

HENRIK STENSON PRESS CONFERENCE

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We're now joined by Henrik Stenson, making your debut at the Sanford International. You just got done playing in the pro-am, what are your impression on the golf course?

It's in good shape, greens are running nicely. I think I might have some homework to do though, given that I only played it today and from what I understand, the wind is kind of opposite from the prevailing wind, so with just one practice round and playing it in a not-so-common wind, it's going to take some thoughts to kind of figure out the game plan. But, nothing we haven't done before or experienced before, so yeah, we'll take some extra time on that, try and figure that out.

Greens are quite undulated. Some of them, I don't think, have too many options for pin position, so I can see kind of a pretty tight grouping on the pin positions over the three days on a few of them. And then, given the speed and that quite a lot of them are sloping towards you, you just want to try and leave yourself the right putts all the times or the chips, so if you miss, you don't want to be on the high side because then everything kind of goes away from you. But it's a nice course, nice people, and yeah, it's fun to try something new. This is my first visit to the state – so far, so good.

So your first time here in South Dakota – is it your first time in this general region of the United States?

Yeah, I've skied in Salt Lake City and kind of been to a few areas, but not to South Dakota, so that's a first.

Last time we saw you was at The Ally Challenge two weeks ago. How would you assess your performance that week and how you're feeling about everything?

It wasn't great, it wasn't bad, it was somewhat in the middle. And, as you know, I haven't played a huge amount of competitive golf over this last year, so starting to kind of wrap up some rounds and some reps now. Yeah, it's a work in progress. If we can get a little bit better each week and each time we play and practice, you know, hopefully we'll move in the right direction over time and that's all I can try and do.

There's still been, I'd say, more positives than negatives as a whole, but I need to tidy up my scoring a bit. This week feels like it's going to be a little bit more maybe into iron play. I felt like in Detroit at The Ally Challenge, that it was quite a few short holes, so more emphasis maybe that week on the wedge game. I think we're going to see a little bit longer approach

play, especially at the par 3s this week and so on. So, that should suit me fairly good and yeah, hopefully, we can put a better performance in there this week.

Can you give yourself a timeline - you said competitive reps and getting back into most tournaments – is there a place where it's like 'okay, it's time to go?'

Yeah, before 2030 I hope we're somewhat ready, right? *laughs*

I just feel like I take it kind of one week at a time and I got some things that I try and work on and try to figure out. I'm not really trying to push myself in that sense that it has to be ready next week, but as we know in this game, once things start to fall into place, you can pick up some good form and start making birdies a lot quicker than you maybe anticipated and thought at times. But yeah, we'll just go along and see where we can get to.

So, we're not beating ourselves up yet?

No, I don't want to talk myself up just yet.

Have you talked to any of your fellow competitors or anyone else just about this tournament in general and how this tournament plays overall?

Yeah, I got some insights. I spoke to Robert (Karlsson), my fellow Swede and he kind of gave me a little bit of an insight on some of the greens, the ones that are a little bit more kind of busy and quite undulated where they tend to put the pin positions and so on for the week.

Other than that, I understand this is kind of the one big thing here in Sioux Falls in terms of sporting events and it's really a great week for the community. A lot of people come out and support and watch and have a good time, so I look forward to experiencing it.

With this being your first time in South Dakota, is there any food that people have said you've got to try?

The boys kind of forced me to go for a steak sandwich here. I was kind of saving myself for lunch, but this was on 17 and they're like, 'no, you've got to try this one.' So, we did some barbecue sauce on a steak sandwich down there and that went down pretty easily, so I would imagine we'll have some good food this week.