

PRE-TOURNAMENT PRESS CONFERENCE
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HENRIK STENSON



Q. We're now joined by Henrik Stenson, making his first start as a PGA TOUR Champions member here at The Ally Challenge. Just to start, how good is it to be out here?

HENRIK STENSON: Yeah, it's great. This seems to be a very, very nice venue. I never played it back in the day, so it's a first for me.

Yeah, a lot of familiar faces, guys that I played with and competed against a lot over the years. Yeah, good to be out here. I had a chance to catch up with some of them already since I played three senior majors earlier this season. Yeah, all in all, it's great.

Q. You mentioned those three senior majors, the last one being in July. Just how are you feeling about your game coming into this week?

HENRIK STENSON: I played in Denmark a week and a half ago and missed the cut by a few shots there. Yeah, we need to try and be a little bit better. All in all, it's been more positives I'd say than negatives. I had eight-and-a-half months' break from competition and before I went on that break it wasn't like I was playing great before that either. So you can't really go on a long break and then expect to be fantastic when you pick up again. So I've got some work to do, but we've got patience and I'm just trying to get into the processes of doing the things I know I need to do to play better. If I do that, over time the results should come.

Q. What have you learned from your previous three events about the Champions Tour?

HENRIK STENSON: I think the atmosphere and the vibe is a little bit more relaxed, I'd say, early part of the week, but then once the competition starts, it's in the guys' DNA, we've done this for anything from 15 to 20 to 30-plus years. It's competition, guys want to win, guys want to play well, they want to beat everyone. It's going to be the same here. If you're playing golf these days, professional golf on any tour, younger tours or older tours, you've got to play well to win. You've got to bring game if you want to be up there on the leaderboard. Yeah, that's what I expect and that's why I need to put some good work in to make sure I can try and challenge that.

Q. Have you played Warwick Hills before? Have you been here before?

HENRIK STENSON: First time. Been in the Detroit area a number of times, but I never really played summer schedule on the PGA TOUR, and this tournament I think was the first couple of years when I was playing PGA TOUR events, it was on the schedule but I was

always back in Europe when this event was on. It's a first for me.

Q. Have you talked to any of the fellow players about this venue? What are you hearing about it and what do you expect?

HENRIK STENSON: Just it's a great community, and coming back as a Champions Tour event about, I don't know, six, seven years ago, something like that, it's always great for an established venue and a place that's hosted tournaments in the past to get another one. I'm sure that will be very welcomed by the fans in the community.

And the golf course I've yet to set foot on. I just did some practice yesterday and heading out now playing pro-am in the afternoon and then another pro-am tomorrow morning. I even asked if I could sleep in the clubhouse because afternoon pro-am today, morning pro-am tomorrow, so it will be a quick turnaround.

Q. Given all the noise on your past tour, what do you think the future of LIV is?

HENRIK STENSON: Your guess is as good as mine. Clearly, I've got some friends who are playing there and I know some people that are connected with teams and the tour, but yeah, at this point there's a lot of moving parts, a lot of things up in the air. I've got no idea. I'll keep on watching the news the same as you.

Q. And this week's the Tour Championship. Thirteen years ago you won the Tour Championship en route to the FedExCup. What do you remember about that week?

HENRIK STENSON: Yeah, obviously we don't want to overshadow the guys at East Lake here this week by causing too much fireworks.

Yeah, for me it was really, looking back at it, one of the highlights. I came in second ranked, I go out with Tiger in the last group on Thursday and I'd say I gave him a good beating, played a really solid first round and that kind of set me up for the week and I went on to win the Tour Championship and the FedExCup. Yeah, definitely one of the highlights of my career.