PRE-TOURNAMENT INTERVIEW: FRED COUPLES

April 19, 2017



Q. Can you talk about your opinion of the area and the courses and the facility?

FRED COUPLES: Well, I got here last night and drove here this morning. It's beautiful, but I don't know anything about the courses. My partner's Jay Haas, who almost won a couple years ago with Peter Jacobsen, so I told him he had better keep playing with him. And then finally Peter couldn't play, so I came to play with Jay-bird. I've heard all about it. Watched it on TV, it looks spectacular. I'm going to be play the big course and then hopefully maybe drive around the par 3 when we're done.

Q. They talk about a lot of rain coming. Is that something you think about?

FRED COUPLES: Well, I grew up in Seattle so we played in the rain all the time but we didn't get much lightning or thunder. Here I believe that's what they're talking about, so we may be on and off the course a few times. It's not much fun, you know. You get ready to play and maybe it will miss us, I don't really know. I'm not a -- you know, I can look at the phone and say, but I don't know when people say it's coming out of here, it's coming in the next 20 minutes, I don't really pay much attention. But we don't need that kind of rain, we want to play and have fun.

Q. Good performance at the Masters there. Are you playing some good golf right now?

FRED COUPLES: Yeah. I worked hard to get ready for that. It helped my score and helped everyone else's maybe go a little higher than normal so that was advantageous. But then I took a week off and I played Tuesday, yesterday, and hit balls and then came here. So I'm a little rusty because that was just lot of work and I wanted to get away for a week, but I'm excited to be here. As Jay said, "You can rely on me for a lot of holes," so that's what I'm going to do.

Q. So throw the saddle on him and kind of --

FRED COUPLES: I usually in best ball things always throw the saddle on my parter, it's much easier and I just walk around, to be honest with you. Jay and I played in the old best ball and he played really, really well. He's a great putter. And honestly, I wasn't that big of a help and we still finished up there two or three years in a row. And like I said, I was going to come here whatever year it was and my back wasn't very well. So he and Peter played, and so now I'm squeezing in for Peter.

Q. Your health is good now, though?

FRED COUPLES: I feel good, yes. I feel good.

Q. The temperature might dip into the 50s.

FRED COUPLES: That's no fun, yeah.

Q. Will that affect your back at all?

FRED COUPLES: You know, it was cold at Augusta and I got up really early and I had a guy there helping me that week, so here I'll coming into the trailer and hopefully it will warm it up. Great question. I mean, I don't want to say it's good or bad, you know, but I'd rather play in the warm weather now. Twenty years ago when my back was bad, I felt it was good because if I was cold, everyone should be cold. And I'm always stiff, so it was kind of a selfish way of looking at it. Now (inaudible) but on the par 3 that might be a blessing if it's 50 degrees and we're hitting 9-irons and 8-irons, but if it's drivers and stuff, then I'll really rely on Jay.