

PRE-TOURNAMENT PRESS CONFERENCE
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STEVEN FISK

MODERATOR: We would like to welcome Stockbridge, Georgia, native Steven Fisk into the RSM Classic media center.

You're making your PGA TOUR debut this week as a sponsor exemption. Can you talk about how you feel heading into the week?

STEVEN FISK: Pretty excited. I think getting to have my first start so close to home and have everybody come out's pretty special for me. Very grateful for the opportunity from Mr. Todd Thompson, Davis Love and RSM. I think it's going to be pretty fun.

MODERATOR: Who's all coming out this week?

STEVEN FISK: Honestly, I have no idea. I'm prepared to be surprised with not that many people and lots of people coming, but we'll see.

MODERATOR: That's great. And you finished the Korn Ferry Tour season No. 4 on the points list. Can you talk about the state of your game right now?

STEVEN FISK: Yeah, game's been good. We've been off for five or six weeks now, so probably not playing as much as I would mid season, but it's been nice to get some rest and just kind of relax a little bit.

Q. Steven, you won kind of just up the road, Savannah. Just wondering, birdieing three of the last four there to win and then obviously win in a playoff, wondering if you can kind of reflect on that win and being so close to home and what that meant to you?

STEVEN FISK: Yeah, life changing to say the least. I think -- it's my third year on Korn Ferry and hadn't had a ton of success up to that point, but just kind of been slowly improving. Was honestly probably the first really good opportunity I had to win one of those events and to get it done in a playoff and make some late birdies to kind of make a charge was really special and propelled me to a really great year.

Q. You'll have obviously your full year next year, but you win early, you're right at the top of the points list, you've kind of known that this was coming for a while. What has that anticipation and buildup been like?

STEVEN FISK: Yeah, so I think I officially locked up my card mid June or so, so it was kind of a long waiting game to get my PGA TOUR card in hand.

Certainly a little more relief than some others, but kind of freed me up a little bit to play some more good golf.

Q. Just wondering, when you do lock it up early like that, do you then go into a little bit of mode of trying to work on some things that maybe were deficiencies or are you just trying to keep playing golf knowing you don't need to make the next cut? Does that allow you to tinker a little bit?

STEVEN FISK: I try and do the same things every week regardless of what's going on around me. I think I go through my process the best I can to prepare and see how I play. I don't think that changing anything at this point or making lots of changes are tinkering with stuff is what's best for me.

Q. Congrats on your debut. I do want to get your thoughts if possible on the changes that went through last night. I think you're in an interesting position to comment on them.

STEVEN FISK: Yeah. So certainly a difficult topic, especially for somebody in my position, but the way I look at it coming out of my category, I've got a pretty good number and I think I'll get all if not one or two starts that aren't Signature Events. I've got a PGA TOUR card for the first time and I think that's pretty exciting for me. Just having those opportunities ahead is all that I really care about.

Q. So when Ben Griffin was in here, he had a similar answer. Correct me if I'm wrong, I don't want to put words this your mouth, but is it healthier from a player's perspective to just adopt the attitude of I can't do anything about this, this is the reality of it and it's no use complaining or are you thinking more deeply about it other than just this is how we have to do it now?

STEVEN FISK: Yeah, the changes are what they are. I can certainly -- even though a lot of people might say that my position is slightly disadvantaged with some of the changes, but I can look at it from a different perspective and see why some of those changes are being made. Certainly everything that's been laid out makes sense. It may not be necessarily what's best for someone coming out of my category, but I still have so many opportunities coming next year that if I play good golf, everything takes care of itself.

MODERATOR: Paul mentioned winning in Savannah, you were Georgia Southern's winningest player. Why do you like playing in Georgia so much?

STEVEN FISK: I mean, it's home, you know? It's home. I like bermuda, I like the grasses typically, especially this time of year, things are a little bit firmer, faster. Just kind of feels more natural for me.

Q. Can we get -- sorry, can we get details on the story of Rocco Mediate letting you use his irons and putter?

STEVEN FISK: Yes. I was, I don't know, 8 to 10 years old probably up at the, I guess it was the Bell South back then at TPC Sugarloaf. Just walking around on a Tuesday. Rocco, I think I was the only one watching their group, kind of waved me up on a par 3, asked me what club I wanted to hit and I asked if I could hit his driver and that didn't go over very well. He gave me a 6-iron I believe, hit one, I don't know, maybe 100 yards short of the green and then waved me up on the green to hit a couple putts.

So pretty cool. Definitely my first experience with a Tour player of any kind, so it was pretty nice of him.

Q. Where were you at in your golf career at that point? Were you just starting playing and was that any sort of inspiration of hey, I want to do this one day?

STEVEN FISK: You know, I had been playing golf for a few years at that point. I don't know if I could say it was an inspiration to want to be a pro golfer, I think that was already ingrained in me from a pretty young age. I've never really done anything else with my free time, I always wanted to do this.

Q. What's the most interesting thing from an equipment standpoint about the clubs you use?

STEVEN FISK: Good question.

Q. Anything out of the normal or pretty standard?

STEVEN FISK: I've got an old-school like piece of lead tape under the grip of my putter to kind of counterbalance things. Doesn't really get noticed to the naked eye, it's just about that wide. Probably that, nothing crazy.

Q. When did you do that?

STEVEN FISK: Year and a half ago or so, yeah.

MODERATOR: I heard that you just finished up on 18. What course did you play and what did you think about it?

STEVEN FISK: Yeah, I played the back of Plantation. Certainly a little softer than Seaside was yesterday in the pro-am, but the course is great, greens are great. You know, no complaints out of me, just happy to be here.

Q. In 2008 U.S. Open playoff then, did you prefer Tiger or Rocco?

STEVEN FISK: Probably still Tiger.

MODERATOR: All right. Well, thank you so much, Steven, and good luck this week.

STEVEN FISK: Thank you.