

PRE-TOURNAMENT INTERVIEW

April 24, 2019

FRED FUNK



FRED FUNK: (in progress)... in November. Kept trying to play through that, but that didn't work so good. And then summertime, my back started sending nerve pain or I had nerve pain down my hip and my leg. And that kind of pain, I never had nerve pain before and that was different than pain.

Q. How difficult was that just to be --

FRED FUNK: It was debilitating. I couldn't do anything. So I withdrew after four holes at the Chicago event and that was the last one I played. Then had back surgery and figured out it was coming from the back and not the hip.

Q. Right.

FRED FUNK: And did the L4-L5. Then every time kept trying to rehab and do everything and kept irritating the hamstring when I would come back. It started feeling a lot better, I started working with this guy in San Diego about a month ago just stretching a lot, really intense stretching program. First time I really engaged in stretching my hamstring. Usually every time I was stretching, I felt like I was tearing it. That's what it needed to do. It took some of the pressure off that hamstring, and where it feels like it's torn is up where it attaches to the butt bone there and behind the knee. So that's -- they had to elongate to take the tension off.

So I've got to keep working at that and hopefully I won't have any more setbacks, I hope, and I can keep moving forward. So that's the goal. I thought this was a great tournament to start, and playing a par 3 and then the big course, I'll rely on Dana and --

Q. Have somebody to lean on, too.

FRED FUNK: Yeah. Hopefully I can help him a little bit here and there. Played 12 holes with him yesterday, I quit after 12 because I just didn't want to go anymore. Dana was hitting it great. Hopefully he's not looking for a new partner already.

Q. I know Miguel Angel Jimenez does his stretching on the range. Do you do anything like that?

FRED FUNK: No, no, it's not that kind. No, it's not the cha-cha or anything that he does. I wish I did do that. I love watching him do that. He's amazing. Yeah, he's a great guy. A lot of characters out here and I miss that.

That's one thing that I really miss so much is the camaraderie out here, the brotherhood that we have out here, the competition. It's a hell of a gig we've got out here that from 50 on you can keep doing what you've done your whole life and just do what you love to do.

I didn't want to go out as if -- I wanted to go out on my own terms. If my game falls apart or as I get older and I can't compete, then yeah, I'll fall off. I don't want to just show up. But I didn't want to go out being hurt when I know when I feel good, I can still play at a high level. So hopefully I can still play at a high level when I get going again and I can, you know, just put myself in position to maybe win more than here or there. That's what I would love to do. Hopefully I can do that. If not, I'll reassess and figure out something from there. Right now I love being out here. The PGA TOUR Champions is really special and the guys are special. Truly, truly. The caddies, the players, all the guys that work the PGA TOUR Champions, it's just a big brotherhood out here. I love it, that's the way I look at it. I just love the guys. Everybody works extremely hard in trying to stay competitive because it is so competitive out here, it's tough.