

PRE-TOURNAMENT PRESS CONFERENCE
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MIKE WEIR

PROCORE
CHAMPIONSHIP

MODERATOR: We would like to welcome Mike Weir into the interview room, our 2007 champion of this event. New golf course, new sponsor.

Mike, I know any tournament that you've won in the past on the PGA TOUR is special. If you can comment on being here at the Procore Championship this week.

MIKE WEIR: Yeah, it's great to be back. My last PGA TOUR win was this event a while ago, but this is a great golf course, great facility. To have Procore on board to continue the legacy of this event is great. They've been great sponsors. The pro-am was fun today, off to a great start this week.

MODERATOR: You are competing this week, let's talk a little bit about the state of your game. Two starts on Tour this year, but 14 on PGA TOUR Champions, including most recently finished third at the Ally Challenge. What's the state of your game coming into the week?

MIKE WEIR: My game feels good. I had my best round of the year to finish off that tournament in Michigan, finished third.

Recently haven't played a lot, a lot of other duties happening the last couple weeks, but my game's been very solid this year. I haven't gotten a win yet, but been knocking on the door.

MODERATOR: And speaking of those duties, we just had Mackenzie and Corey in here for a joint press conference. Both of those guys were very appreciative of the phone call from you recently. Just talk about the upcoming Presidents Cup and not only having those two guys but also Taylor, and for the first time ever, three Canadians on the Presidents Cup team.

MIKE WEIR: Yeah, like you said, very exciting to have three Canadians. Two was the most in Charlotte with Corey and Taylor having two and now we're up to three. Would have loved to have another one on, but three's fantastic.

The team's great. We had a nice little team outing there just a little over a week ago and the guys are bonding well. Yeah, the team's formed and we're ready to go preparing.

MODERATOR: Talk a little bit about the pride that Canadians have in their athletes, but then also what it means for those athletes to perform for their team.

MIKE WEIR: Sure. Canadian sports fans are big sports fans, big golf fans. Obviously we're

known for hockey, but golf's very popular in Canada. To have three players on the team's exciting.

It's a lot of pressure on the players. I remember being in that situation the last time it was there in 2007 and getting a pick, it was great, and then playing in front of your home fans is an amazing feeling.

I know the heat's been on the guys for a couple years. That's kind of over with and now we're on to the tournament.

MODERATOR: And before questions, speaking of 2007, I know not the finish that the International Team wanted, but one of the all-time best moments probably in Presidents Cup history was your match against Tiger and you coming out on top in front of all the Canadian fans. Just talk a little bit about the memories that you have of that day.

MIKE WEIR: Well, I do remember that I was -- we were quite a bit behind starting Sunday and my mindset was if I could get up early and try to create some momentum for our team, maybe we could make a good rally, but it didn't happen.

Personally, that match was very intense playing in front of the Canadian fans. I remember them really rallying me home the last few holes, so that was really special to get a win there.

Again, we didn't win as a team and that's what you're there for. That's why trying to remind our guys that you're trying to stay focused for yourself, but this is a team game.

Q. We just had those guys in here before you and they were talking about a match yesterday. I guess it was captains versus players?

MIKE WEIR: Yeah.

Q. Just wondering, I guess they're pretty good friends, they've known each other for a long, long time, but what did you see yesterday that maybe made you optimistic about maybe these guys might be a pairing that could work well?

MIKE WEIR: Yeah, we're not sure if they're actually going to be paired together, those two, but they're in the field this week along with Min Woo.

Nothing really surprised me what I see with their game. I know they're both great players. They continue to impress me when I do play with them. Corey's such a wonderful striker of the golf ball, very consistent as you all know, but Mac is right there too and he's going to break through soon for some big wins I believe as well.

The scenario is likely there will be a Canadian pairing at some point, whether it's those two or Taylor in there with one of the two. I don't know which set of matches that's going to be yet, but that will be exciting when that does happen for the fans. Likely scenario.

Q. And how much team building have you been able to do this week? I know everybody's kind of got their eye on this tournament --

MIKE WEIR: Yeah.

Q. -- so you don't really have the full roster here, but have you had some dinners and so forth?

MIKE WEIR: Yeah, we're gathering tonight just because there's Camilo and myself and three guys, we'll grab dinner tonight.

But we were in Montreal a week ago Monday, Tuesday and spent a couple days together and that was big team building up there for us. That was kind of our trip to kind of get everybody together, but all year we've been getting together. Three or four times throughout the year we had some dinners, got the guys together. Various guys that were maybe on the outside looking in, but we were trying to create a culture for the future as well, not just this year. Get all the International players excited about the Presidents Cup, excited to be on an International Team. That started long before I became captain, it started with Nicky Price and then on to Ernie and Trevor and myself. We're trying to build our team, build momentum for our team.

Q. Just curious, for fans at home who don't have a lot of insight to what the process looks like, when you're making those decisions on the final six spots, obviously you can't tell me everything, but wondering what kind of goes through your mind and what you're weighing throughout that process.

MIKE WEIR: Many things. When you look at the list online, it's just a straight World Ranking list. We communicate to the players that that's how we were picking our top six. We had debated doing kind of a weighted system towards the end of the year, maybe more points towards the end of the year, but we just thought we would leave that alone because the numbers showed there wouldn't be that much difference between the top six.

Then you have many other things when you're finalizing the final six. Obviously current form, analytics for the golf course, players that we think will match up well on the golf course, players that will match up well with our six that make it automatically.

There are a number of things you look at most definitely and much deeper into that when you're making selections like that. A lot of process goes into it.

Q. Mike, if you don't mind the description as an elder statesman, could you give us an overview of where you see the PGA TOUR and the Champions Tour in terms of whether it's LIV or super events or what's happening on your tour, your primary tour?

MIKE WEIR: Yeah. Well, first I'll start maybe with the Champions Tour. I'll say that the

quality of play just in the four years I've been out there has gotten -- the standard's gotten much higher. You see the work that the players put in. As guys in their 40s kind of work their way out onto the 50-and-over circuit, that standard will continue to rise.

Obviously with the potential of Tiger playing some, too, that's going to create a lot of excitement. There's a lot of good buzz around our Champions Tour.

State of the Tour, I think as most guys have said, it's a bit unknown. From my perspective as a golf fan, I would love to see the guys playing a little bit more like we've all talked about.

State of the game I think is great. We have great players, it's fun to watch these players, they're amazing. It's so deep when you go through the quality of field, so if you happen to lose a few guys that are maybe names that are going to break through that are going to be some stars out here, so provides maybe a little bit of room for them.

But at the end of the day you kind of want this to be solidified and see the best players playing a little bit more often, not that that be the chatter anymore, let's talk about the golf and the good golf that's out here.

Q. Mike, I asked this of Mackenzie and Corey as well, the Presidents Cup, the Ryder Cup, there's such unique sort of intensity at those events. How do you prepare for that? This seems like a very different setting in a fall event.

MIKE WEIR: Yeah.

Q. How do you sort of as captain guide them in getting ready for that kind of -- not so much the golf shots, but the atmosphere?

MIKE WEIR: Yeah, that's great. I mean, we have two rookies, Mackenzie and Min Woo are two rookies. The other guys have all experienced that. I think it's just relaying that message.

And those guys even amongst themselves, the guys, hey, this is a totally different experience that you're going to experience when you step on that first tee.

They've all played major championships and whatnot, but it's kind of like a major every day, the intensity of the moment because you have a teammate that you're going to try and play for and the whole team you're going to play for, your country you're trying to play for, pride in your own game. So yeah, the intensity is very high.

My first one in 2000, I'll never forget how nervous and apprehensive, "am I ready for this moment" feel that I had. Once you get out there and you kind of -- for me, once I kind of got locked into my own game and let that other stuff go, I was fine. Those first few shots starting out are quite intense and it's only gotten bigger as the years have gone on. That first tee shot, both Ryder Cup and Presidents Cup, has gotten bigger, louder.

I guess a long answer to that is amongst the players talking amongst one another, us guys that have played in a lot of them expressing kind of how I felt or how we felt in those moments and what to do. Just slowing down, breathing, things like that that seem simple, but when your adrenaline's going, the cortisol's going, you need to really slow it down. Those kind of things that we're talking about.

MODERATOR: Mike, thank you for your time. Best of luck this week and also at Royal Montreal.

MIKE WEIR: Thanks. Appreciate it, guys.