PRE-TOURNAMENT INTERVIEW: MICHAEL ALLEN

April 19, 2017



MICHAEL ALLEN: Anyhow, so we played the pro-am. The golf course was absolutely fantastic, perfect out here. A little soft, a couple of wedges were spinning a lot. I haven't played the other course. I think it's -- my caddie's walked it, he said it's extremely wet. So hopefully if we don't get any rain, we can have a good chance of getting in a decent tournament.

Overall, you know, you kind of go away and you make the first drive in and you kind of forget how nice it is. You drive in and you see all the legends and their pictures, so you kind of get a real feel of excitement coming back in and it's really neat to get back here. You pull up and kind of get out here and you remember how beautiful this place really is. It's fantastic to be back and looking forward to a great week.

Q. You played all over the world. How does this stack up? I mean, when you actually do get here and sit back and realize it. We've heard Gary Player raves about this place.

MICHAEL ALLEN: It's hot, it's humid.

Q. It's only April.

MICHAEL ALLEN: Yeah, I know. Look at this thing, look at the design and the rocks. You get inside and you look around this whole place, it's just amazing what he's done, you know? And again, the golf course is great, too. We talked earlier about the other course. The other course always plays easier than this par 3. The par 3's tough.

Yeah, I this is a unique spot in the world for sure. It's out in the middle of the country and who would really think that you've got this kind of place, this little oasis out here. I know we're so lucky to be -- I personally am very lucky to be a part of this whole thing. It's always just phenomenal to get back.

Q. You look at the designers, you've got Tom Fazio over there, Coore-Crenshaw with a new course, and yesterday they announced Tiger Woods opening a course there. What is the ceiling for this area as far as a golf resort destination?

MICHAEL ALLEN: Well, obviously it's phenomenal. There's great resorts and hotels around here, too. I think a Michael Allen golf course would be a great addition. I could kind of get out a little bit different. You know, no one's ever done that before, so I think that would be great.

Q. A Mr. Steak tee box maybe?

MICHAEL ALLEN: Yeah, there you go, a Mr. Steak tee box. We could do steaks on the third hole or the fifth hole. Yeah, so I think that would be really great. It would probably kick things into gear a little bit.

Q. Get the steaks from cattle that's grown in the area.

MICHAEL ALLEN: It's probably right here.

Q. From College of the Ozarks.

MICHAEL ALLEN: We could get a little farm going, exactly. Yeah, there's a lot of options. We could really do some great things around here, I think. We could make it incorporating into golf, too. Make it 10 holes, 12 holes. That's as far as I go when I'm playing good anyhow, after that it's usually downhill.

Q. You're partnering with Daly this week?

MICHAEL ALLEN: Yeah.

Q. How did that decision get made?

MICHAEL ALLEN: Kind of like last year, I wasn't really going to play and just some other things; my daughter's going on, I'd like to see them. So I thought I would, and I had Woody. There were only a few options and Woody was a great choice and we had a great time together and very successful obviously. But John was kind of bugging me all year and the Tour kind of really wanted him to play. So he's a friend and I just thought it would be fun. I like to play with John. I'd like to play with Woody again because we had a good time, but John has just kind of been a friend for a long time, I thought it would be a good time.

Q. How do you think he's adjusting to the Champions Tour? I think it's coming up on one year, he's played the fully swing.

MICHAEL ALLEN: Yeah, I think he wants to play better. I've played with him a number of times out here and I think he's overall from tee to green playing pretty well. He gets all frustrated with his putting, so me and my caddie Pete, we talked about it a little bit about trying to keep him going this week in case he kind of starts getting negative and down. That's kind of one of our goals, but my goal also is to go out and play hard.

But I think as far as him adjusting, you know, think he's a little frustrated so far. I think he had a good week last week so I think that will be really good for him. He's a great addition to the tour, we really need him to play well because people love to watch him. So hopefully he'll get out and just get his putting going. I think that's the biggest thing, to get competitive with that. No one can be competitive playing golf if they're not a good putter, just no one.