

PRE-TOURNAMENT INTERVIEW
July 6, 2022

CHRIS GOTTERUP



MARK WILLIAMS: We would like to welcome Chris Gotterup into the interview room here at the Barbasol Championship 2022.

Chris, you're here via a great finish last week at the John Deere Classic and then you top-5, top-10 finish, gets you into this tournament.

You've had a stellar college career at first Rutgers and then OU. You just won the Haskins Award and the Nicklaus Award. What's that transition been like from college to the PGA Tour? You've played like I think four tournaments as a professional.

CHRIS GOTTERUP: Yeah, it's been crazy so far. I haven't really -- last two days I was home and that's the first two days I've been home since New Years Eve or something like that. It honestly feels like just been going to college without my teammates, that's all it is. I've got my buddy caddying for me, but other than that, it's been like the process as usual.

MARK WILLIAMS: That's interesting. A lot of guys would say it's very different, things were done for you in college and now you kind of have to manage on your own.

CHRIS GOTTERUP: Yeah.

MARK WILLIAMS: You probably haven't had a chance to look at the golf course yet here, I'm guessing.

CHRIS GOTTERUP: No, I just pulled in. So we're going to go try to sneak out, drive around and check it out this afternoon.

MARK WILLIAMS: How nice was it to have a couple of days where you just could chill after the last four, five weeks?

CHRIS GOTTERUP: Yeah, the last month and a half has been mayhem in my life, so it was nice to go home and sit on the couch with the dogs and go to the beach and hang out and just kind of do my own thing.

MARK WILLIAMS: What's been the most outstanding difference, though? Like playing on a team at college compared to coming out and being an individual on the professional tour, what has stood out to you as the biggest difference, do you think?

CHRIS GOTTERUP: Just the individual part of it, like you're just doing everything by yourself. So you've either got to figure it out, figure it out on your own or you're going to get

stuck out here just on a constant loop of being frustrated or whatnot. So I've just been working really hard on trying to find good time usage on the range and stuff like that. Yeah, just trying to use my time properly because once you get to Thursday, there's not much of it.

MARK WILLIAMS: Has the transition been a little surprising for you with the success you've had or had you kind of anticipated or expected that to happen pretty quickly?

CHRIS GOTTERUP: I would have thought my game would have translated pretty well to pro golf. Not that it's -- you know, golf's golf, but I just think that my style of play fits kind of the PGA Tour pretty well. I don't want to say I was expecting to come out here and, you know, go top-5 in the first couple weeks, but I was expecting to play well at some point, and I'm happy to be in the position I am right now and hopefully can keep it going.

Q. Have you played any golf in Kentucky before and just kind of what do you think of this area?

CHRIS GOTTERUP: I've only driven through Kentucky, so this is my first time being here, so I'm excited to tee it up. I've heard great things, so hopefully it's not a gazillion degrees this week, but it will be fun, for sure.

Q. How was your overall experience for the first time being down here?

CHRIS GOTTERUP: What was that again?

Q. How has your overall experience for your first time being at this golf course?

CHRIS GOTTERUP: I've been here for about 15 minutes, so I can't answer that question too well right now, but I'll get back to you at some point.

MARK WILLIAMS: This is a big opportunity this week. I just want to give an example, like Seamus Power won last year, it was his first victory and now he's in the top-40 in the world playing at The Open Championship next week. Obviously a good performance here could get you into that tournament. How do you view this event sort of as a bonus being here, I guess?

CHRIS GOTTERUP: For me in the position I'm in right now, each week that I'm playing, whether it's Barbasol or whether it's the biggest event I can play in at the moment, they're all massive opportunities for me to kind of keep climbing the ladder a little bit. Obviously, like you said, Seamus goes and wins and he skyrockets to where he is now. I think it's the same for every other person that's playing this week, it's a life-changing opportunity to play. Every week, like last week was a huge moment for me in my career, so I think each week, as long as I can keep building on something, it will be meaningful.

Q. If you weren't playing golf, where would you be?

CHRIS GOTTERUP: That's a good question. I don't know. I'd probably be -- all my friends are working on Wall Street or working in -- not that I would be doing that, I'm not as smart as they are, but yeah, I'd probably be taking the ferry with my dad to New York City and working in the city. I'm happy to be in Kentucky playing golf rather than hopping on that ferry.

Q. Chris, a lot was made of the letter that you wrote to Clair Peterson last week that earned you the invitation to play. Have you written other letters? What's your sort of plan going forward? Have you received any other invites coming up?

CHRIS GOTTERUP: Yeah, so when I went through that process, I wrote letters to all the events that I knew I had a chance to like play in schedule-wise. I just wrote what I thought would be helpful to them to get to know me and how I know that their event could help me out as well.

So, yeah, I wrote all that. I've written follow-up letters to the events that are coming up after this as well. Yeah, I just kind of try to keep sticking my name out there. Obviously if you play well it helps as well, but yeah, I've just been trying to keep my name in the mix, for sure.

Q. Are you more of a goal-oriented type of person or are you the type that just comes out, sees what your game gives you and builds off of that? In other words, are you coming in with expectations or with this being kind of new ground for you, are you waiting to see how it all shakes out?

CHRIS GOTTERUP: Yeah, I don't think I'm big in the expectations area because I struggle with, you know, if that's all I'm thinking about, then I'm not focused on what I've got to do day-to-day basis-wise, so I try not to put too much on my plate, honestly. Like showing up today, I'm just going to go hang out, hit a couple balls, check out the course and get after it tomorrow. Yeah, I try not to think too far ahead of what could be happening.

MARK WILLIAMS: And just finally, you said this is your first trip to Kentucky or first time you've played golf here. When you come to an event now, having had a pretty stressful month, I guess, of golf, would you try and make time to do things away from the golf course here, maybe take a little sightseeing or maybe a couple of trips somewhere?

CHRIS GOTTERUP: We were talking about it at the airport last night, I definitely want to check out Churchill Downs, for sure. I have some friends that went to Kentucky as well, so I'm going to try to check that out. Obviously golf comes first, but I'm going to try to kill some time checking out some areas because you never know if you're going to come back here, so I want to check it out while I can.

MARK WILLIAMS: Absolutely. Well, we appreciate your time and good luck this week, Chris.

CHRIS GOTTERUP: Thank you.