

INTERVIEW TRANSCRIPT: FRED COUPLES
Sunday, November 3, 2013



PHIL STAMBAUGH: Fred, final round 69 and you shoot four rounds in the 60s and win by six shots at the Schwab Cup, your ninth title on the Champions Tour and you end quite a long victory drought. U.S. Senior British Open last year was your last win before today. Congratulations on the victory and finishing the year on a high note. A couple general thoughts about the round. It was a little bit cooler today out there.

FRED COUPLES: Yeah, no, it was -- I won by a lot but it was interesting on a few holes. There were a couple things that, you know, could have made things a little tighter, but I played -- I felt like I played a really, really good round of golf and what I would consider to be, you know, part of the toughest course played all day. I don't know if anyone was shooting some very good scores but I watched the leaders, I played with Mark. I tried to stay as far ahead of Mark as I could and then I didn't see anyone else getting 14-, 15-under. So basically that's when I say there were a couple shots out there that if Mark would have made a putt here or there, it could have got pretty interesting. But it's great to win. I didn't know the last tournament I won, obviously it was the Senior British, which seems like four years ago. But it is nice to win a tournament and to play really well. That's how I felt like I did this week.

PHIL STAMBAUGH: Do you think this gives you a little momentum going into next year as well?

FRED COUPLES: Well, I answered that outside. I have 60 days to lose all my momentum before Hualalai. But I'm not anyone to sit here and say even if I shot 72 today and Mark would have shot 67 and would have won, I would have been very, very disappointed, but, you know, I'm not any world beater. I enjoy playing well. I can answer those questions pretty easily. I really like to play golf to the fullest that I can play it, and a week like today leading up to this, the three rounds and then today, I played very well.

So, you know, on this Tour if you're a really good player and you come out and play, you're going to win your share of events in my opinion. If you played on the PGA TOUR and won, you're going to come out here and win. That's my goal. I feel like this year's certainly not a waste, but it was a waste in not winning any events until this. I felt like possibly with some better practice I could have won three times easily, but in those tournaments that I played well in, I hit the ball pretty well and I putted well, but this week was totally different. I didn't miss many shots and I got a big lead and kept it.

Q. You talked a couple times this week about playing more next year. You ended up playing 15 times this year plus four on the PGA TOUR, that's 19. How much more can you go realistically given your back?

FRED COUPLES: I played the LA open. Oh, the British Open, too. So I won't be in the British Open and I probably won't play at Muirfield, so there's two less already. You know, we'll find out. I guess when I say I'm going to play more, I have to practice and see how it goes. I think 19, even back when I played the regular TOUR, I didn't play much more than that. On this Tour, you know, to win the Schwab Cup, I think I'm going to give it a shot. Could I have given it a shot two years ago? Yeah, but I won four times my first year and I don't really think I was -- I was close to winning that thing but Bernhard won every major and he just takes off. So I would like to have a year like Kenny had and that's a goal. I don't usually set many goals because on the regular TOUR they're so darn hard that the goal is to win. Out here a goal is to win the Schwab Cup and I think that's doable if I play a lot and play well. I could be, you know, into June or July next year and not be playing that well and just cut way back, but my goal is to play.

Q. Fred, obviously you're focused on what you're doing but how much are you aware of the other things that are going on as far as the Schwab Cup, and did Kenny say anything to you afterwards? Has he had a chance to thank you?

FRED COUPLES: I think Kenny, he's a good man. He was in the tent congratulating me, but just congratulating me, he's got to be around, but to win the tournament I think he held his own. I obviously don't know, if Bernhard didn't win, Bernhard was not going to win. At the beginning of the week he was telling everyone, obviously he wants anyone to win but Bernhard, I would say the same. So when I won he came up there and said, you know, way to go and way to get a big lead and make life easier for me.

Q. Bernhard tied for second.

FRED COUPLES: Right.

Q. (Inaudible.)

FRED COUPLES: No, shot 75 today, exactly, they would be out there and Kenny would be sweating like crazy right now, that's correct. No, that is correct.

Q. (Inaudible.)

FRED COUPLES: No, no, no.

Q. Fred, how much is it a pride factor to keep winning even though you're on this Tour largely now, how much does pride figure into it?

FRED COUPLES: Well, you know, once again, I love -- am I competitor? Yeah, I

love competition. Do I tell everyone that I'm a fierce competitor? No, because I'm not, but I love the competition. This week, I'll say it again real quick, it's Harding Park, this is a tremendous golf course. It doesn't seem really hard but if you miss the ball in the wrong spot or miss the green, it can play really hard. I think when you win anything, the look on people's faces when they win the club championship is a nice feeling and I'm thrilled to death to win this tournament. I haven't won in a long time, but it's more of winning by a bunch and playing four really good rounds and then getting a trophy.

Q. Kind of an extension of the earlier question, when you figure out your schedule next year and how much you play, how much goes into the life span of a Champions Tour player? History sort of shows that after about 57, 58 years old it's pretty hard to win a lot. The next two years, is there a push --

FRED COUPLES: Well, next year is a big year. I'm going to practice, I'm going to be ready. That doesn't mean I'm going to win tournaments, but at my age, you know, once again, I would sit here and not feel bad about it because this is the ninth time I've won. I wish I would win more, but the Schwab Cup is really never my goal because I can't play 13, 14 times and let them play 22 times and beat them. But that doesn't mean I should be winning this and I'm telling you Bernhard Langer, Kenny Perry should win it, next year that's my goal. My goal is to win the Schwab Cup. So far at any of these years it hasn't really been, it's to win tournaments, it's to play out here, it's to enjoy it. And like I say, my first year out here I ran around, I felt like I was winning every other week I played and then this year it certainly wasn't -- I don't know the right word, I won't even say it, not depressing, but Sunday night when you lose those four tournaments, it's like I guess it is depressing. It's a little depressing to go home and have everyone say oh, you'll get it next time and I would go the next time and not get it the next time. Now I finally won a tournament and I can look forward to next year.

PHIL STAMBAUGH: Fred, congratulations.

FRED COUPLES: Thank you, guys.