

PRE-TOURNAMENT INTERVIEW TRANSCRIPT: SCOTT VERPLANK
Wednesday, August 13, 2014



PHIL STAMBAUGH: Probably the first time back in Endicott in a little while and you finally get to a course you're familiar with. Just talk about coming back to the Dick's Sporting Goods Open here at En-Joie Golf Club.

SCOTT VERPLANK: Well, okay, I think it's been -- I know it's been 20-something years since I've been back here, but you're (inaudible) coming back to a place at least I've been to before because like a couple weeks ago in Minnesota I didn't know where to go. You kind of get set in your ways on the other tour so this is all kind of new stuff. I'm looking forward to playing here this week.

Q. Are you here for good?

SCOTT VERPLANK: I don't know. It's good depending on how I play. If I get to playing like -- well, let me back up. I had wrist surgery almost three years ago and I have not played anywhere near what I did the previous 28 years, 27 years, whatever. I'm actually getting a little bit better now just because I'm having to change my game a little bit. It took me two and a half years to figure out I would have to change what I was doing if I wanted to compete here at any level. So if the things I'm doing now turn around or make me feel better about my game, then I would say no, but I can't control that. If I get to playing like I want to play and I have another year of eligibility on the regular tour, I'd like to go ahead and use that if I feel like I can play. If I'm not playing good enough, then there's no reason for me to go out there and take up a spot.

Q. Reader's Digest version, swing changes?

SCOTT VERPLANK: Well, since I had wrist surgery, I have not been able to hit the golf ball solidly like I have for a long time. You know, the Reader's Digest version, I'm trying to change my ball flight. I've always hit it really straight and I'm trying to figure out a way to hit draw all the time because I need to change the way I impact with my hands. My wrist is not as strong as it used to be. Tried for two and a half years to get it better and it just hadn't worked, so I said, well, my only choice at this point is to try to change the way I hit the ball, what positions I have my hands at impact, so that's where I'm at. I've made a little bit of progress. Good shots are real good, but I'm still hitting a few bad ones.

Q. This isn't a bad place for a guy coming off a bad wrist, very recently I say that.

SCOTT VERPLANK: I guess in one way another (inaudible) I've played well enough

to know that making changes (inaudible) tee it up in a tournament. I played this last weekend with a few buddies just messing around and I was like, oh, this is pretty good, but I have to come to a tournament to find out if it really is pretty good.

Q. Have you been out here yet?

SCOTT VERPLANK: No, I just got in last night.

PHIL STAMBAUGH: Anything about best memory of En-Joie over the years?

SCOTT VERPLANK: It's been like in the '80s and '90s, early '90s since I've been here, I can't remember all that. I just remember it's a fun golf course. I just always remember it as a tournament (inaudible.) I'm happy that we're here playing and I just hope to enjoy it.

Q. Just wondering with the Ryder Cup coming up and you are assistant captain, correct?

SCOTT VERPLANK: No, I was last time, not this time. Steve Stricker is this time. We do get confused a lot because we're really good friends.

Q. Are you on the team though?

SCOTT VERPLANK: No, I am not. You should ask Bernhard Langer about that.

PHIL STAMBAUGH: Thank you very much, good luck this week.