

RETIEF GOOSEN PRESS CONFERENCE

SANFORD INTERNATIONAL – THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 2026

We're now joined by World Golf Hall of Fame member and our defending champion here at the Sanford International, Retief Goosen, making his 7th appearance. Just to start, how great is it to be back here in Sioux Falls?

It's not too often that you are a defending champion on the Champions Tour. You know, it only comes around hopefully once a year, but it's nice to be back. Great memories obviously from last year and the course looks in great condition and looking forward to getting out there and see if I can defend.

You're currently number 5 in the Charles Schwab Cup standings, fresh off a runner-up finish at The Ally Challenge two weeks ago. Fair to say you're feeling good about everything coming into this week?

Yeah, I didn't play well at The Ally, but my putting on the last day just made everything. I don't know how many hundreds of feet of putt I made, but I worked a little bit on the game during this last week off and so hopefully, find some fairways and greens this week and if the putter stays hot, who knows what happens at the end of the week?

Can you assess your year so far?

It's been very up and down. Obviously, the win was great in Atlanta earlier in the year (Mitsubishi Electric Classic in April), but yeah, I would say my ball-striking hasn't quite been where I would like it to be, my driving especially. When you're hitting 20 percent of the fairways, you're struggling to get to a lot of flags. So, this week, this course, the rough looks like it's up and a lot of rain earlier in the week. Driving is going to be key to be able to get to some of these flags. I remember last year the course played tough and it looks like it's going to be windy again this week, which is going to make it interesting.

How do you adjust to conditions like that – rain earlier in the week, it looks like it's going to be windy this weekend – how do you adjust?

You've got to get out there with a good game plan. Obviously, number one is hit the fairways, try and get the right shape and shots going into the greens to get it close. You know, you just hit the wrong shape in strong winds and you know, the ball ends up way away. And generally, you're going to have to grind. You're going to have to get up and down quite a few, because you are going to miss greens in tough conditions. And the guy that can get it up and down this week and hold a lot of putts for pars, saving pars, is just as important as making birdies.

You won here last year – does that add a little more comfortability for your game this year?

I would say, you know, you're still going to have to go out there and do it. But definitely, your frame of mind is, a little bit, you see the shots you hit last year. Other years when you play bad, you get to the golf course, you see the bad shots you've hit. So, it's great to come back and see the good shots you've hit and just try and build on that again this week.

Earlier this week, some patients at Sanford Children's Hospital designed some cards and made some drawings for you guys that were left in your lockers. Is that maybe something unique for this tournament, how they try to connect the title sponsor of Sanford Health, with welcoming you guys to Sioux Falls?

Sanford is an amazing company and hospital, what they do for the community and for the kids. Kids are so important and it's great to see they involve those kids that are unwell with the event and get them to make these wonderful cards for us and put it in our locker. It's really sort of heartwarming when you see that.

I remember the St. Jude's Classic in Memphis, it was the same thing – you meet the kids and they give you a little card. It's a great feeling and in a way, you've got to consider yourself very lucky that your kids are healthy. Sometimes, you take it for granted. It's a great thing from Sanford to do that and get the kids involved and hopefully they all recover very quick.