

**RETIEF GOOSEN**

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**Q. Retief, you're just a few days since you turned 50. How long have you had this week and your debut on the PGA TOUR Champions circled on your calendar?**

**RETIEF GOOSEN:** Oh, yes, it's been coming for a number of years. Really last year was the first year I was sort of really starting to think about it and looking at last year's schedule, and then once they released 2019's schedule it was pretty much on my mind every day, you know, what I was going to do and how I was going to play my schedule.

But I would say I'm very excited. It's great to see faces that I haven't seen for a while, guys that I played with many years ago that I see again. I'm very much looking forward to getting out there and playing, and I think I'm planning on playing pretty much a full schedule.

**Q. Talk more about reuniting with all the guys that you grew up playing with, what's that been like and which players have you had the warmest welcomes from?**

**RETIEF GOOSEN:** Well, all of them so far. I mean, last night at the draw party, seen guys that I haven't seen for a while and that I haven't played with for a while. Get to chat and they're telling me a little bit about, you know, how relaxed it is out there, but the golf is serious. I expect it to be tough and you need to go low to win.

**Q. What are your expectations?**

**RETIEF GOOSEN:** Well, I haven't played much in the last four months. I played two events in the fall season, I played the Father-Son event in December and that's it.

Playing fit I'm definitely not, I haven't played at all. So my plan is to come out -- I'm playing the next five weeks, I'm playing four events here and one event in Puerto Rico on the PGA TOUR. So my plan is to get playing because I'm standing on the range and hitting balls, you need to get out there and play and find your swing on a golf course.

I don't really know what to expect. I sort of feel like I'm playing okay, but you've got to go out and make the scores.

**Q. What will you play on the PGA TOUR? Have you decided yet how much you're going to bounce back and forth?**

**RETIEF GOOSEN:** I haven't really decided. The thing I'm going to probably focus mostly on is the Champions Tour. I've been out on the main tours now for 28 or so years, I think I'm ready for a change, something new. Spend a bit more time with the family, too. I think I'm

going to probably play 90 percent of my events on the Champions Tour.

**Q. You haven't played yet, but there's probably some talk when people come out here and say, "We knew it was good but we didn't know how good the golf was out here." Have you gotten any sense of it being better than people think?**

**RETIEF GOOSEN:** Oh, yeah, definitely. You know, watching it on TV, the guys play three rounds and they shoot 18-under par plus. It tells you the quality of the game is very high.

I expect it to be tough. From playing golf around the world, I might have played against not strong fields but whenever I want, I know I've played some of my best golf and I expect it to be the same out here. You have to make lots of birdies. And the golf course is great, too. You're playing some really great golf courses and tough courses, so I expect it to be tough. Hopefully I can lift my game to hopefully lift a trophy before the end of the season.

**Q. Later this summer you'll be inducted into the World Golf Hall of Fame. How much are you looking forward to that and have you thought about your speech yet?**

**RETIEF GOOSEN:** Yeah, that's another thing that's been on my mind really since Gary and Jack Nicklaus rung me and said to me, yeah, listen, you've been inducted or chosen. So that's another thing that's taken a lot of my time in the last few months, you know, getting my head around invitations and speeches and things you have to prepare yourself for that day. So there's been a lot going on and it's going to be an exciting year. I think it's going to take me a little while to find my stride, but hopefully it will come very soon.

**Q. Retief, you had a quote earlier about you said it was going to be a blast for you out here. How do you balance having a good time and then also having your competitive juices to go out and play well?**

**RETIEF GOOSEN:** Yeah, you're going to have to balance that. I mean, every night you see the guys you haven't seen for a while and you have a glass of wine and that leads to another glass of wine, so you're going to have to balance yourself. But, you know, I've always been quite disciplined in my preparation for golf and for events, so I'm sure that will continue.