

PRE-TOURNAMENT INTERVIEW
August 15, 2018



JOEY SINDELAR

MAUREEN RADZAVICZ: It's your 32nd start here.

JOEY SINDELAR: I had no idea.

MAUREEN RADZAVICZ: Yeah, between this and the BC Open.

JOEY SINDELAR: Oh, my gosh, Maureen, I had no idea. That's fun. Missed one, I think I missed the first of this because I wasn't old enough. Might have missed one for surgery and then -- wow, that's cool, 32, love it, love it. Thanks for that reminder. Am I doing a speech?

Q. Are you ready?

JOEY SINDELAR: No, you can't be bashful, fire away.

Q. So 32nd time back here at En-Joie. What is so special about this course for you?

JOEY SINDELAR: Well, what's really cool for me. And if Mike Hulbert was here, he would tell you the same thing. We stood on this tee as very nervous freshmen in high school at the sectional tournament when there wasn't a tree in sight and the course was entirely different. It started for us way, way back then. So 32 years, plus all those great high school memories.

It's just one of those places besides being close to home, I had success here and a lot of people -- a lot of these guys have a tournament very near where they live and some do well and some don't, and for some reason I have. I don't know the formula, but it's been really, really fun and it's really, really enjoyable to be on the inside of the ropes when your friends on the outside of the ropes are enjoying what's going on. It's been just a really cool ride.

Q. Like you mentioned, you've had a lot of success here at this course. What about the course suits your game well?

JOEY SINDELAR: You know, I don't know, to be honest with you. You know, this course is not, I don't think, defined by any skill set. It's not a bomber's course, but yet length is huge on the par 5s. And it's not for the straightest hitter, but yet there are some really narrow shots. And there are some long holes and some short holes, and I think I make putts here. So I don't know. But I'm going to play dumb and do what I've been doing and see what happens.

Q. Having played here so often, what's it like seeing the condition that the course is

in?

JOEY SINDELAR: Well, I haven't seen it yet with this rain, but I can certainly imagine it. The sad part for us is, and I'm very willing to talk right through Olin's backswing, but when an event like this happens, when a weather event like this happens, often we find that the tournament folks come and apologize to us. It's like we get wet sometimes during the year. What makes me unhappy is that I know how hard John and his crew have worked since the next day after last year to get this done and they're the ones that are rained on and that's why it's too bad. We'll get through whatever the course is. We can play the greens. Because they were remodeled a couple years ago, they're all perched up in the air. They'll be fine assuming we don't get more rain or lightning. So we do what we'll do.

Part of the good news about the Champions Tour is we only have 80 people versus the old 156. We have half the field, so we can be nimble. We don't need a whole day to get everybody through. We can try to get out in the morning; if it doesn't happen, do it in the afternoon. So we'll figure something out.

Q. This question might make you think for a second, but --

JOEY SINDELAR: I've got to go get my coffee.

Q. But do you ever kind of sit back and realize the history that this course has, for you especially as you won the BC Open here and now you've been playing on the Champions Tour for a decade, I believe. Are there any small moments that really turned into big ones that is really stick out to you?

JOEY SINDELAR: You know, there's all kinds of things that have happened. Winning in '85 was only my second win ever, I had won earlier in '85, so that was huge.

In '87, my caddie who then later became -- John Bucknell (ph) who later became my caddie of 27 years who passed away a couple years ago, had to leave in '87 to go back and tend to his dad who became ill and my dad stepped in and caddied and we won the tournament. So that was a huge thrill.

I don't even remember which of those two years I had a hole-in-one out by the river to kind of take the lead and seal that one. On that very same hole seven or eight years ago with my son on the bag, I was in the left bunker playing pretty good, hit it in the left bunker on the par 3. What are we talking, 14 probably is a par 3, and then -- I don't remember the numbers but I remember the hole -- and I skulled my bunker shot into the water and made double. It deflated, of course, us and him, me and him and the crowd that was there.

But then birdied the last three or four holes coming in to recover and felt great about it. And what a cool lesson for me because he's wanted to be a golfer, still chasing it, so what a cool thing for him to see that you've got to keep fighting. This is golf, golf is really ugly more than occasionally and you've got to fight through it.

So yeah, there's been just a million things here. All the days of Alex, yeah, my gosh and Mike Norman, John and the evolutions of the golf course and then the stepping in of Dick's Sporting Goods, who have just breathed life into the whole thing, the facilities, the grounds and the tournament itself. It's just been a really, really good thing to witness and to watch. Sorry to be so lengthy here, but to watch how they've had to morph, particularly in the old days -- now, this is one of our premier events on the Champions Tour, but on the regular Tour small-market town, ridiculously small-market town when in the '80s that was okay, but then in the '90s the bigger markets became important and TV and all the costs. And then beyond that, the things, the hoops they jump through to make this tournament viable, it's a success story that deserves a really cool book.

Q. Do you feel like you have the same -- like when you enter each year coming here, is this that same feeling or is there every kind of (inaudible)?

JOEY SINDELAR: It's kind of the same, but it's in a really great way. "Same" sounds ordinary and it's not. It's the flashback to all those things. You know, last year driving in the last day being in the top-5 or 7 or whatever I was and you pull in and you go, hmm, I wonder what the story will be in six hours, and I know that on this golf course I've done good and I've gone bad. You don't know what you're going to get, you just go out there and do your best. The mind becomes very busy because it's really cool that I get to see a lot of people who have cheered for me my whole life here. This is the place where -- it's great for a lot of reasons.

Q. You had a very strong finish here last year. Do you feel like this is your time to get that Champions Tour win?

JOEY SINDELAR: I say that every week, you know, you just keep trying. The problem is, I'm getting older and they're getting better and younger. They're still letting them in at age 50. We're trying to shut that off, we're trying to raise it up a little bit.

You know, it's fun to come to a place where you have success because it lets you know that if it's possible here, we also know that it's possible anywhere. My regular Tour career, I won in Quad Cities and I almost never did anything good any of the other 25 years I played there. It's a strange thing we do and nobody knows really why whatever happens, happens, but we show up and keep trying. It's our traveling circus.