

CAM DAVIS

MARK WILLIAMS: Like to welcome our defending champion, Cam Davis, to the interview room here at the 2022 Rocket Mortgage Classic.

Cam, you just played nine holes in the pro-am and back here on site with the first Tour victory, what's the reception been like for you?

CAM DAVIS: It's been so cool. It's awesome walking around the golf course where we had so many defining moments of your career kind of all compressed into one event. Happened, like I walked around on Monday without a golf club, without a golf ball, just walked around, toured the spots where I hit shots that really made the tournament for me last year; the bunker on 17, where I hit the 3-iron over the water on 14 in the playoff. Trying to relive a few moments. Once I got through that, you know what, it's another tournament, it's another year, my game's in a different place, I need to get back to work. so I've been working hard the last couple of days to get everything back and ready to go. Yeah, super stoked to be back. The course is firmer and faster and bouncier than ever and I love it, so yeah, can't wait to get started.

MARK WILLIAMS: You just mentioned your game's in a different place. How would you compare your game to last year before you won? You're coming in here, you've had five top-10s this season and two in the last month, John Deere and Barracuda. How would you assess that?

CAM DAVIS: Last time I played this event I came here after about a three-week break, my game wasn't in a very good spot. I went back home and took like two weeks of not touching a golf club and just tried to refresh everything and start again basically.

This time I'm coming in with some decent form, everything's in a pretty good place. I'm hitting my driver a little further now so the course is a little different just off the tee. I mean, to be honest, the course hasn't changed I think other than the driver going a little further. If I can hit the ball with my irons the same way as last time, that's all I could ask for. If that's in a good place, yeah, it should be good to go. Yeah, it's just -- it's not soft like last year as well, so that's going to play a little different. Yeah, it's still the same and hopefully bring back the same vibes.

Q. Cameron, a hard hitting question here: Cameron Smith won The Open, Cameron Young was second, you're the defending champion here this year, Cameron Tringale is having a pretty good year Cameron Piercy is here. Have you ever sort of sat back and said, jeez, there's quite a few of us, or had a conversation with any of the other Camerons about what a year you guys are having?

CAM DAVIS: We're all doing well. My name got changed to Cam just out of nowhere, so I think I know why. I think we needed something to start defining us a little bit more as individuals because we all just seem to be collecting out here.

I don't know, something in the name. I'm proud that the Camerons are doing well. It's nice to be one of them. Yeah, I don't know what it is, but it seems to be a popular name in a certain age range at the moment. We'll see if any more turn up. I think there's still a few more in the pipeline on their way up here, so we'll see.

Q. Secondly real quickly, I was up there watching the playoff last year and it seemed sort of only a matter of time before you won, the way you were hitting it from tee to green. Have you ever been that on from tee to green as you were in those final couple hours of the tournament?

CAM DAVIS: I mean, I go through maybe a couple times a year where things are clicking and it's just a matter of making putts. Obviously I didn't make a putt in that playoff, but I did make a couple of shots, one from off the green, a couple of putts coming down the stretch to make the most of that ball-striking. I'd say it comes and goes, but to have it happen like that in that situation for me was obviously the first time I had a real good chance to win. In a playoff, it's one-on-one match play. I've always loved match play and it gives you a little more freedom to go for it because it's do or die basically.

It was just great that my swing, my confidence, my mental game, everything was synching up at the right time that I was actually to hit those shots that I was trying to hit when it was under pressure.

To be honest, it just was a super fun, exciting, like exhilarating hour of hour or two. I don't know how long it lasted for, it went for a long time. I was actually enjoying it rather than being nervous about it. I just felt like get me on the green, I want the putt to go in. See if we can get that another crack this year because that would be cool.

Q. Cam, do you want to be known as Cam or Cameron? I'm not sure I understood.

CAM DAVIS: Cam's fine, Cam's on my bag. I really don't mind, to be honest. For a long time Cam was what my family called me. So I'm happy to feel like family out here now, so Cam's good.

Q. When did it change for you?

CAM DAVIS: I don't know, it was sometime last year. Like I wasn't notified or anything, just all of a sudden my name started turning up on the leaderboard as Cam instead of Cameron. I'm like I guess someone's made the executive decision because there's too many of us now, so I don't know. I'm fine with it, it's all good.

Q. What's been the best perk of being a PGA Tour winner?

CAM DAVIS: I mean, first of all, the sense of accomplishment. You've been working really hard for a long time to finally achieve. That is just monumental I think for someone coming through, to know you can do it, to know you can win a tournament. It's all a dream up until it actually happens.

And then all the bonuses that came along with that. I mean, getting to play my first Masters this year, getting a PGA Championship out of it, getting boosted up the rankings in the FedExCup so I've got access to all the great tournaments, invitationals, all that. It pretty much felt like it launched me into a different stage of my career.

And yeah, I feel like I'm doing my best to hit the ground running with that and keep that going. Seems to be still continuing on a pretty good path since then. I'm really looking forward to trying to make it happen again. Looking for that second win, I don't want to just stop at one, but it's been just a really cool progression in my career. Yeah, it's a very big impact on someone who's been out here for a couple years.

Q. Do you remember when you first met Cam Smith and did you see this type of golf coming from him?

CAM DAVIS: I didn't spend much time with him in Australia when we were growing up as amateurs. He was always a couple years ahead of me, so he was always either winning the big amateur events while I'm just happy to make the cut. Or we had a big interstate series in Australia, the interstate matches. He would be playing No. 1 for Queensland, I'd be playing No. 5 or 6, so I would never come up against him. But he was winning those tournaments, winning the Australian amateur, winning his matches shooting crazy low scores. So we all knew that he's one of the most likely to succeed from past this point.

To see him continue on to play well in the U.S. Open and really project his career up in the PGA Tour and then continue that on, I don't think anyone's surprised. He was definitely showing signs of that as an amateur.

And yeah, I mean, I've only really met him since we both ended up out here. Yeah, he's just been a cool guy to hang around. It's nice to have a fellow Aussie doing really well out here. It can only help get the vibes going for each week. It's nice that Aussies hang together a little bit and it's always cool to have someone doing well to really kick us all on, so it's been great.

MARK WILLIAMS: Cam, you kind of mentioned the standings and right now you're kind of on the outside looking in or right on the cusp for the Presidents Cup standings. Has that been on your mind? What sort of goal do you have for making that team?

CAM DAVIS: It would be so awesome to be on the Presidents Cup. To be honest, I've tried having my goals really big like that and trying to reach them. I feel like when I do that, it almost puts more pressure on me.

So I do think about it every now and then. I feel like at this point in time, because I am on the outside looking in, I just want to play as well as I possibly can and hopefully get a pleasant surprise. Keep on putting my name up there, keep on churning out good results and trying to get a win, I feel like if I keep doing that, then things will take care of itself.

Hopefully, in the long run this year, I feel like it would probably be a very pleasant surprise out of nowhere if it does come along that way, but I would absolutely love it. I love match play. In team golf as an amateur in Australia, we kind of fostered that through our state programs, so I would love to be a part of that again.

MARK WILLIAMS: Anything further for Cam? One last question from me, we're in Detroit. When you go to a golf tournament, do you try and explore the city a little bit earlier in the week before the business starts or are you here to golf? Have you had a chance to look around a little bit?

CAM DAVIS: Yeah, I -- during tournament weeks, to be honest, I'm very quiet, very much hotel, golf course. Over the last six months or so my caddie and I have picked up a little bit of disc golf as a way to kind of get out of the hotel because I did spend a long time just, like if I wasn't playing golf, I'd just go back to the hotel, watch TV, watch YouTube and just chill out for those eight hours and just do nothing. I needed some sort of outing.

Whenever my wife comes along, she comes along to a couple events I'll definitely go and explore. I'm not going to make her sit around. She's already walking a golf course, not playing golf, just walking around and watching for a lot of the day, so I'm not going to make her to just sit down and do nothing, so we go and explore and see what the city has to offer. For the most part it's pretty quiet. If there's a cool disc golf course around I might give that a crack. Otherwise, keep it pretty quiet.

MARK WILLIAMS: Have you searched this week?

CAM DAVIS: There's one across the road. It looks pretty cool. I think it's brand new. Got a few guys around here that look like they're pretty keen in giving it a crack.

MARK WILLIAMS: So that's like a recent thing you've taken up?

CAM DAVIS: Yeah, I don't know, I tried it a couple times, thought it was fun. It's golf, but it's not golf. I kind of suck at it still, so it's fun to kind of have a walk around trying to get a little bit better. I enjoy that because that was the stage I went through with golf at one point and obviously I still enjoy it.

MARK WILLIAMS: All right. Well, we appreciate the time you've given us and good luck in defending your title this week.

CAM DAVIS: Thank you, appreciate it.