

**PNC Father/Son Challenge
Pre-Tournament Interviews
Dec. 14, 2018**

**Jim Furyk
Mike Furyk**

Your first time playing in this event, what made you want to come to the PNC Father/Son Challenge

Jim Furyk: I think we just wanted to have fun, have a good time. My dad and I have been playing golf together a long time, he's been my teacher my whole career so I think once they added the son/Father option last year, I was injured so we talked about it but I was unable to play so for me I just wanted a good time and to have some fun.

Mike Furyk: The only think better than playing four days with your son is going fishing four days with your son. It is a really good chance for us to get together. This started when he was 12, we started playing golf together and I've been teaching him, so for us to come down here and play golf together is just natural.

Years ago Johnny Miller had a tournament, two man scramble called the Champions Challenge. We played that a couple of years. In 2003 he won the US Open and Mike Weir won the Masters. They were born on the same day same year, the crowd they had was as big as we've seen. We ended up playing together and nipping them by one. We were good friends so we razzed them pretty good.

You've coached Jim your whole life but how much golf do you actually play with him, is this a treat?

Mike Furyk: oh yeah, we play a good bit together. When I play golf, I don't play that much because I am a full-time fisherman, part time golfer these days. I came home, I was in Arizona fishing for 6-7 months and hadn't hit a ball, Jim rang me and said, hey, let's go play the Father/Son, I said, you're making me go back to work. To play golf, you have to practice, I've been grinding, I really have.

How good is your game right now?

Mike Furyk: I'm 71 so I hit some really good shots and some really bad shots, it's the in-between.

Jim Furyk: His biggest fear was the distance, the length of the course

Mike Furyk: When you are 71, if I have to play from where these guys play then it isn't worth playing. I may as well walk around with some irons and a putter. I'm having some fun on the plus 70 tees, which give me a chance to be part of the game. What could be better right now for me is consistency but then again, you have to play and practice more, and I don't want to do that. That's work.

You're paired with the Kuchar's tomorrow, any side bets?

Jim Furyk: Not that I know of. I think Matt and I expect that my Dad and Peter to be somewhat nervous, we just really want them to relax have some fun and the score is secondary. Everyone wants to play well, we are all competitive but the score is so far down the list on what's important this week I'm just going to have some fun with my Dad, hit some good shots, some bad shots but have fun doing it.

Did you play in any US Open Qualifiers?

Mike Furyk: Yeah back when I was a club pro, when I was a club pro, I worked hard at my game and was pretty good for a club pro. I loved working on my game but like I said, that's a lot of years ago. I was a club pro when he was born. I've been doing this for over 50 years. It's time to take some time off and go fishing.

All these years later, what's it like having a son that has won the US Open and captained the Ryder Cup?

Mike Furyk: It's phenomenal. It's a dream come true. That was never the plan. We just tried to get a little better every year. If you help me we'll get to where I want to go. It is like going up a ladder one rung at a time, not 3 or 4. That's basically what happened. He had the drive and the desire, I never pushed him.

Was there ever a moment that you realized your son was going to make it as a Tour pro?

Mike Furyk: I can't really say that. There were times in sport, he was a quarterback, point guard in basketball, catcher in baseball. I knew he had a gift for sports so he kind of shocked me when he said he wanted to take up golf. He said the other sports are team sports and I like the individuality of golf.

How come you never changed his swing?

Mike Furyk: It didn't need changing, it's natural. When you are on the back nine of a Major if you are trying to win it down the stretch, if you have a manufactured swing against a natural swing, I think the natural swing guy wins it. Going back to the day, all the great players of the past had different swings.

Jim, where did you develop your mental toughness?

Jim Furyk: I think the families came from a blue collar background in Pittsburgh, both parents were tough, raised three kids and put them through school, I just grew up with a hard working work ethic. Be proud of yourself. I think a lot of it was just the way I was raised. I always enjoyed sports. As the seasons changed I just changed the sport.