

PRE-TOURNAMENT PRESS CONFERENCE
February 12, 2025



DANNY LIST
Charlie Sifford Memorial Exemption

MODERATOR: All right, everybody, welcome. We would like to welcome Danny List, who is the Charles Sifford Memorial exemption into the event, to the Genesis Invitational this year in 2025.

Danny, I guess I'll ask first, when you found out about the exemption, when you received it, what was your initial reaction and whereabouts were you when you got it?

DANNY LIST: Yeah, I was on the driving range just doing a bit of practice. I had seen an unknown phone number calling me and I never answer unknown numbers, it's just not something I do. For some reason something told me to just pick it up. I did and it was the phone call from Mr. Antolini inviting me to the event. As he's kind of telling me, I knew what was going on and I was getting a few goosebumps. Yeah, it was a pretty special moment for me. Yeah, that was pretty great.

MODERATOR: After you hung up the phone, what sort of emotions were going through you?

DANNY LIST: I was like called my mum as soon as I could. Yeah, I don't think I got a lot of practice done after that, I was just over the moon. Called my mum straight away. She couldn't have been more excited. Yeah, it was -- yeah, it kind of was pretty surreal.

Q. Danny, I think you're pretty or somewhat familiar anyway with the DP World Tour. I was wondering out here if there's any awe factor in terms of seeing players that maybe you've watched on television and whether you're sort of having any pinch-me moments out there where you're walking past some of these guys on the practice area?

DANNY LIST: Yeah, like you said, I have had a bit of experience playing on the DP World Tour so got a bit of a taste of it, not really to this caliber that it is this week. It's pretty cool, there's a lot of guys that I had never seen before and I wanted to take a moment to introduce myself and say hi to them. Outside of that, my strategy is just kind of keep my head down a little bit, not get too wrapped up in who's here and just treat it like any other golf tournament.

Q. Can you give me a name or two on who that would have been?

DANNY LIST: Yeah, it was probably Rory was the guy. Yeah, he kind of has a little bit of that aura.

Q. And what was that like? What was the reaction like when you met him?

DANNY LIST: I don't know if he knew I was playing in the event, so it was a pretty brief one. I might have stuttered once or twice, but it was pretty cool. He's probably -- next to Tiger, he's probably the guy I've looked up to the most in the world of golf. Yeah, I really enjoyed it.

Q. Danny, you reside here in San Diego now; is that correct?

DANNY LIST: Yes, I do.

Q. Where do you play your golf around here and what's your familiarity level with Torrey Pines South?

DANNY LIST: Yeah, so I haven't had -- I've played Torrey a few times, not much, only a handful of times. It's not the easiest to get a tee time out here most of the time.

I play at The Grand in Del Mar. A part of the reason for coming to San Diego is the former director of golf was a U-Dub Husky like myself, Shawn Cox, and he gave me a good agreement to come out, great facilities. It's a really good spot.

Q. You mentioned Tiger Woods, who obviously is the tournament host. He was going to play and he's not going to play. What's been your experience like? Have you met him? Have you hung out with him? Have you talked to him on the phone? And obviously what was it like kind of watching him as a boy -- I'm assuming you watched a lot of golf on television and he was central to all of that?

DANNY LIST: Yeah, I haven't really had a chance to meet him yet. I'm hoping -- hopefully we'll get to meet him this week. Obviously some things are out of our control.

Yeah, I think I've spent probably 1,000 hours watching Tiger Woods hit a golf ball back in Ghana where I spent my early years. We were about eight hours ahead most of the time of the U.S. so it was a good time in the mornings when the PGA TOUR was on, I was done with school and I was able to turn it on. Yeah, I got to watch him a lot, for sure.

Q. And then just last one from me: What is your sort of end game? Would you like to be a global player like Rory playing here and DP World Tour as well? What do you sort of -- how do you envision your career unfolding?

DANNY LIST: Yeah, I think my main goal is to be a regular player on the PGA TOUR, but I think there's definitely a lot of value to being a global player and being able to impact the game on a global scale.

I think I would like to kind of hang around what Rory does a bit and be able to travel the world a lot and play golf.

Q. Following up on that about impacting the game, can you explain what you're doing as far as your foundation and also can you give us a brief background of how you got started in golf, how big is golf in Ghana, that sort of thing?

DANNY LIST: Yeah, so I got started in golf at probably 2 or 3 years old. I was gifted some plastic clubs and we just hit it around the house.

There aren't many golf courses in Ghana, there are I would say less than 10 in the whole country and the conditions of the golf courses are pretty shocking for the most part.

Yeah, so as far as my foundation, I was over there a few years ago on holiday and growing up there, there were never any other kids that I would play with. All my mates would be playing soccer or basketball, whatever it may be.

I started to hear and see a little bit more of the interest from kids in the area in the local village that there would be a three-foot kid playing with a four-foot golf club. So I can see the love and the desire for the game is there and it just started off, OK, I can help out with some equipment, I could throw some clinics and teach the basics to these kids. That's kind of how it started and it's just grown very organically where we've got some support from various entities around the country that they've seen the traction that it's bringing and the way that the love of the game is growing over there.

So to now where kids are -- we have kids that are traveling internationally to play in events in the U.K. One of the young girls, she's the best junior in the country, Afi, she is 15 years old and we were able to send her to the U.K. for a few months last summer and she could test her skills against kids in the U.K. She had never really got to putt on fast greens or anything like that, so she learned a lot.

Yeah, those kinds of opportunities and that exposure is what we're really trying to give to the kids.

Q. How did you progress from Ghana to the University of Washington?

DANNY LIST: Yeah, so I was able to earn a scholarship to school in the U.K. called Wellington. That was at about 13 years old. Prior to that, anytime I would play any junior event internationally I would come over and I would just get waxed by everyone else, come in almost dead last thinking maybe it was partly me. But wherever I would go, England wasn't too far from Ghana so if I got to play a tournament there, I had never seen greens like that. Where I grew up the greens are probably a 2 on the Stimpmeter. It wasn't the easiest kind of transition.

But yeah, there was a scholarship available at that school and I went into the trial and I won it. My mum and I, we made a tough decision, it wasn't easy. And then she decided that yeah, send me over there and see where it takes me. Managed to do well in junior golf over

there and win a few things. That's how I got recruited to Washington.

Q. Where was this range that you got the call on?

DANNY LIST: It was at The Grand in San Diego, yeah.

Q. And when you said you were 2 or 3 when you started, who got you into the game? Who had the love and where did their interest in it come from?

DANNY LIST: Yeah, so my uncle, he grew up as a caddie at that same local golf course, so he was mostly a soccer player but he was -- yeah, he was able to learn the game through that. So he taught me a lot in my early years.

Q. What age did you think you would pursue a career in this game?

DANNY LIST: Probably a bit deluded, but maybe 9. Where I seriously thought it was a possibility was probably around 17, 17 or so, kind of when -- that was kind of when I started to really progress.

Q. Do you know how you injured your back and what was the amount of time that you were away from the game due to it?

DANNY LIST: Yeah, so I had a stress fracture in my L4-L5. I'm a fairly slight guy, I'm not the biggest lad, I weigh close to 180 pounds, but prior to that injury I was about mid 150s. I was just putting a ton of stress on my body the way I was swinging it, getting a little bit of reverse spine angle and eventually just gave out. Wasn't doing the right stuff in the gym or eating the right stuff. With the stress of the professional golf life and the schedule, it kind of caught up to me a bit.

Q. What year was that?

DANNY LIST: That was 2023, so I was out for a year. I didn't start swinging again until maybe a year ago, around about this time last year.

Q. This is kind of a weird one, Danny, but how does the process work where if your mother's from Ghana and your father's Australian and you were born in Macon? How'd that happen? Nothing against Macon.

DANNY LIST: My mom was just visiting my aunt, yeah, and the doctor told her she couldn't fly home so had to stick around for a bit more.

Q. You and Russell Henley, OK. How do you decide under which flag to play? You're under the Australian flag. Did you have options?

DANNY LIST: Yeah, I kind of wish I could do two, I would love to represent Ghana and

Australia. Through my junior golf and amateur golf, Golf Australia was quite supportive and would do the training camps and the team stuff. There was much more possibility for support on various fronts whether it was coaching or financial from Australia than Ghana. That was pretty much the main reasoning.

Q. Did you play Qatar?

DANNY LIST: I did play in Qatar, yeah.

Q. What status do you have?

DANNY LIST: I feel my full DP card.

Q. From Q-School?

DANNY LIST: From Q-School, yeah.

Q. A couple more quick ones. Who's your coach now?

DANNY LIST: I work with Me and My Golf, yeah, two British lads, Andy and Pierce.

Q. What are your expectations for this week?

DANNY LIST: My expectation is just to have a good, fun week. Whatever happens on the golf course is all gravy.

Q. What did you -- did you play today at all?

DANNY LIST: No, I just did a bit of practice today.

Q. I saw you out there yesterday. What are your thoughts on the conditions and how the course is playing?

DANNY LIST: I was saying to my coaches Torrey's looking so pure right now. Whatever they've done in these few weeks since the Farmers, they've crushed it. It's looking amazing.

MODERATOR: Danny, you finished third just a couple weeks ago in Africa on a Challenge Tour event or HotelPlanner Tour now, the name change, so you're bringing in some pretty good form. What are the strengths of your game and what do you think you need to do at Torrey Pines to be successful?

DANNY LIST: Yeah, I feel as though I usually say my two strengths would be my driving and my midrange putting. So normally for me if those two things are firing, that's conducive to some good scores for me mostly.

MODERATOR: We appreciate your time and good luck this week.

DANNY LIST: Thank you.