

PRE-TOURNAMENT INTERVIEW
February 12, 2020



FRED COUPLES

Q. How does it feel to be back here? It's a different place.

FRED COUPLES: Yeah, beautiful. Great weather. I'll figure the course out today, hopefully. It's nice.

Q. (inaudible) to still be competitive at 60, or do you even care about that number, or --

FRED COUPLES: No. I mean, I -- what's important to me is being able to still play. I don't -- I mean, not yet am I looking at 60 versus 55. I don't feel (inaudible).

But I feel like I can still hit shots and do it. And when I don't, I doubt if I will be at the Chubb Classic. But I feel pretty good about my game. I can still hit it, so that's why I'm still playing.

Q. Any thoughts on this report and talking about possibly (inaudible) the ball back, or the equipment, or -- would that be negative for the game?

FRED COUPLES: I saw a little bit of it. I don't know if any of it's negative or positive. I mean, at 60 years old, I only really know one way. I think I hit the ball better -- maybe not now. Maybe six years ago, I felt like I hit the ball better than I did when I was 35. And the clubs are (inaudible) not a distance thing. I think -- so if I'm picking up yards with metal woods, everyone else is, too. But me, I can only go by playing the clubs.

So if I go play Tucson, or I play L.A. -- I now understand that L.A. Country Club or L.A. Rivera is much harder and longer than it used to be. These guys make it look like chump change. They are hitting 17th hole, a lot of them, in two. And back when I played, if you hit that green in two, it was talked about all over the locker rooms. Now you got 25, 35 guys hitting it. But that doesn't -- that's got nothing to do with anything. I think whatever they decide to do is the best for the game. And, I don't know, they are going to have to do it sometime. I mean, I don't know when that is. Is it during Justin Thomas's career, or is it against some 8-year-old's career, some kid back here. I mean, you can't outdate every golf course in the United States because guys are driving at 330 yards, right? So -- and I don't know who I heard, maybe Jaime Diaz and Brandel talking about it, but I wasn't paying that much attention. But somewhere they were talking about the swing and where you drive it versus how far you drive it, what kind of swing you have. It was interesting. But as far as whatever the R&A, USGA, and Augusta -- it's got to slow down a little. It may not. It may not.

Q. What was the Presidents Cup like for you, looking back?

FRED COUPLES: It was fantastic. Great week. It was fun to be around Tiger, fun to be around the team. They played -- they played great. Came from behind. And I think Tiger had a lot to do with that. Just because he's never out of any event, I think he instilled that in the people Thursday night, talked about it. We were down 5 to 1, 4 to 1? No big deal. That was Thursday. But it didn't look so good Friday afternoon, either.

Q. No, no.

FRED COUPLES: But, yeah, it was fun.

Q. Last night -- how much are you following the new Tour? I know you were involved in something in '02 that isn't exactly like this, but --

FRED COUPLES: (inaudible) how long I follow it. I saw Jay Monahan's quote. That's how long I follow it. You play there, you don't play on the Tour. Your choice. You want to win one of these things or you want to win the L.A. Open? So that's what I was reading. Right?

Q. Right.

How close do you think you guys were -- I mean, you had farther than this, as far as TV and stuff like that.

FRED COUPLES: Yeah, I think Greg and -- I think they -- I think they did a great job. But back then, a good year for me was a million one. I mean, so when you look at making 3 or 4 million by playing with 30 or 50 guys, you kind of look at it. Now, what's the purse this week in L.A.? Is it \$9.5 million? I just saw -- I couldn't believe it. So, what are these guys going to pay? Who cares? And when Jay Monahan says that's -- it's in the story -- if I was 30 years old, I don't need more money. These are making a bundle. If they make another million and a half or two, God bless them. But when you cannot play the PGA Tour, play that? It's got -- they will all be dead by the time it becomes the PGA Tour. The PGA Tour ain't going away, last I checked on it.

Q. Thanks, Freddie.

FRED COUPLES: Yeah, thank you guys. Be good. That's a good question, though, and I don't know how to answer it.