## PRE-TOURNAMENT INTERVIEW October 17, 2019

## RETIEF GOOSEN



Q. You're making your Charles Schwab Cup Playoff debut. Do you feel like you're playing a little bit of catchup because so many of these guys have played these courses three, four times and you're a rookie out here?

**RETIEF GOOSEN:** Probably, yeah. It's never easy getting onto a course that you haven't played for a while. It sometimes takes a few rounds to get used to the greens and some of the slopes of the greens and seeing tricky breaks. But, you know, at the end of the day it's like any golf course, you've got to hit it down the fairway, hit it on the green and make the putt.

I didn't hit the ball well at all last week and so I need to find a little bit of form ball-striking-wise these next few weeks and then make putts. I'm also going to try the long putter for the first time this week. Just not making anything at the moment, so can't get any worse. Hopefully, once you start making putts, the rest of your game sort of seems to pick up, too.

Q. Is this the first time you've put the long putter into competition?

**RETIEF GOOSEN:** Yeah. Just the last two days I've been putting with it with a little bit back home and I sort of felt okay with it and I thought, yeah, give it a go.

Q. You talk about learning courses. Do you feel like you're a quick study? It's something that you've been doing all season for the courses on this tour that you've played for the first time. Do you feel like you've done a good job playing the courses for the first time?

**RETIEF GOOSEN:** Yeah, I think I have. I mean, course management is not really an issue for us, it's just about feeling comfortable out there and hitting good shots. For me, it's just not -- I didn't drive it well last week, and when I hit it close, I missed it. So just got to get everything to start falling together. You know, sometimes it just takes one little thing you suddenly pick up and feel and off you go, so hopefully it's in the next three weeks.

Q. We're getting close to the end of the season. Can you assess your first year on PGA TOUR Champions? Have you enjoyed it as much as you thought you would?

**RETIEF GOOSEN:** Yeah, I have. It's great to play with guys that I haven't seen for a while and guys I played with even in the '90s back in South Africa, so it's great to catch up with some of them. It's been great fun. You know, it feels more relaxing, but I think it's only because we play three rounds. You don't have those four rounds, which can be draining.

But generally it's been great and I'm very much looking forward to next season.

Q. And you won the Bridgestone SENIOR PLAYERS. Did that qualify this year as a success getting not only a win but a major win in your first year out here?

**RETIEF GOOSEN:** Yeah, I mean, my goal was I felt I had the game to at least win a tournament and it was great to win around that golf course. It's a tough course, it played tough that week. To pull it off around there was great. So yeah, I think getting a win out here is a great year. It's tough, you've got to shoot low and play good to win, but hopefully these next three events I can have a chance on Sunday to do it again.