

**DAVIS LOVE III**

---

**CONNOR STANGE:** Davis Love III, thank you for joining us in the media center in advance of the Bridgestone SENIOR PLAYERS Championship.

Can you just open with your thoughts on being here this week?

**DAVIS LOVE III:** Well, I'm excited to be back at Firestone. It's been a long time since I played here. I walked right onto the property and right into Justin Leonard and got to play a practice round with him. In fact, he stuck a note on my car on Monday because he changed his phone number and where he lives and his job and now he's out here and just excited to see him. It really made my day to get out and play with him. Everybody's riding up and calling him "rookie" and they're coming from other fairways to welcome him. He asked me a whole bunch of questions about rules and procedures. I said, you need to ask somebody else, I'm not the best one to ask. But we're going to the pro-am draw party when we get done playing.

So it was great to see him and I love playing here. The place really hasn't changed. The guys in the locker room are still gracious and well trained and take good care of us. And the volunteers, a lot of the same volunteers that I've known for a long time, so it's fun to be back.

**Q. Do you remember the last time you played here?**

**DAVIS LOVE III:** I think it was 2016. I got in the playoffs in '15 and got in some of the bigger tournaments, so I was -- I think it was -- I'm pretty sure it was '16. Been a while. After the WGC ended, I haven't played here in a SENIOR PLAYERS because I was still thinking that I could play in places like Barbasol. So it's been a long time. I'm pretty sure it was '16.

**Q. How much more are we going to see you this year before the Presidents Cup?**

**DAVIS LOVE III:** What's that?

**Q. How much more are we going to see you before the Presidents Cup?**

**DAVIS LOVE III:** That's a good question. It's getting busy. There's a lot going on in golf right now, so I'm talking to a lot of players and I've been really busy. It's been distracting. Presidents Cup is not quite as distracting as the Ryder Cup, but then you add in the state of the world right now, it's very active amongst us players. We're very busy talking.

So I don't know what. I'm hoping that I can play once or twice on the regular Tour to see some guys before the playoffs and then jump back and play a couple times on PGA Tour

Champions before we get to Charlotte, and then after I can be a free bird and do whatever I want.

**Q. How crazy with what is going on in the world of golf is that making your job?**

**DAVIS LOVE III:** Well, I talk to my stats guys and then I go, I don't know what to tell you. We've got guys that are on the list that aren't really on the list and who do we send questions to. So it's very -- it's distracting, I think that's the biggest thing in everything in golf. In my pro-am today was distracting talking about other things.

So it's going to sort itself out. We're going to take 12 great players to Charlotte and right now, you know, it's been a lot of wondering if guys are going to make the team or not. There's a couple guys that were way down the list that now are not going to make the team. It's going to be a very young team and I'm excited about it. They're excited. You look at guys like Max Homa, that level of excitement is beneath getting ready for the FedExCup Playoffs and everything else that's going on. They're excited about it. Scottie Scheffler had a taste of it at Whistling Straits and he's excited about it. Hopefully, we will get a couple more new guys that haven't played and that excitement will carry us through.

**Q. Billy Horschel came out yesterday, I'm not sure if you saw what he said, I'm sure you did. Your thoughts on that?**

**DAVIS LOVE III:** On?

**Q. On the other tour.**

**DAVIS LOVE III:** Well, Billy and a lot of other people are speaking well for the Tour, especially Rory, Rahm.

My thoughts on it, as Justin Thomas said, it's a bummer. That was the best quote yet, it's a bummer. It's unfortunate what's going on. It is affecting, distracting. It's certainly not growing the game, it's hurting the game right now because it's splintering the game.

My job is to rally guys for the PGA TOUR. I'm a five-time board member, lifetime PGA Tour guy from a little kid. My dad hosted a PGA Tour event at his course. So my job is to rally guys and get ready for the Presidents Cup. I've got to call a guy and go, you know, we're focused on Presidents Cup, let's don't forget that, we've got to take 12 guys ready to go because Trevor's going to be 12 guys. We don't know which 12 guys even more than in years past. It's been disappointing. I think it's disappointing and distracting and unfortunate what's going on.

**Q. How will you -- how do you think overall the Presidents Cup will weather this, because it's taking players away from both sides?**

**DAVIS LOVE III:** Yeah, I mean, I told my pro-am guys today, the Tour moved on from Jack

and Arnold. Believe it or not, it survived. We never thought it would survive without Jack and Arnie. It moved on from Greg Norman and Fred Couples, you know? It's going to move on from Tiger Woods and Justin Leonard, that generation. The Tour's going to survive and have a new generation. Believe it or not, Scottie Scheffler's new, but eventually he'll get replaced.

So I think the Presidents Cup is going to be (Inaudible). I've seen it grow already, I've been up there a couple times. It's going to be incredible. The fan support, the corporate hospitality, Quail Hollow, it's going to be incredible. Those 12 guys are going to play on their Presidents Cup team for history, to win the Presidents Cup. Everything else is going to go away when we get there.

That's what people don't realize is these guys that have left are taking a chance that they will never get to do that again, but Max Homa's not going to take a chance, he's going to play on the PGA TOUR. He said it best, "You can't take my dream away from me." We were all little kids, we wanted to beat Jack Nicklaus or we wanted to beat Arnold Palmer or we wanted to be Freddie Couples. We didn't want to make money or win money, it was about winning golf tournaments.

I think these guys that want to play, it's not going to be any different at the Presidents Cup, they're going to want to win. They saw Steve Stricker's team get on a huge roll in New York, they saw Tiger Woods' team make a great comeback in Australia. They want to do that, they want to be a part of that.

Max Homa, I asked Max Homa if you could be anybody for a day, who would you be and what would you do? He said, I'd be Davis Love and I'd pick me for the Presidents Cup team. That's what we want, we want the guys -- what we sorted out is the guys who really do care and want to play for the Presidents Cup or the Ryder Cup or on the PGA Tour and we're going to get 12 great guys. I mean, I'm offering something great: Free, all-expense paid trip to Charlotte for a week to hang out with Fred Couples. I mean, I'm offering a lot. They're excited about it.

I mean, like I've seen it so many times, they get on these teams, and we saw it at Whistling Straits. They didn't care really if Phil or I -- they were hanging out with Fred Couples. It's just amazing what he does for a team. Tiger Woods is one of your assistant captains a couple times. Obviously Tiger down the road is a future captain. Those guys want to be involved in that.

Now we're really, really separating the guys that are passionate about that and I think probably it will help both teams because we know everybody really cares and is all in for it.

**Q. So international guys who play LIV aren't going to be eligible?**

**DAVIS LOVE III:** My understanding is that if you're -- if you have left the PGA Tour, you can't play in the Presidents Cup.

**Q. But not all international guys are PGA Tour guys.**

**DAVIS LOVE III:** Well, I know on my side. I don't know about the other side.

**Q. I just wondered if they made that distinction, like a Haotong Li could make the team again.**

**DAVIS LOVE III:** There's so many questions about this that I'm not smart enough to understand all the rules.

**Q. Sure.**

**DAVIS LOVE III:** My understanding is if you're not on the PGA Tour, you can't play on the --

**Q. Gotcha.**

**DAVIS LOVE III:** -- on the Presidents Cup team.

**Q. What happens -- play along with me here -- if the guys go last-minute court case like just happened for Ian Poulter to get into this week's event? You've got three guys, Presidents Cup team, we want to play. They take it to court. You already have your 12 guys, but they're allowed now to play on your team.**

**DAVIS LOVE III:** That's the problem with this whole thing. I think the problem with this whole thing is Greg Norman actually. This happened in 1994. This time he's just got more money behind him.

Somebody is telling these guys things that aren't true. I called a player and he said, Well, you don't understand, I'm going to play the U.S. Open and then I'm going to play Travelers.

I said, If you hit a ball in London, I guarantee you you're not playing Travelers.

And another player's consultant told me, Well, we're going to reapply for membership at the end of May and then we'll be back. I said, No, a suspension or a ban for life doesn't mean you can reapply at the end of the month.

Somebody's giving these guys really, really bad advice and I think the farther we go, they're going to see that clearer and clearer.

What they're doing in Europe, I don't know what's going on. They have a little bit different rules, as Scott [sic] Pelley has said. And he is confident that in the end it's all going to work out. USGA, R&A, last minute put in a position, but our rules, I have to commit by Friday, I have to wear pants on Thursday, I have to play 15 to get my benefits, all those rules have been in play for a long, long time. I have to ask for a release if I want to play a tournament opposite. You can't pick and choose which rules. And they've broken rules, therefore

100 percent on my side they can't play the Presidents Cup.

That's a good question, I don't know if you're not a member, but how that all works. As Trevor said several times, I've got seven or eight different nationalities and menus and guys. I don't know, he has to deal with a lot more issues than I have to deal with, but that's why I talked to a lot of the players before London. I said, Do you understand what you're in for? And I had some great conversations with some guys and some guys just don't seem to get it.

But unfortunately, when you get offered so much money that all of a sudden your decision-making changes, if it was \$5 million and you've got a chance you're never going to be on a Ryder Cup or Presidents Cup team again, you go, Well, that's not worth a chance. All of a sudden somebody throws a gigantic sum at you, your sensibilities tend to go away.

It's unfortunate that Greg tried this before and we literally were called in Arnold Palmer's office and the whole thing got shut down. I asked Jay Monahan back in January, I said, We really need Arnold right now, don't we? You know, we've got Tiger Woods and we've got Jack Nicklaus and we've got a bunch of veterans that are saying the same thing and eventually enough of the young players are starting to listen.

And a lot of the young players, you see it. Billy Horschel, I see it a lot at home. I almost avoid Brian Harman and Keith Mitchell now because they start yelling at me. I'm like, I'm trying as hard as I can. But again, unfortunately, there's a lot of guys that are getting a lot of bad advice and believing things. That's what I think Billy said it, a couple guys have said it, the mistruths and the lying that's going on is just absolutely incredible.

Like world ranking points. Let's just be honest, you don't fit and it's a year probation to see if you do fit. I don't think these players got told that even if we fit, it's a year before you're going to get them. Oh, we can co-exist, you can play both tours. Well, they've already said they're going to play 14 times next year. We just want to play less. Well, no, you're not going to play less if you play 14 and four majors like you think you're going to do.

I think in the end they will get to play less. They might get to play a lot less. That's what they don't understand. The world ranking points, you don't get them and the money behind it gets tired of bad publicity, you might get to play a lot less.

Anyway, there's a lot going on with that. Again, the Presidents Cup team, there is an excitement hiding behind this that's great. The Jordans and the Justins that love playing in it, the new guy, Scottie Scheffler, everybody wants to partner with. All that's still back there and it's still fun. We're still working on menus and we're still working on hotel rooms and behind the scenes the Presidents Cup is rocking and rolling. Our staff does an incredible job. Back in Ponte Vedre, everybody's head's down and they're working on PGA Tour as normal. A lot of them are distracted, too, but it's business as usual. We're going to be ready for the Presidents Cup. Charlotte's going to be incredible and we're going to have 12 great players, for sure.

**Q. I have to ask an Akron question. The city's kind of in turmoil because of the Jayland Walker. I didn't know if you guys talk about that among yourselves or you really just kind of, what's going on.**

**DAVIS LOVE III:** There's so much bad news out there. We're excited here to be back playing. When I walk in and see the ladies at registration and go in the courtesy car trailer and go in the locker room and go out on the golf course and see volunteers, we're excited about playing. All we can do for this community is come here and play and bring the PGA Tour back and pray for peace everywhere. We need it in all parts of the world and in all sports, business and personal life. We're happy to bring something positive to this community right now.

**Q. How's your health?**

**DAVIS LOVE III:** It's pretty good. I'm getting better.

**Q. Pretty good?**

**DAVIS LOVE III:** My game's trending. It doesn't look like it score-wise sometimes, but I started working with Justin Parsons back a couple months ago, so I'm in the middle of a new coach, new swing. I either hit it really, really good or I can hit a really bad one once in a while because I get to working on my swing. I saw some progress the last couple times I played and I'm feeling better, so maybe Firestone will inspire me.

**Q. Are you a Carolina Panthers fan?**

**DAVIS LOVE III:** I'm a Falcons fan. I grew up Braves, Falcons, Hawks.

**Q. They just got Baker Mayfield.**

**DAVIS LOVE III:** Yeah, I heard that, I heard that on the course.

**Q. It's out there, isn't it?**

**DAVIS LOVE III:** It's out there for some reason.

**CONNOR STANGE:** Anything else for Davis? All right. Thank you for joining us.

**DAVIS LOVE III:** All right, thanks.