

PRE-TOURNAMENT INTERVIEW
August 23, 2020



PHIL MICKELSON

Q. Phil, just talk about coming to play on the PGA TOUR Champions.

PHIL MICKELSON: Yeah, I'm excited to do that. I'm disappointed I got knocked out of the Playoffs, I was really looking forward to the Playoffs and I didn't really want two weeks off. I've been working hard on my game, I want to get out and play, so this worked out really well. It's such a beautiful place. I'm a big fan of Bill Coore, Ben Crenshaw golf course designs and here we're playing one of the best. And it's a beautiful area, so I'm excited to play and compete, see a lot of guys I haven't seen in a long time.

Q. I was going to say, like you'll be paired with Stricker and Goosen and you just saw Slu. What's it going to be like seeing these guys?

PHIL MICKELSON: Awesome, awesome. I haven't seen them in a long time. I grew up watching them play, grew up playing with them for a number of years and it's exciting for me and fun for me to come out here and see so many people I know. On the regular Tour I don't know a lot of the guys now.

Q. Phil, a lot of people have said that you wouldn't come out here and play. What is the motivation behind you being here?

PHIL MICKELSON: I love playing and competing, and heading into the U.S. Open, I'll play the week before in Napa, but I didn't want to have two weeks off when I've been working hard on my game. I was really wanting to play and compete in the Playoffs, so it was a disappointing first round two days ago and it's fun for me to have a place to come play.

Q. How will you use this as a preparation for Winged Foot and get another shot back up there?

PHIL MICKELSON: Yeah, just to get in competition, to go out and shoot a number, because I've been playing at home, it's a whole other thing coming out on the road, playing against severe competition and really trying to play your best without forcing it and being patient. So I just want to compete a little bit and see if I can start shooting some low scores again.

Q. What's it going to be like getting another shot at Winged Foot?

PHIL MICKELSON: Well, it will be fun and exciting to compete at Winged Foot. It's been 14 years since I've been back there, so I'm looking forward to getting back and playing a golf course that I was so close to accomplishing a dream.

Q. Expectations on PGA TOUR Champions this week?

PHIL MICKELSON: I expect to play well not because of anything other than I've been playing well, but it's a whole other thing again against tough competition to shoot low scores. So It's not going to be easy and I just, I want to get my game sharp. I know how good the players are. I've played against these guys for a lot of years, they're phenomenal players and I'm excited to have a chance to compete against them.

Q. Will the bombs be coming to PGA TOUR Champions?

PHIL MICKELSON: Some of them, some of the holes out here. I'm going to go take a look and see. I need a few open fairways to let it rip, but I have a hard time holding back.

Q. The week before Augusta, Schwab Cup in your hometown?

PHIL MICKELSON: Yeah, there's a good chance, there's a good chance I'll end up playing there in Phoenix. It's between there and the Houston Open because I like to play the week before and I think that's a good way to prepare for the Masters, getting in competition and getting mentally sharp to play and compete. There's a very good chance I'll play in Phoenix just because I spent so much time there and I love going back.

Q. Winning formula, I know you like using that, what's the winning formula out here?

PHIL MICKELSON: I haven't played here yet. A lot's going to depend on the wind and really understanding the ground and how the ball's going to react on the ground, because if the wind picks up and you've got to keep the ball low, course knowledge and having played here last year, a lot of guys are going to have an advantage and I've got a day and a half to learn it.