

PRE-TOURNAMENT INTERVIEW
August 9, 2022

CAMERON SMITH



MICHAEL BALIKER: Like to welcome Cameron Smith into the interview room here at the FedEx St. Jude Championship.

Cam, making your first start since your win at St. Andrews and entering the FedExCup ranked second in the standings. Just talk a little bit about how you've been balancing your prep but also a little bit of celebration there after the big win, and what you're thinking about coming into this big three-week stretch.

CAMERON SMITH: Yeah, had a couple of good rest weeks, I guess, back home in Jacksonville, a few-night celebration and yeah, we had a really fun time. The last week and a half I guess has all been about prep. My trainer came in from Australia, he kicked my butt and tried to get me back into shape before this big three weeks. Yeah, this golf course is a course that I love. I've got a pretty decent record around here, really suits my eye. I love the grasses and yeah, can't wait to get the week started.

MICHAEL BALIKER: I was just going to say you finished tied for fifth here in 2021. What specifically about this track, you played here several times before, but what I guess clicked for you last year?

CAMERON SMITH: Yeah, I think it just suits my eye a little bit off the tee. I feel as though my driver has let me down the last couple years. This is as comfortable as I've felt with the driver and this has always been a course where I feel as though I've driven the ball pretty good, so I'm looking forward to see how that goes. Also for me is the putting surfaces, they're so true here. Into the greens, the targets look so small and I love how precise you have to be.

Q. Cam, I have an obvious question for you. There are reports in The Telegraph that you are imminently signing with LIV Golf or have signed with LIV Golf. Cameron Percy today said you're going and yet here you are intending to play the Playoffs. Do you care to comment?

CAMERON SMITH: My goal here is to win the FedExCup Playoffs. That's all I'm here for. If there's something I need to say regarding the PGA TOUR or LIV, it will come from Cameron Smith, not Cameron Percy. I'm a man of my word and whenever you guys need to know anything, it'll be said by me.

Q. And just following up on that, you being a man of your word, The Telegraph is reporting that you've signed and are going. Would you like to say yes or no to that?

CAMERON SMITH: I have no comment to that. Like I said, I'm here to play the FedExCup Playoffs. That's been my focus the last week and a half, that's what I'm here to do, I'm here to win the FedExCup Playoffs. And like I said, it will come from me, it won't come from Cameron Percy.

Q. Do you intend to play the Presidents Cup?

CAMERON SMITH: Absolutely, yeah. That's something that we've been looking forward to for the last three years. We missed a year because of COVID and that's something that I look forward to being a part of.

Q. You mentioned this golf course -- sorry. The last time you were here, you had an adventure on 18. It seemed like you just went for the win last year. When you come back to a golf course where something like that happened, obviously you've had a lot of success on here, like do you get, I don't know if flashbacks is the right word, but I imagine this is the first time you've come back since hitting into someone's backyard. What do you remember about that and what do you take from that experience of almost winning here last year?

CAMERON SMITH: Yeah, I think it gives me a lot of confidence going into the week. Like I said, I think this is a golf course that really suits my eye. I think looking back at it, I may have played the last hole a little bit differently, but I think it's made me grow as a golfer and I've gone on to do some pretty good things since then, so I think it's in a way almost benefited me. Yeah, I look forward to getting back out there and hopefully getting a win around here.

Q. One of the things being reported is that you were going to be playing in the LIV Boston event in early September. Can you comment on that?

CAMERON SMITH: Like I said, I'm here to play the FedExCup Playoffs, mate. I don't -- that's what I'm here to do. I'm here to win the FedExCup Playoffs, that's my priority.

Q. I asked you about the Presidents Cup and you said you were looking forward to it. That's actually later, so I thought maybe something earlier you could say you were intending to play.

CAMERON SMITH: No, no.

MICHAEL BALIKER: Anything else?

CAMERON SMITH: Thanks, guys.