

PRE-TOURNAMENT PRESS CONFERENCE
October 1, 2026

RETIEF GOOSEN



Q. Retief, welcome to Pennsylvania. Take us through, you've walked the course a little bit, what are your thoughts on the new event and the course so far?

RETIEF GOOSEN: Well, the course is in excellent condition. I mean, I think with all the rain they've had up here, it's going to play pretty long, too. There's not going to be much roll-out, and the rough is up, so it's going to play tricky.

You better get your hiking boots on this week, it's a hilly golf course. It's going to be a stern test for a lot of guys getting around some of these hills. Very much looking forward to the week. So far the hospitality's been great and we're having fun.

Q. Does this kind of classical architecture golf course, William Flynn design, fit your eye? Do you like it? What do you think is going to be needed most importantly?

RETIEF GOOSEN: He did Shinnecock, didn't he? I quite like Shinnecock so I'm sure I'm going to like this one, too. It's going to be tricky and hard. Hopefully by the end of the week I can stand here with the trophy and then I'll really tell you what I think about it.

Q. Does that style of architecture, that older, classical stuff that you see here in the northeast United States, is that the kind of golf course you really like?

RETIEF GOOSEN: I do. I must say I'm a bit more fan of the old-style courses, not these massive run-off stuff that every golf course seems to be designed to now. I like rough around the greens and bunkers. You know, it's still great skill you need. Yeah, like I said, these big run-offs, not a big fan.

Q. When you won the U.S. Opens you were putting great. How's the putting right now?

RETIEF GOOSEN: Great, I think. No, I putted yesterday and the greens are running beautifully. I'm sure they're going to speed up a little bit as the week goes on. Everybody seems to be very happy with the setup.

Q. What do you make -- we've seen guys go on runs. What do you make of what Zach and Stewart's doing this year?

RETIEF GOOSEN: Well, you know, we were all hoping that somebody's going to come and replace Langer. I was hoping it was me, but I didn't quite get on a roll like Langer.



But it's nice to see these two guys going head to head and fighting it out for the title pretty much at the end of the year. I think unless one of the guys below them starts winning, finishing ahead of those two guys, you've got a chance.

But it's great to see Zach doing so well and Stewart obviously cooled down a little bit since the beginning of the year, but these last few six events it's going to be exciting stuff for the Charles Schwab Cup.

Q. So leading into that, what do you make or think the right balance is in the Playoffs with what guys have done all season? Do you like the point structure? Do you think -- you know, what if one of those two guys don't win it?

RETIEF GOOSEN: Well, I mean, the point structure's good. I can't see, you know, it's all about how you play the whole of the season. Unlike the FedExCup, I find it quite weird that you can win six times in the season and if you don't win the final event, you don't win the FedExCup, so what's the use of playing well during the year?

But I think just straight down money list, if you play well, you deserve to win.

Q. But that happened to Bernie out here, he won seven times and didn't win the Schwab Cup.

RETIEF GOOSEN: Really? How did that work?

Q. Well, because he got double points --

RETIEF GOOSEN: Oh, the double points.

Q. -- for the last three events.

RETIEF GOOSEN: Yeah, the last few events get double points, but I suppose it adds a little bit of pressure on those guys that's ahead and gives the guys that are a little bit behind a chance to catch up, which guys like me, you know? So if I play great in the last events, who knows where I could finish.

Yeah, I suppose it is a tricky one. Maybe they should go back to maybe keeping it straight out as it is, but I suppose they don't want the guy to win it before the final event. They're trying to just keep it interesting.

Q. Three straight top-5s heading into this week. You mentioned your putting. Have there been any other big changes to your game that somebody figured out over the last couple months?

RETIEF GOOSEN: Putting has been the key for me in the last three events. I mean, been making some monster putts because I keep hitting it far away from the flag. So I need to



somehow dial in and hit it a bit closer. But my driving has probably been the issue. Coming out of the rough, it's not easy to get close to the hole. So my driving needs to be a little more down the middle, give myself chances to get close to the hole.

Q. When you feel like you're on a stretch of good putting, is it mental for you, is it more confidence, or is it something mechanical?

RETIEF GOOSEN: It's typically, it's definitely a mental thing when you're putting well. You see the lines perfect, you just start it over there and it goes in. You're not really thinking like another part of the game that you're really trying to fix and you get quite technical. So putting is a feel game, it's all about speed and line, there's no strength involved or anything like that. Definitely, if your eyes are zoomed in and you see the lines, you've got a good chance of making it.

Q. Retief, what do you remember about the crowd support here when you played the Senior Open at Saucon Valley a couple years ago?

RETIEF GOOSEN: It was a great event. No, we had great support back then. Looking at the setup here this week, they've got it nicely set up, so hopefully we get good support. The weather's looking great. Sunday is getting better and better, which is nice.

No, we are all excited about this event. At the end of the day it's also all about charity, the charity benefiting from the event from everybody coming out so it's great to see.

Q. How did your preparation alter based on the fact that you hadn't played this golf course before? Usually you're making a stop at places you stopped at before. Does this add to your preparation time and did you play more practice rounds or do you intend to play --

RETIEF GOOSEN: No, for me it's just the one pro-am tee times. You know, sometimes when you don't know where all the trouble is, it's a good thing. What you do is you see the fairway and the green and off you go. Sometimes it's a good thing not to overprepare for an event. But you need to know especially around the greens where you can and can't go.

So for me, the main thing is really in the pro-am just making sure I know more or less where all the pins are going to be; they're going to be in the three toughest spots on every green. So you just sort of work out in your mind a little bit can't go there, you can't -- if you hit it over there, you might have a chance. So it's definitely more of a mental preparation for the golf course than really physically going out to play.

