

**PRE-TOURNAMENT INTERVIEW**  
**August 15, 2019**



**DAVIS LOVE III**

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**MAUREEN RADZAVICZ:** This is your first start here as a PGA TOUR Champions player. You came here several times back during the BC Open.

**DAVIS LOVE III:** Yeah, played the old B.C. Open a few times.

**MAUREEN RADZAVICZ:** What are your memories from Broome County and how excited were you to come back?

**DAVIS LOVE III:** Well, same as now, great hospitality and a community that really supports the golf tournament. That's always been the hallmark of this event, whether it's the players or the caddies, they've always treated us very well here. Excited to be back.

My buddies Mike Hulbert and Joey Sindelar have been after me to get back up here and play the Champions Tour event, so I'm excited to be back. I had a long summer. I had a lot going on family wise, surgery, and I missed a lot of golf this summer, so I'm excited that my doctors cut me loose and now I can start back playing gain.

**Q. Davis, what was the main reason behind you wanting to come play in this specific tournament?**

**DAVIS LOVE III:** Selfishly, the main reason is because I haven't played since the end of April. My daughter had our third granddaughter premature right around the Heritage, which is, you know, one of my favorite events. I didn't get to play there or the PGA Championship, and then after that I had foot surgery. So I've just been out for a long time.

So I'm excited to be back playing. I've been trying to play here for a while, but it's been opposite the Wyndham on the regular tour. And one year I was not in the Playoffs and they were asking me to come up here and play. I said, well, I'm going to play Wyndham, it's my last chance to get in the Playoffs, and sure enough I won at 51 years old and got in the Playoffs. So still want to keep the dream alive. It's been opposite things that I needed to play in unfortunately for a while.

But now obviously the schedule's rearranged. I didn't make the Playoffs, I didn't play but I think nine PGA TOUR events earlier this year. Schedule worked finally and I'm excited to be here. Obviously Mike Hulbert got a spot to play this week, so we're both very excited to be back playing in a place that means so much to so many Tour players my age.

**Q. Davis, when you look at the stacked field, what do you think about the competition you're going to be facing this weekend?**

**DAVIS LOVE III:** I'm really rusty is the main thing. I was thinking I was going to come up here, kind of ease back into it for a few days. I have not walked 18 holes since the end of April. My doctor kind of cut me loose to come play a Champions Tour event only because he knew that I could ride a cart if my foot started hurting. Then I get paired with Jay Haas and Fred Couples right out of the box, so I'm thrown into the fire. I was practicing a lot. I stayed out here until after 7:00 yesterday trying to knock some of the rust off.

So my expectations are very low, but the excitement level is very high. My good friend Tiger Woods told me a few years ago in another surgery, he said, why don't you go play the Champions Tour, you won't miss the cut. So I know I've got three rounds of golf and I need to knock the rust off, so that's my big goal this week. Then I'm going to play the next two, so hopefully maybe by Sunday I'll have my game back in a little bit better shape.

**Q. You kind of touched on it a little bit there, but for guys like yourself that have played everywhere on the PGA TOUR, played in all the majors, how does the Champions Tour kind of compare for you guys?**

**DAVIS LOVE III:** Well, it's a continuation of your career. I think it's one of the great things that the PGA TOUR's come up with in their history is a way to keep the top players in the game playing, not only for them but for the fans. It's exciting.

You know, I just ran from my car in here and there's 20 guys out there getting autographs because they want to get Hall of Fame guys' autographs, they want to get people that people recognize.

And it's just been really good for the Tour to keep guys like Jack Nicklaus and Arnold Palmer, Gary Player, on down the list out on the golf course longer. Obviously Jack was here for a reason, because we want to keep him around the game and around the Tour.

**Q. And you touched on this briefly about playing with another Hall of Famer like Fred Couples tomorrow. How does that kind of raise the stakes for you, I guess?**

**DAVIS LOVE III:** Well, it's a dream pairing for me. I always love playing with Fred and Jay. We've done so much together for so long on the Tour.

I watched Jay's kids grow up, and Bill from a baby to me giving him old T-shirts and golf shirts when he was finally my size, and then him being out on Tour and winning the FedExCup.

Played with Fred in so many things. They're just two of my best friends out here on Tour and I'm excited, one, just to be back and see them much less play with them.

But again, it's not quite the ease into the start that I wanted. Very exciting to play with them and see them again and get back with so many of my buddies out here. I was practicing

putting and I ran over to the first tee when Billy Andrade made the turn just to talk to Billy, because I haven't seen him in three or four months. It's old home week for me because I've been out for so long.

**Q. What were your initial thoughts on the course when you were out yesterday?**

**DAVIS LOVE III:** I didn't get to play the course yesterday. I'm in the pro-am today. I remember the golf course, I know the golf course. The greens are great, that's the report I've been hearing is how good the greens are this year. Hopefully we don't get any rain because they said it was running pretty good early in the week. So I'm excited to get out there today and see it.

**Q. Do you have any, I guess, lasting memories from the BC Open days that kind of stick out?**

**DAVIS LOVE III:** First thing I did when I got here is went straight to concessions and got a speedie sandwich. The lady last night told me, "You have to have a speedie while you're here." I said, "I've already had one, I got that taken care of straight away."

But just the hospitality, the excitement that you hear from the courtesy car driver picking up all the way through all the volunteers. They really appreciate PGA TOUR, PGA TOUR Champions golf here. Just glad to be back.