

**PRE-TOURNAMENT INTERVIEW**  
**September 14, 2022**



**DAVIS LOVE III**

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**Q. Davis, thank you for joining us at the Sanford International. Can we just get your thoughts on being back here at Sioux Falls for this week's event?**

**DAVIS LOVE III:** I'm excited to be back. It's always a fun week here. I may have played this tournament as much as any other tournament I played on the Champions. I haven't played a whole lot over the last few years due to scheduling and injuries and surgeries. But I'm happy to be back, and we had a lot of fun here last year going into the Ryder Cup. Steve Stricker had us working every night on pairings and getting the team ready, so we're going to do that again this week for the Presidents Cup. Steve was obviously a great captain last year and a big part of our Presidents Cup push this year. And then Freddie's here, so we'll work on that at night and have some fun playing golf during the day.

**Q. On that note, how much time have you been balancing between Presidents Cup prep and your own game?**

**DAVIS LOVE III:** Mostly Presidents Cup prep and fishing and then my game, in that order. But it's been a busy couple weeks. Now it's crunch time. The reality is kind of hitting that better get organized. Once the team is set after the TOUR Championship, then the real work begins on making your pairings and getting schedules and practice rounds and things like that. I know the team's ready to start playing golf and certainly all the captains are ready to start watching them play.

**Q. You've played this course several times, what have you learned the most about it?**

**DAVIS LOVE III:** Well, I'm learning my way around more and more. Even today playing in the wind, playing the firm bounces, the little things add up here. Put yourself out of position, especially on the short holes like No. 1 and there's a couple of them where laying up in the right place is very, very important. It's not like a power game golf course where you have to just smash driver around. You've got to put it in the right place to the right hole locations. I finally got it right on 18 today. I looked at where the pin was and hit the right club off the tee, so I'm learning more every year. But it's a fun golf course and it's always in great shape.

**Q. Is it just by chance that you played this tournament as much as any other Champions Tour tournaments? Is there a specific reason?**

**DAVIS LOVE III:** Just scheduling. And once you come to a place, I met a volunteer today that's doing his 44th PGA Tour event as a volunteer. You come to places and you hear stories like that. The little shootout thing they have, the sponsors that support this tournament every year, you become kind of a little bit of a part of it so you don't want to miss

it. As I said, it was fun last year and when we have fun, we like to come back.

**Q. How are the fans at this event?**

**DAVIS LOVE III:** Fans are great. This is a well attended event, they appreciate golf, pro sports coming to their town. Just glad to be a part of a great event that seems to grow every year.

**Q. How's it working playing golf and trying to be Ryder Cup or Presidents Cup captain at the same time?**

**DAVIS LOVE III:** It's a balance. I've seen it with my friends. Like Jim Furyk, it wore him down. Then Steve was a three-year cycle on the Ryder Cup, it took a long time to get that Ryder Cup played. It takes a lot out of you. It's a lot of time, but it's also a lot of fun. Now with texting and Zoom calls, we're seeing more and talking to each other a lot more than we used to. It's become a big part of a lot of our lives. So the 2015 Presidents Cup helping Jay Haas, this group, now we've added Webb Simpson and a few years ago Zach Johnson. Maybe Freddie and I need to hand it off to the next generation after this one.

**Q. Now that Padraig's kind of a full member, (inaudible), do you give him a hard time about that?**

**DAVIS LOVE III:** Well, we're all friends until Ryder Cup week. Darren Clarke is one of my best friends from the European Tour and we battle for six or seven days and then go right back to having a cigar afterwards.

It's a great rivalry, Ryder Cup and Presidents Cup, but they are ultimately -- I stood up here on the 10th tee today and talked to Ernie Els about Presidents Cup and years past and this year. The competition is spirited and tough, but the friendships, the Tour friendships get made even stronger from it.

**Q. With Padraig and Steve Alker coming on the tour, do you see the Champions Tour getting stronger and stronger as more guys join in?**

**DAVIS LOVE III:** There's more guys that we know are strong players, like Alker coming in and winning a bunch. Then there's players that you know are just champing at the bit to get out here, like Padraig. Now I'm at the older end of the spectrum on the Champions Tour all of a sudden, so now I'm looking who's the next guy coming out who's going to be hard to beat. That's what's great about Champions, you can keep refreshing with new guys and great players. They come out raring to go, like Padraig, very successful.

**Q. Are you going to do any fishing while you're here?**

**DAVIS LOVE III:** No, I don't have time for anything other than golf during the day and Presidents Cup stuff at night and some good steaks.

