

PRE-TOURNAMENT INTERVIEW TRANSCRIPT: PAUL GOYDOS
Wednesday, August 13, 2014



PHIL STAMBAUGH: Just thought we'd start, you've just turned 50 and played last week in the 3M Championship.

PAUL GOYDOS: I played two weeks ago in the 3M Championship.

PHIL STAMBAUGH: Two weeks ago. But you are back at a familiar place here at the Dick's Sporting Goods Open. I guess you tied for 7th I think in '94 at the B.C. Open.

PAUL GOYDOS: '94?

PHIL STAMBAUGH: I think that's what I've got.

PAUL GOYDOS: I knew I had a Top 10 here.

PHIL STAMBAUGH: Anyway, just your impressions of the Champions Tour and coming to play this week at the Dick's.

PAUL GOYDOS: Well, everyone at the Champions Tour is older, I didn't realize that, except for my group. I'm the third youngest person on the tour. You know, it's fun. It was nice to come back up in Minnesota couple weeks ago to see a bunch of people I hadn't seen quite frankly. You have a lot more in common. The age group here is between 50 and 65 maybe I would think. On the PGA TOUR there's generations of players, you have 20s, 30s, 40s, even a few guys playing in their 50s. I get paired in a group out there and the two guys' combined age would be less than me. It doesn't make things -- you have different experiences and different friends. When I got out here, it's the guys I played with in college and played against the first 10 or 15 years with on tour and it's kind of nice to see familiar faces.

Then I played pretty good at 3M and got beat by three shots a round. I didn't see 23 under par. I think he only won by one shot, I want to say, so I'm going to need to start playing a little better. Just got done playing today, this golf course is really good. I haven't played here in probably 15 years I would guess. It is in impeccable condition. I mean, whoever the superintendent is here and what they've done over the last --

PHIL STAMBAUGH: Yeah, Rocco Grecco.

PAUL GOYDOS: -- over the last few years, it's incredible. What a good golf course. You think about this event when it was the B.C. Open and it's a community event. You come down here and they'd have a lobster bake. Right over here they used to

have a lobster bake every night. You'd go over there after the pro-am and you would eat with your amateurs. It's a big community event, kind of like I'm sure -- I haven't been here, I'm assuming this event is very similar to that, it's a community based event. On the PGA TOUR it's very corporate based. You might play in a pro-am with four guys from 2,000 miles away just like me who are in there for the week. It doesn't have that same community feel. Seems like the first two Champions Tour events I've been at, 3M and now this week, it seems like it's a community based event versus a corporate based event, which is kind of nice, like the PGA TOUR used to be. That isn't a bad thing to say, is it? Tim's not going to fine me for that, is he? She's laughing, so I did something wrong. He'll just file it away, it's a pretty big file.

Q. How well did you remember the golf course?

PAUL GOYDOS: I have a pretty good memory so I remember most of it. The greens have more movement than I remember, but if you would have come to me yesterday before I played today, I could have told you every ball, how long I played and what the story is. I remember pretty well. Again, I don't remember it being in this good of shape. This golf course is in A-plus plus plus condition. If this is what public golf is like in upstate New York, they're pretty lucky because it is in phenomenal shape. And if the weather stays nice, it looks like it should, it's one of those problems you tend to run into in professional golf that the golf course is in such good shape that it's going to be hard for the scores not to be really good. One of the biggest improvements in golf has been the lawn mower. We talk about the ball and all this other stuff, but the lawn mower and the agronomy, you know, if you have a 10-footer and you putt it good, you're going to make them. These greens are absolutely flawless.

Q. Were you one of those guys who had 50th birthday circled and you looked forward to it or was it the other way like oh, damn?

PAUL GOYDOS: I had this concept, I played 16 events on the regular tour playing on a medical exemption and it was really -- the goal is really to play well enough to be playing out there and not necessarily playing here. They're playing in Greensboro this week and the Playoffs start next week and that's kind of where my goals were. I played absolutely horrendously, so in January, no; February, no; March, April I really started playing bad. The spring was just atrocious. Then I started, yeah, looking in this direction. I actually took a look at the schedule maybe a couple maybe six weeks before my birthday, made my seventh missed cut in a row or whatever it was and said, you know, I think I need something different because this isn't working right now. So if you had asked me that question in February, I would have said no. If you asked me that question in May, I would have said yeah, that makes sense.

Q. Schedule going forward?

PAUL GOYDOS: I'll play just about everything. Unlike the PGA, you've got some built-in breaks. We are playing four in a row out here and then you have a week off,

then a couple and a week off and then a couple and end of season. I started out late so I need to kind of play as much as I can to try to see what happens. The other issue is this week doesn't count but it's basically 25 new golf courses, so a chance to play them is probably a good thing. Thirdly, what else am I going to do? It's my job.

Q. Are you going to go to the concert?

PAUL GOYDOS: I didn't really look. I think it's Friday after play? I play late on Friday. I'll be honest with you, it's Aaron Andrews, two As? I don't know the guy's name.

PHIL STAMBAUGH: Zac Brown Band.

PAUL GOYDOS: Oh, I thought it was something else. I don't know who Zac Brown is. Who's Zac Brown?

Q. You were way off.

PAUL GOYDOS: I knew it was something like that. There's a B, it's close to an A. Who is this? She works for us?

PHIL STAMBAUGH: Yes.

PAUL GOYDOS: For how long?

PHIL STAMBAUGH: 15 years, right?

PAUL GOYDOS: Who's Zac Brown?

Q. He's country.

PHIL STAMBAUGH: He's done a lot of stuff.

PAUL GOYDOS: He's a little bit country, I'm a little bit rock and roll I guess. Yeah, my caddie and I might hang out. Is he any good?

PHIL STAMBAUGH: Yes.

PAUL GOYDOS: So yes, I guess I'm going to listen. I play at 1:00 or 12:54 on Friday. I'm not sure what time the concert starts. I might not have any choice, they might be playing while I'm playing 18.

PHIL STAMBAUGH: Let's hope not.

Q. You're going to have a hell of a gallery on 18.

PAUL GOYDOS: Yes, we will. I heard they put out maybe some -- they do the concert right on the 18th fairway, don't they?

PHIL STAMBAUGH: There's a stage to the side of the green and they ring the green with security so nobody gets on the green.

PAUL GOYDOS: Except who's playing. So yes. Any more questions in the back?

PHIL STAMBAUGH: Okay, Paul. Well, good luck this week.

PAUL GOYDOS: Thank you. Looking forward to it.