

PURE INSURANCE CHAMPIONSHIP

ROUND 2 QUOTES September 23, 2023

PAUL STANKOWSKI



Q. Obviously a terrific moving day for you. Eight birdies in a row. You have tied the PGA Tour Champions record. Five other guys have done it, you're now the sixth. Just what was going well today? Just taking that in? Did you know that was a record?

PAUL STANKOWSKI: No, I had no idea. I made six in a row out here in a little tournament a couple years ago. But I didn't know I made eight. All I know is when I made a bogey on three, I looked back and I saw all these circles. I had to count them.

So it was fun. You know what, I hit the ball solidly all day. My mis-hits were in the right spot. And it's huge here at Pebble. You don't have to hit it perfect, but your misses better be right, proper. And I hit a lot of shots close, made some nice putts. So it was -- it's one of those days that you just come out and you try to play and it happened.

Q. Is this one of those days where you continue to get validation? You have been grinding and working and playing really good golf lately. So does this give you more confidence?

PAUL STANKOWSKI: Sure, yeah. I -- I love it here. Pebble Beach is my favorite golf course on earth. And I played well here the last two years, fifth and second. And I just -- I love it. And it's my favorite walk in golf. I have been playing well. Coming into this week, I was pretty much assured that I was a lock inside the top 36, and that was my goal all year. It wasn't to within tournaments, it was to keep my job. And I had great status this year, at 44th last year, but my goal was top 36. And I'm so grateful that I get to do this still. I'm 53 years old and a hit a ball for a living. And I get to come play Pebble Beach and compete with some of the best old guys on earth. And it's pretty darn cool.

Q. What about the aspect of giving back and playing with the kids in The First Tee this week, just that added element? It has to be a little bit more fun than the normal competition week.

PAUL STANKOWSKI: It is, 100 percent my favorite type tournament, and this is my favorite events on the Champions Tour. I love getting to play with these young aspiring professionals, right? Sebastian Velasquez from El Paso, he's 16 years old, and he is so nails out there. It's so cool. I commented yesterday on his process. I told him I was impressed. He didn't change from hole 1 to hole 18. His process was the same. And



it's so hard for me to imagine a 16-year-old who has a mindset that's just -- it's continually looking at this next shot. And it was really cool. I don't even think he understands how cool it is. So I love it, I love helping.

My team as well, they are -- they shot 15 under par today. The guy makes birdie at -- par for birdie at 9 today and they're stoked. And for me it's a blast. The grind of all the other tournaments out here where you're trying to beat the other pros, that's our job, but this is fun. This is a fun event. And it's really not about us, it's about them. And so I want the amateurs to come back and play next year, and I want this experience for Sebastian to be the best thing he could ever imagine, and maybe it's a springboard for him to get better as he progresses to maybe some day turn pro.

Q. You said earlier that you are pretty much a lock for the top 36. How many interviews have you done where that's been the goal?

PAUL STANKOWSKI: Yeah, that has been the goal. We can go back to 2019, when I went to Q-School, and I get to the final stage. I was in the top 5 for the first 67 holes. And I choked. And I made a couple, three bogeys down the stretch and missed it by a shot. I played a couple times in 2020, this was my first start. I qualified and had my son on the bag and it was a dream. And at that point, I'm like this could be the only Champions Tour that I ever play in. And it's at my -- at my hours, Pebble Beach. And I had my son on the bag. And so if it had ended there -- and I think I even mentioned to AI, to you, in that interview, that this is the last time -- I'm winning, this is great. And so I got to play a lot since then. And it looks, the Lord willing, that my body stays together. '24 looks like it's going to be a lot of fun. And so yeah, it's so cool. I'm just grateful. And today was really cool.

Q. What would a W mean tomorrow?

PAUL STANKOWSKI: A W would be awesome. I haven't won since the 1900s, right? And it's a long time ago. And I had a chance last year and it was fun to have a shot. I needed to hole a bunker shot to get into a playoff. And so that's the closest I have been in I think -- I can't even add that much. 25 years? That's a long time. My kid's 24 for crying out loud. So I -- it would be awesome. But, there again, that's not -- that's what we're all shooting for. It would be awesome to win, and I would love to be able to hoist a trophy again. I wouldn't lie, I'm not lying. But at the same time, it's not the all end -- end all, be all. I'm grateful that I get to do this game and I'm just enjoying each step as it comes.

Q. Thanks, Paul.

PAUL STANKOWSKI: Thank you.

