

**FRED COUPLES**

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**Q. (No microphone.)**

**FRED COUPLES:** Awesome. I got in Wednesday night and practiced a little, played yesterday, and out here today and it was 85 yesterday or 80 degrees and a lot cooler today. So I'm just trying to come out and play and get ready for tomorrow.

**Q. What do you like most about this tournament?**

**FRED COUPLES:** Well, coming home, seeing family. They're out here right now. I don't know how many holes they're going to watch. It's fun to come back and play. Obviously, we all know I grew up here and this golf course wasn't here when I was young, and I haven't lived here since I got on the Tour, but I like coming up here and playing. It's a fun golf course. I play a lot of holes well. I struggle on two or three of them and I'm hoping this year that might change a little bit.

**Q. What do you tell players who have never been up here before just about the tournament, just being up here in this part of the country?**

**FRED COUPLES:** You know, oddly enough, they usually come up to me and say, wow, it's unbelievable, getting in and driving over the floating bridge and going into Bellevue. So I don't usually push it too hard. They all like the course. You know, it's a little bit of a bomber's paradise, and on the Champions Tour we're not all bombers, so there's some advantages to this course. You know, that helps me.

But as far as the city, people have a blast here. It's a great event, Boeing does a phenomenal job. All the players love it. Jimmy says it's a good field and I'm looking around and Darren Clark and Chris DiMarco are the new rookies and I'm playing with both of them tomorrow, so that will be very fun.

**Q. What do you expect out of the course?**

**FRED COUPLES:** Yeah. Well, I heard it's dry and the greens are a little firmer. The fairways aren't, but it's in great shape. So today, you know, if it says like this tomorrow, then it will be a good practice round because if it was 80 today and it got 60 tomorrow, I'm not going to hit the ball nearly as far and I'll be hitting a lot longer clubs. So it will be a good day. But, you know, I enjoy coming up here because I think they picked a good course to play. And we have so many in Seattle, it would almost be fun, if we could, to move it around and play all the top courses around here, but we're at Snoqualmie and it's a good spot.

**Q. Three third-place finishes, what do you got to do to finally get a win here?**

**FRED COUPLES:** Well, those holes I was talking about, there's a couple holes, it's really the par 5s. A lot of them don't fit my eye on the second shot, which doesn't make any sense to anyone. And I certainly, if they've come out and watched, I don't hit really good second shots into these things. The 15th is brutal. I know I'm laying up there every year. I'm going to try and have a 90-yard shot, I'm pretty sure I'll have a birdie putt. In past years, even when I've come back, I've had good last days, I butcher that hole.

No. 18 I like, I do pretty well on, but the par 5s I need to play better. And I don't know what that is. I don't know if that's 2 under a round, which would be 6 under for the tournament and then go from there. But some of the harder holes I play pretty well, so it kind of evens out. But really, the one time I finished third, I had a really good Sunday. I was not really close to the leaders and it was a fun, hot day. I have to play better on the par 5s.

**Q. The pressure of playing in your hometown, some guys put more pressure. What is it -- explain that. I mean, what is the extra pressure?**

**FRED COUPLES:** To be honest with you, I think when I played up here in the PGA when I was much younger and Vijay won, I felt a lot more pressure because it was really a perfect chance for me to come and -- I didn't play Sahalee much, that's where we played, but now I don't feel any more pressure playing here than I would anywhere else. I don't know if that's because I'm 100 years old.

But I will say that when I played the PGA, when I teed off, I was playing really well and I barely made the cut and worked my way down the ladder on Saturday and Sunday, but I was a nonfactor and that was really disappointing. But here it's just a fun time. When I tee off on Friday, I'll be the same as any other tournament, I'll be a little edgy, a little antsy to get going. Hopefully, hit a good tee shot and keep going.

**Q. And then there's not many times you have 50-year-old rookies, but you get both of them.**

**FRED COUPLES:** Yeah.

**Q. Do you think they'll be picking your brain quite a bit? Even though it's golf, it's still a different --**

**FRED COUPLES:** I know there will be a lot of chatter, you know, golf and football. Or football, which would be for Darren, soccer, but for Chris DiMarco, Florida football, so it will be fun. I haven't seen Chris in a long time. Darren I see more, but I don't even know the last time I saw Chris, but it will be a good pairing.

And I've said that in the paper last week when I called in here that the greatest thing about the Champions Tour for me is the pairings that I get. Then you go by score and you have to

earn, but I played with Jay Haas and I'll play with Darren Clarke and I'll play with Miguel and I play with Bernhard Langer all the time. Those are guys, you know, that periodically through my career I kind of battled with and now we're out here playing normally every Friday, and then it goes from there by what you shoot. And if you're paired with Bernhard, you know you're in good shape.