We've gotten to be friends with Jack and Barbara and support them and all the good things that they do for charity, so Jack, Barbara, thank you for being here, we appreciate it.

Lee, a new friend and definitely an entertaining one, so thank you for being here.

And so if you cut me open, I normally bleed Ally plum, except on Spartan game day, it's all green. So having Coach Izzo here is awesome.

And I also grew up a hockey mom, so you can tell why we've got this particular celebrity foursome.

So thank you guys for being here, appreciate both of you guys and let's have a great day

today.

MATT STEPNES: Thank you, Andrea. It goes without saying that with the long history of professional golf here in Michigan, we wouldn't be back here without Andrea and her chief executive officer of Ally Financial, so thank you for your support, it's tremendous.

I would also like to introduce our presenting sponsor, McLaren Health Care, and the vice president of marketing, Kevin Tompkins.

KEVIN TOMPKINS: Thank you all for being here. This is a special day and I'm just going to keep it super brief.

First of all, gentlemen, thank you very much for being here. You're going to make it a phenomenal day and we really appreciate it. Thank you very much.

Thanks to our partners. What a great partner we have in Ally. Thank you very much to their entire team for being a part of this and making this tournament grow.

And certainly to the great folks at HNS Sports, we have really together built a fantastic thing for this community.

Andrea talked about all the great work we're doing and the money that's flowing back into the community. Very, very proud of that. McLaren's very happy to be a part of this entire effort. Thank you very much.

Gentlemen, thank you very much again today. Let's have a great day.

MATT STEPNES: Thank you, Kevin. I'm now going to turn it over to Connor Stange with the PGA TOUR media team for a discussion with the media.

CONNOR STANGE: Thank you, Matt. Thank you, Andrea. And thank you, Kevin, and thank you to you legends, Jack, Lee, Tom and Jeff, for being here for this special event today.

It's a unique format this afternoon, nine-hole celebrity shootout, three separate matches. So each player will be paired together at some point for three holes against the other two players.

So starting question for each of you, we'll start with Jack and go on down the line: What makes today's event so special, and can you talk a little bit about the importance of giving back to charity through sports?

JACK NICKLAUS: Well, golf has been -- you don't realize golf gives back more to charity each year than all the major sports combined. So we're very proud of golf and we're very proud of golf (inaudible). I think it's great that Jeff, Tom, Lee give their time to be here to help raise money for kids and different causes. That's why we're here. So we're delighted just to

be part of it and hope that we have a nice, enjoyable day and we see some reasonable golf shots.

LEE TREVINO: I hope you brought your A-game.

CONNOR STANGE: Lee?

LEE TREVINO: Me?

CONNOR STANGE: Yes.

LEE TREVINO: I don't have anything to say, first time ever. I came up here trying to get out of the heat in Texas, but looks like I brought it with me.

I tell you, I endorse what Jack just said. Golf is really something as far as charity is concerned. If you really look back at it and you look at all the other sports that are out there, there is a fundraiser to be had for some charity. Irregardless if it's hockey or basketball or football or baseball or whatever, it's always a golf tournament. They always have a golf outing. This is what makes this game so unique.

But without sponsors and without people supporting it, it's not possible. We're so grateful that there are companies out there that are willing to do this. I'm just glad to be part of it. Anytime I get a chance to be a part with this guy, which is my hero, I'm here, I'll come, no questions about it. Thank you.

TOM IZZO: For me, it's a bucket list to be with these guys. I had a chance to watch a lot of golf, I don't play as much as I'd like to play, but I love the game. Jack's said it really well, I didn't realize it, but all the fundraising you have to do in college (inaudible) golf, a lot in California and Florida and New York and Chicago just this summer, so now that I think about it, Jeff, you and I better get our act together because golf has done it more than all the other sports combined. I do believe that. It's a privilege to try to give back.

I think coming up, I didn't have anything, my family didn't have anything and now that I have more, a little more philanthropic, a little more giving back is very important to me, so this is an awesome opportunity.

JEFF BLASHILL: My first thought is I haven't heard that much media applause in my life. I appreciate it. I need this in more media Rooms.

Honestly, on the way up I was thinking think about it, Coach and I are both -- how cool is it for two Yoopers to be sitting here with these two golf legends? It's unbelievable for me.

I got hooked on golf, I was a bagroom attendant at Sioux Country Club. A long time ago when Jack won the '86 Masters, that kind of hooked me on golf for life. So it's pretty special. And if you're in coaching, anytime you get to be around Coach Izzo, it's awesome. So that's

a total win for me.

And the opportunity for me to be able to give back, especially I was a Michigan guy who was born in Detroit, grew up in Sault Saint Marie, and to be able to give back and affect local people is an awesome, awesome thing. So really appreciate the opportunity today.

CONNOR STANGE: For the two coaches, how are your nerves on the first tee going to compare to coaching for a big game?

TOM IZZO: Well, for me, I just hope they don't line up on the side. Insurance policies would be high.

It is exciting to get a chance to just admire and watch people at the top of the profession. I learned a big word, osmosis. Hopefully some of it will come my way. That's the way it is. I had a chance to play Jack's new course, American Dunes, over in Grand Haven and see what they both have done. My wife's Hispanic so she's your hero, or you're hero, I should say. So a lot of pluses for me right now.

But the nerves? It will make a Final Four look like a piece of cake.

JEFF BLASHILL: I would echo that. I got hooked on golf, but because I'm a mental midget, I didn't take it very far. This isn't going to help that.

No, I get a chance -- my son's a young golfer and so he goes to a lot of these tournaments and he talks about the nerves on the first tee. I get a chance to watch him, so we get to reverse it today. We'll see how dad does.

TOM IZZO: You know, I'd like to say one other thing because when you go by different sports and ours is kind of a team sport and theirs is kind of an individual sport, I always tell my guys that are selfish, I said, you know, if -- you've got to realize if you want to be a golfer, you don't get to look to the left and right and blame somebody else. In our sport, you can blame the coaches (inaudible) but that's what I love about golf is there's nobody can turn right or left and blame somebody else. You've got to man up and look in the mirror and say this is what I've done right and this is what I've done wrong.

So I think it's one of the ultimate mental games and that's why I admire it so much.

JEFF BLASHILL: Hopefully we've got a lot of right at the end of this.

CONNOR STANGE: And for Jack and Lee, when was the last time you two played together on a team?

JACK NICKLAUS: Lee and I?

LEE TREVINO: We shot 18 under par the last time we played together. The last time we

played together was in Minnesota.

JACK NICKLAUS: Well, close.

(Cross talk.)

LEE TREVINO: We shot 18 under. Scratch that one off. It was pretty good. My driver, and Jack had that putter going. The man can putt. It was a four-inch hole, like a coffee can. It was fabulous.

JACK NICKLAUS: Yeah, I guess that was the last time.

CONNOR STANGE: For this one we'll start with Jeff and go down the line. You've all won on some of the biggest stages in all of sports. What does it take to be successful in those moments?

JEFF BLASHILL: Well, it's interesting in my perspective because coaches have said I coach a team sport, so the first thing that comes to my mind is selfless. And a little bit different I guess when you're playing an individual sport, but having a group that's selfless is critical to the success.

I say all the time the two biggest factors to success in life is inner drive and perseverance. What I love about golf and what I love for my son is the life lesson of learning to grind, getting back up and getting knocked down. To me, that's such a great quality in life.

TOM IZZO: I would say for me it's keeping focused on the task and not let the distractions get to you. In this day and age it's the world of Twitter, the last 10 years especially, the distractions are just enormous. So dealing with that and the mental part of it, staying distractionless I think would be a big key. I can't even imagine what that would be like in golf when some of those tournaments, there's just so many people. I've been at a few of them, Masters once, and it's incredible. So I would say distractions.

LEE TREVINO: I actually think that these two coaches have the hardest job in the world. We do not. We spell team with an I because we're individualists, we're by ourselves, we get out what we put in. Coaches have to have a team, they have all these players, they've got to make sure that they spell the team without an I because if you get a player in there that spells the team with an I, then you've got problems because one player that spells a team with an I is going to pull down a couple other players. It's got to be very difficult.

I admire these guys, I don't know how you do it and how you teach these players to go full out all the time, this is how you win. We do it simply because it depends on the tournament and this is what we do. Kevin Hart says this is what we do. We play golf, we try to win golf tournaments and we put the time in. The more dirt you move, the more tournaments you're going to win. This is what I believe in. This is one of the reasons that I moved so much dirt when I was young. That's all I have, it's all I've ever known.

JACK NICKLAUS: Well, I think a lot of it boils down to knowing who you are, what your abilities are and what you can do. If you understand that, and I don't care whether you're in a team sport or an individual sport, if you're in a team sport, you've got to know what you can do and what your teammates can do. You've got to know how I fit in and work it together. You've got to figure out what you can do in relation to the golf course as an individual and how you can work with what your ability is and (inaudible) patience and the ability to use what's between your ears and make sure you don't get out of your own comfort zone.

And I think if you work at that, I always tell the average golfer, if you're an 18 handicap, understand what an 18 handicap is. An 18 handicap is not supposed to hit greens in regulation. So if you understand that you're an 18 handicap and you can hit the ball somewhere around the green on your second shot and, say par 4s, and you make sure that you put the ball not in trouble, you're just bumping along and make sure that you chip it on the green somewhere, you're going to make some putts. Pretty soon you're going to find out that you're going to get better and then you're going to start believing in yourself, and when you start to believe in yourself and believing in what you can do, as I say, I don't care if it's an individual sport or team sport, if you believe in what you can do, you can do a lot of things.

CONNOR STANGE: Thank you. We'll open it up to questions from the media.

Q. Question for Lee Trevino. I heard a story about you that I want to know whether it's true or urban legend. The story goes that you were playing I think in a pro-am and the head came off of your driver, so you rummaged around in your golf bag and pulled out a Dr. Pepper bottle and taped it to the shaft and you outdove the other four guys on the course.

LEE TREVINO: Not true, not true at all. It's a hell of a story, but the bottle is right, you've got that right about the bottle.

When I came up, I was working at a driving range. We had a par-3 course, the shortest hole was 55 yards, the longest hole was (inaudible.) I got so good with a wedge that I was playing with one wedge and I had to play with a 7-iron and then I had to play with a driver, and I kept beating everybody. We would play a couple of bucks. Five bucks was a big bet.

I got to the point where I couldn't find any games. I even played in the dark at night, at midnight because I could feel how far the ball would go. We could play in the dark and I came up with the idea of playing with a Dr. Pepper bottle, and it was a quart Dr. Pepper bottle. And back in those days in the 60's, you remember that bottle was very thick glass, it was really thick. I would tape the neck and I would grab it with my right hand and the bottle's sticking out and I would throw a ball up. I took a glove and I used -- made a right-handed glove out of it and I grabbed the club of the bottle with the tape on it. I would throw the ball up and hit it like a baseball bat and I could hit it a hundred yards. I used to gamble with the guys and I would take the top, we would play five bucks and I had the (inaudible) on the

hole. The best I ever shot was 2-over 29.

I would put it down between my legs, I could putt with it. You can't get the yips with this because (inaudible). I could putt with the thing. I played with this thing for probably two years, never lost a bet, never lost a bet with a Dr. Pepper bottle. As a matter of fact, my son Richard in Pensacola, Florida, still has that bottle with the tape on it. Yeah, still has the bottle. It's true, I did play with it.

JACK NICKLAUS: You haven't had to go back to it?

LEE TREVINO: No, I made (inaudible) with it. Guys, got to try it. I don't think I'd try -- you've got to see it. (Inaudible). He was good, he played left handed, right handed, but back then it was, you know, that's what he did. People paid to see it. It was a sideshow and he could do it. Whenever a man bets you he can do something, why the hell would you bet him that? (Inaudible).

Q. My brother-in-law bet me that it was true, but I said --

LEE TREVINO: Yeah, it wasn't true about the driver, but it's true about the bottle.

Q. This question's for Jack. You were talking about how golf is an individual sport. Today on the PGA TOUR the individual has a swing coach, a mental coach, a fitness coach, a nutrition coach, a short game coach, a mid iron -- what did the Jack Nicklaus entourage look like when he was winning all those majors?

JACK NICKLAUS: You're looking at my wife back there, she's right in the back and that was it.

You know, I sort of -- Jack Grout taught me, and he got I think a little bit from Bobby Jones. Bobby Jones invited my father down to his cabin every year at Augusta. We got to talking one session down there and he said, you know, I had my seven lean years and I kept running back home to Sterling Maiden, who was his teacher, and he said, when I stopped running back home to Sterling Maiden and could correct myself and be responsible for my own game, that's when I became a golfer.

That's what Jack Grout sort of taught me to start with, to be responsible for myself. Did I go back and see Jack Grout? Yeah, I went back to see Jack Grout maybe once or twice a year, more so because I wanted to see Jack Grout. We spent an hour or two and we did that and I said, Are we going to talk about golf? He said, Oh, we'll do that next time. He taught me how to correct myself, how to fix myself, how to mentally prepare myself, how to handle what the situation was.

The guys today, I don't criticize them for it because that's what everybody does, but I just -- I couldn't afford that. I'd be happy (inaudible).

Having all those guys -- having guys that not one of them could possibly even carry a bag and none of them could play golf, none could do this, none could do that. They're not inside your head and they're certainly not inside your head when you're on the golf course trying to figure out what to do.

I just -- I just never believed in that. You're the same way, you don't want anybody else there.

LEE TREVINO: I would have taken somebody if they could have beat me. I never could find an instructor that could beat me, so what the hell am I going to take a lesson from? That never made any sense.

JACK NICKLAUS: We all couldn't understand when Tiger won the U.S. Open at Pebble Beach and he won by like 12, whatever, whatever he won by, he had a new instructor the next week. I said, Really? Why?

LEE TREVINO: I told you why. The other guy was too slow bringing the Coke, the Coca-Cola and the hot dog was coming too slow, so he gets the new guy, the guy runs.

JACK NICKLAUS: Anyway, that's sort of --

LEE TREVINO: Ain't nobody going to teach Tiger Woods.

JACK NICKLAUS: They all do it today, but Jack Grout, who was my teacher, came to a ton of tournaments. Not one time in all the years did he ever set one foot on the practice tee, not once.

Q. One more question for Lee. Earlier you referred to Jack as your hero. When did that become the case, because for a long time you were trying to beat the guy?

LEE TREVINO: Well, I'm trying to beat 143 of them, it wasn't just the guy. When you go out there, Jack will tell you we're looking at this golf course, Jack was one of the best at being able to tell about what the score was going to be. That was what was in his mind. His mind was to beat this score that he was thinking about. If he could accomplish beating that score, then he could figure out that he could win the tournament.

No different than the coach here. A team's averaging 86 points and you know you can score 99, you've got a shot to beat them every time.

So that's what we did. We didn't play each other. The media does this for us. They want a big thing going. No, no, no, we're playing 143 guys. You start focusing on one guy and there's going to be somebody go right by you.

JACK NICKLAUS: You better focus on one guy and that's yourself.

LEE TREVINO: Yeah, that's exactly right.

JACK NICKLAUS: He's the only guy you control.

LEE TREVINO: You only control yourself. This looking at the leaderboard and all this stuff, what the hell can you do about that? You can't do anything about the leaderboard. If a guy's 8 under par, what are you going to do? Send somebody over to break his knee? No.

JACK NICKLAUS: You have to go out and make some birdies.

LEE TREVINO: You better do something. I mean, come on. Either that or call your wife and tell her we're going to make the early flight, honey.

People don't understand that. You go out there and everybody thinks that this is a football game or a basketball game and you get physical. No, no, this is a golf game. The one -- the one thing that you've got to beat is that grass out there, that green grass. That's what you've got to do.

Q. When did he become your hero?

STEPHAN JAEGER: Well, once I realized when I married Claudia at the age of -- when, you know, 38 years ago and we decided to have a family, I decided to be a family man, not only a golfer. Golf was my whole life and I decided to be a golfer and be a family man also. I figured out a way to do both, and it wasn't that hard.

So I used him as an example. Jack is one of the greatest dads that I know. His dad must have been a great guy also because he taught him a lot.

Barbara naturally is the rock to this family just like my wife. I had a little more practice, this is my third marriage, so I figured this one out. But I've had a terrific life. This lady that I'm married so now is just unbelievable. She treats me like the day she met me and that means a lot. Barbara does the same thing with Jack.

It means a lot to us, Jack and I., when our wives are there and we know they're there. Even though (inaudible), but you know they're in the room or in the house or somewhere close to you, it means a whole lot.

I just -- this was an example. I thanked him a hundred times for it, and my kids, too. I told my kids, I said, this is what I'm doing. I told my son, I told him, I said I'm trying to spend as much time in the world with you because I had you when I was 53 and I'm not going to be around as long as most people, most sons have their dads when they've had them at a younger age. I had one at 53. Hell, I might outlive him, you never know, but chances are I'm not. I want to give him whatever I've got that I can pass on. And my daughter, Olivia.

Q. This question is for Jack. I wanted to ask you about American Dunes, especially in

light of what we're going through as a nation right now. I have a lot of friends who fought in Afghanistan, how impressed they are. You talk about giving back, all of you guys talk about giving back. I'm not sure there's anyplace that's more important to give back than to the people who have sacrificed quite literally everything and the last full measure of devotion. I know you donated your services for American Dunes and I just wonder if you could speak to your motivation to do that and just to, I guess, publicly acknowledge the commitment that you have to our veterans and to this country and to thank you for it.

JACK NICKLAUS: Well, Lee was in the Marine Corps and I never served in the military. I got married very young and had children, so I never did, but I always had great respect for the people that fought for our freedom.

I've done some things with (inaudible) through the years. American Lakes out in Spokane, we did a golf course for them out there. When Lieutenant Colonel Dan Rooney came to me, and I've done a few things for Dan, patriot Day and so forth, and he said, Jack, I'm nervous about talking to you about this, but I've got a project that I want to do and I want you to be involved. I said, what is it, Dan? He said I want to build a golf course for the Folds of Honor. I said, okay, I'm in. He said, I haven't explained it to you yet. I said, that doesn't make any difference, I'm in.

So anyway, he came to me with this idea. They took a family golf course, turned it into a 501(c)(3), property over in Grand Haven, tree-lined golf course. But he already had a name for it, he wanted to call it American Dunes. I said, Dan, there's nothing but trees. Underneath those trees are dunes. I said okay, I'm a tree hugger but I'm -- I won't be bashful here.

So we took down about 2,000 trees, all mature trees, and Mother Nature took down another 500. Fortunately she spared the perimeter and we had a few pockets of trees left, left some of those.

But he's right, there's sand underneath the trees in the golf course. We opened May 1st and we opened it with sort of a walk-through Hall of Fame, I guess they call it; soldiers that were being honored, fallen soldiers.

Those of you who don't know what Folds of Honor is, it started, oh, gosh, 17 or 18 years ago with it? '08, only 14 years? In fourteen years, fallen warriors, it's for the families of fallen warriors to be educated.

I think they've now got about 29,000 families. They've raised, I don't know, Scott, you know, I don't know how many millions.

UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: 130, 140 million.

JACK NICKLAUS: Raised for education. The only way you can get into it is to walk down this Hall of Fame. There's soldiers there, blueprints, stories of the soldiers.

And then you go in, they play the Star Spangled Banner every morning at I guess 8:30, they play Taps at 1:00, and when we opened the golf course, they had about 20 fighter pilots there for the opening and they all told stories. They all told stories about why they were there and their wingman or bombardier or whatever it was lost their life. Above the -- in the restaurant, which is like above the squadron area, above two F-16s, one sitting on the -- the nose sitting on the other. (Inaudible) wingman dogman -- maddog. The other airplane had lost its fuel and it was going to go down in Vietnam and he came up behind him and lifted their tail up on the nose of his airplane. He took them 160 miles into Laos. They got one mile into Laos (inaudible) was there and told a story about it, other guys told their stories.

I'll tell you, there wasn't a dry eye in the house. You're sitting there saying, man, I've gotten myself involved in something that's pretty special. These guys have given limb and life for us and it's the least we can do to try to help them.

So Dan's talked to me about another project, so I've got -- I can't announce what that is yet, can't talk about it, but looks like we're going to do another one. He wants to do the same thing. He says he thought American Dunes was big, this one's going to be even bigger. I said okay, that's pretty special, you can count me in if you want me in.

Q. Well, thank you for all that.

JACK NICKLAUS: Well, I enjoy it, I love it. To be a part of things when you're in a position to help others to do that is very special.

Q. I have a question for the coaches. A few minutes ago Jack and Lee were talking about individual responsibility and pushing yourself and being more prepared. Looked like the wheels in your head were turning, how can I translate this to my team. Do you have any thoughts on that?

TOM IZZO: Yeah. For both of us, we would just as soon take notes and let you guys ask questions because there's so much wealth and knowledge, and if you're not getting better every day, you're getting worse as they say.

I think that's why I like being around people that have done extraordinary things. I joked about it that some of it can brush off on you, but we do use these things. I search all the time, not Twitter, but I do search and try to find things that these guys have said in the past, what they've done, what their paths have been.

You just are giving back. The story he just told, I had a chance to play the course twice and there were so many cool things and there's so many women and their children that have been helped, because that's what we have to do a better job of with our kids. We've gotten to be very (inaudible) in our country, if you ask me, and sports has become very (inaudible) where people don't even play one sport, I think they miss an opportunity. You're right, I use these things (inaudible) taken and when I get done here and probably Monday night first

meeting of the year, these two guys will be mentioned in some way, shape or form.

JEFF BLASHILL: Just what struck me here listening to both Jack and Lee, just the simplicity of greatness. It's not -- there's not a magic pill to all of a sudden become great. It's the simple things that we talk to our kids about. We talk to our teams about it's hard work, it's getting back up, it's moving dirt, it's honesty. There's no magic pill. It's something I talk to our people about that there's no great secret to success.

But it takes more commitment and sacrifice than most people are willing to give, and ultimately that's why both of these guys became two of the best ever. I would say that.

And just to touch a little bit on the Folds of Honor, I don't want to keep referring to my kids, but I do think it's awesome. I made sure that -- my son's 15 right now and it might have been too young, but I made sure that he watched Saving Private Ryan because it was a film that struck me in terms of the sacrifices that have been made. I think sometimes it's easy for young people not to understand that, not to fully understand that, not enough to really gather what the grasp of that is. I think it's great even for me to be reminded of that story you just told with the F-15. That's unbelievable. I think it's awesome.

Q. Question from the back, this is directed toward Lee, but anybody. Lee, it's well known Jack took second place in more majors that he won, but Jack always won and lost with class. I mean, shaking the hand. Do guys ever come out and say, you know what, win or lose, that's how you do it?

LEE TREVINO: Oh, yeah, that's the way you're supposed to do it. I wasn't like that in the beginning. My chili was hot when I didn't win, I wasn't a very nice person, and I think that's just the way it is with some people can handle it, some people can't.

The way I was brought up is that when you get confronted, you hit them with a left hook as quick as possible. That's the way it was, the way I grew up. I grew up on a cotton farm in Texas.

And yeah, I've learned and it's taken me a hell of a long time to mellow a little bit. But yeah, nobody got more angry. I've broken as many golf clubs as anybody. It wasn't reported back in those days. I actually, when I missed a shot once, I buried a wedge so deep that the caddie couldn't get it out of the ground. He was kicking, he was trying to kick it. Yeah, I've beat some trees up like you've never seen before.

But it's -- it's a bad example, you know, and it's not setting a good example. You're making a donkey out of yourself, you can translate that any way you want to. I've mellowed.

JACK NICKLAUS: You learned from it.

LEE TREVINO: You learn. See, that's the great thing and what I tell my son, there's nothing wrong with making a mistake, nothing wrong. I like mistakes. It's because you have to learn

from it. If you don't learn from a mistake, then you've got a problem. You learn from your mistakes and that's how you get better, that's how you get better.

It's what we were talking last night about golfers. There are two types of golfers: There are golfers that play golf and there are golfers that know how to play golf. He and I know how to play golf.

How do you actually break that down? What's the difference between playing golf and knowing how to play golf? It's when you get up and nothing's going right that day; you're not hitting the driver well, you're not putting well and you're making a lot of mistakes, but you salvage a 73 or you salvage a 72. That's knowing how to play golf.

The guy that doesn't know how to play golf is when he comes out and everything's not right and he shoots 82. Even a professional, 78. That's not knowing how to play golf.

This is where it's at right here. This is not going to change. I can show you how to (inaudible) with the hands and the feet and the ball will go a different direction, but as far as (inaudible), like Jack said, 1979 his game kind of went south and he went back to (inaudible) and got it all back. I mean, yeah, oh, yeah, I could get hot. Yes, very easy.

Q. This question is for Jeff, I don't want to let you out of a press conference without asking at least one difficult question. Your boss, Steve Eisman, is in part responsible for putting together the team that won the last two Stanley Cups. Has he given you any indication of his level of expectation on how soon that will happen here in Detroit?

JEFF BLASHILL: Press conference over?

No, honestly. And this is why I think Steve does a great job, we can't force a timeline and he knows we can't force a timeline. When I think that we're at spot that I believe we've bottomed out and we're starting to head back in the right direction, and it's not an easy task what we had to go through. We've gone through a period of trading away good NHL players to try to acquire draft picks. We've done that over the last 20 years and now we've had multiple years where we've had lots and lots of draft picks.

But what ultimately has to happen for us to get back to where we all want to be, to get back on top, we're going to have to draft and develop great players.

Again, you can't force that timeline. So Steve I think understands that. We want to be better this year than we were last year. We want to take steps forward. How many and how big are those steps, I don't know. You don't go from here to the top of the mountain in one giant leap. It's just all those little steps over and over again with as few (inaudible) as possible, and I think we're taking the steps in the right direction. We'll see. We have a chance to show what we're about 82 times this year and I like where our young people are at, I like the culture and work ethic. I like the things that we think are nonnegotiable in terms of work and

competing, selfless. I think our guys believe what it's going to take to have that great success. How quickly, I can't answer that yet.

CONNOR STANGE: All right. Thank you so much, guys. I think we're going to have some photo ops here at the front.

MATT STEPNES: That's a wrap on the press conference.