

PRE-TOURNAMENT INTERVIEW
August 30, 2018



DAVIS LOVE III

JACKIE SERVAIS: Please welcome Davis Love III to the media center. Welcome to your debut here at the Shaw Charity Classic.

DAVIS LOVE III: Thank you.

JACKIE SERVAIS: How do you feel?

DAVIS LOVE III: I'm excited. I got to see the course today. I didn't get to play yesterday. Brought a veteran caddie in who's been around here a few times with Jay Haas and Billy Andrade, Tommy Lamb, so Tommy walked the course yesterday and pointed me around today. And I played with Brad Shaw and his son, so that really helped; had some local knowledge and some experience. Learned the course pretty well today, and the greens are great and the course is in really good shape, so I'm excited to get playing tomorrow.

JACKIE SERVAIS: You had a high finish at RBC, so you're very familiar about Canada. What is it that you like about this area and what will you take from that for this weekend?

DAVIS LOVE III: Well, every time I've been up here, whether it's Alberta or BC or the Canadian Open, people are just so nice. They love golf, they love sports. Even when I'm up here snowboarding they want to talk about golf. They're passionate about the game and they're always so friendly and hospitable. I had heard a lot about this tournament before I got here, but over the last 24 hours I've heard so much about what they're doing for charity and what a great impact this tournament's having on this community. So I'm excited to be here and help out. Hopefully being back here for many years to come.

JACKIE SERVAIS: With a top-10 finish this year, do you have any expectations for yourself this weekend?

DAVIS LOVE III: Well, I found out from the PGA TOUR Champions staff last night that I'm actually on the bubble for making the Playoffs, which I haven't really played enough, or when I've played, I haven't played well enough the last few years to even think about the Playoffs, so now I'm kind of focused on that. Obviously got to go a little bit to get in the first one and then see where it goes from there. I was planning on playing some regular Tour events at the start of the year. Obviously the RSM that I host has kind of been my focus in November, but you never know. Have a good week or two, maybe I'll make the Playoffs.

Q. Davis, with Freddie Couples pulling out, he's a fan favorite here, but can you just speak to some of the golf fans in Calgary that might not be avid golf fans, just speak to the field? Just World Golf Hall of Famers like yourself, speak of the field even

without people like Freddie, just how good it is?

DAVIS LOVE III: Yeah, they gave a stat just with three of us sitting on the stage last night, of eight guys in the room, 300-plus wins and five guys in the World Golf Hall of Fame just at a dinner last night. So the field here is really, really strong of players that people should recognize and remember.

I looked to the list, I saw Bernhard and Monty and Scott McCarron and a bunch of guys last night. Oh, man, I'm going to have to play really well if I want to compete this week. It's the same guys -- Jimenez. The same guys I've banged heads with for a long time.

I'll always remember my dad was asked when he was turning 50, "Are you going to play any on the Champions Tour," and he said, "No. I couldn't beat them when I was 40 and I couldn't beat them when I was 30, so why do you think I can beat them when I'm 50?"

So these are the same guys I've had to play against. I don't look at it as any different than when I played on the PGA TOUR, I have to shoot really low scores. So if you come out and watch, you're going to see names that you recognize shooting extremely low scores and playing high-level golf.

Q. Obviously just one look, but first impressions of what's the recipe for success on a golf course like this one?

DAVIS LOVE III: Well, I think, you know, the whole traditional words, hit a lot of fairways, a lot of greens and make a lot of putts. But you're going to have to hit it in the fairway to get enough good short birdie putts to compete, I think. So fairways hit and then putts per green hit. When you hit the greens, you're going to have to make some birdies. I think you have to play aggressively, but maybe conservatively for me or for the longer guys off the tee the first eight or nine holes, 10 holes maybe, and then after that you're going to have to really be aggressive into the green, you're going to have to hit it close. The greens all have kind of little sections to them. I was looking at the pin -- what we're predicting the pin placements. You're going to have to get it in the right part of the green or you're going to be putting over a hump or down the slope. Have to be very precise with second shots and putt well. I've watched a little bit of last year, seems like scores are very low and you're going to have to make a lot of birdies.

Q. What do you think about finishing hole? It's come down to it before in previous years, to that hole.

DAVIS LOVE III: I loved it today, I hit a really good drive and a really good 4-iron on the green, so I loved it today. But yeah, it could be tough, especially if it's not helping wind, hard to get on in 2. So it's nice to have a risk-reward hole there right at the end, exciting finish.

And then 16, you know, obviously there's a reason why there's a bunch of grandstands there. That's going to be a pivotal hole. It's very long, today was into the wind, it could be a

tough one. So some really good finishing holes coming in.

15, turned a par 5 into a par 4, that's a good driving hole. It's a really strong finish. I feel like you lay up a lot, as I said, starting off for me off the tee and it's more precision, then at the end you're going to have some middle irons, you're going to have some good drives and play a little bit more stronger game coming in.

Q. Questions about the Ryder Cup. A, how vivid still is the win in 2016 for you at home?

DAVIS LOVE III: It's very vivid, especially as much time and effort as we've been putting into this year's team. Every question I get from Jim Furyk, I just look back on '16 or '12 and decisions that we had to make back then. So it stays vivid, obviously a win. But 2012, we still go back a lot over and over that. The same group of guys -- Tiger, Steve Stricker, Jim Furyk, Davis Love -- around that '12 team and around the '16 team, so we're going to be around the '18 team as well, so we're relying on that and we're feeding off of that.

Phil Mickelson on the 18th green at Hazeltine after Ryan Moore finished his match, there was still another match or two coming up, he had a couple young players on the side of the green saying, "All right, we've got to get ready for pairs." That's the way we looked at it. That one was over, now let's start getting ready for an away game.

So it's going to be a little bit different attitude over there. We're going to have -- we're going to be the bad guy over there. We're going to have to really silence the crowd, but we're really excited about it.

Q. And one more about Paris. It's been over a century since the U.S. won away in Europe, but how excited are you, and I know the last (inaudible) been picked, but just the form guys like Koepka and DJ and Spieth and Reed and Justin Thomas, it must be exciting for you?

DAVIS LOVE III: Yeah, and the guys who finished 9th through 25th, a lot of them playing -- Bryson, Brandt Snedeker -- a lot of guys playing well that we're looking at. So our guys are playing well.

But when you look at their side, Darren and I, as soon as I ran into Darren Clarke last night, we started talking Ryder Cup. Their side's playing well, too. Their rookies are obviously a lot more experienced than they were in '16, so they're going to come in with a stronger team at home so it could be really close. It's obviously going to come down to who holes the most putts and who handles the pressure the best.

But both teams are really, really good. Our guys are hot. Obviously we have two more -- we have this week for three picks and another week at the BMW for the last pick. So hopefully guys continue form and keep playing well. They make the decision really hard for Captain Furyk, there are a lot of guys playing well.

Q. How would you characterize those chats with Darren? Is it trash talk or are you trying to get some inside info? How do you guys talk about the Ryder Cup?

DAVIS LOVE III: No, Darren and I have had a great relationship over the years both playing and in the Ryder Cup as assistant captains. We were both assistants in 2010 and we started kind of -- we knew we were going to be in this together for a long time. I'm disappointed he's not in it this year.

No, I have the utmost respect for Darren. He came to me after '12 in our team room, took me outside and sat me down and said, "What in the world were you thinking with that lineup?" That's how our relationship is. He can tell me whatever he wants to tell me.

And then this morning on the range he's sitting on a bench and he's texting my son in Europe asking if he needs any help while he's over there. That's the kind of guy Darren Clarke is. I don't think he was fishing for anything. He told me who he thought we should pick and who he thought Björn should pick and it was all the right guys, so I don't think he's that sneaky.

JACKIE SERVAIS: All right. Thank you.

DAVIS LOVE III: And he showed me a lot of good fishing pictures. He's been catching a lot of fish lately.