



PRE-TOURNAMENT INTERVIEW TRANSCRIPT: COLIN MONTGOMERIE
Wednesday, October 29, 2014

DAVE SENKO: Well, Colin, thanks for joining us. Final event of the year. You've had an excellent year with two major championships here in the U.S. as well as winning over on the European Senior Tour. Maybe get us started, talk about your year and then we'll get some questions.

COLIN MONTGOMERIE: Well, super, thank you. I mean, it's my first full year out here and it's been a delight. I've been made very welcome by everybody, by fans and by players and everyone alike, and then all the volunteers on this tour. It's a great place I play and I enjoy it thoroughly. To win twice happened to be two sort of major championships, which was great and a delight. And then I went back to Europe, won a couple of times there and sort of haven't played that well this last month. It's been poor really, allowing Bernhard to not just to be ahead but to get away ahead, and all credit to him for winning the Charles Schwab Cup before the last event. That doesn't happen very often. To be 800-odd points ahead with one event to go is extraordinary and all credit to him.

You know, it's my first full year and I've enjoyed it thoroughly. I finished second I believe in the points status and thrilled about that, and look forward already to not just to playing here but also to starting off in Hawaii and next year. I really look forward to it all, so it's all good.

DAVE SENKO: Any **more events on your calendar this year?**

COLIN MONTGOMERIE: Yes, I'm playing in Turkey, which is a course I designed in Belek. It's the one that started our final four series. They're playing two in Shanghai right now and then the European tour goes on to Turkey, and then it goes on to Dubai, the Race to Dubai. So it's an honor it's hosted on a course I designed in Belek. Tiger was there last year. It's my 600th event actually in Europe. It's a hell of a long walk actually. It's around the world a couple of times I think.

So that's nice to go to a course that I designed and 600th event, and I've got one more which is our finale which is down in Mauritius in the Indian Ocean to finish off the year. So I've got two more events after this, back just in time for Christmas. Time to leave again for Hawaii. (Inaudible) house really, I don't know where it is. I need a GPS to find out where I live, I don't know where I live.

DAVE SENKO: If you have a question, please raise your hand, we've got two mics here for the transcripts.

Q. You've played with and against Bernhard for a very long time. Anything about this year that set him apart in terms of have you seen something different, whether it's more focus, more intensity? We know he has a lot of both of those kind of things but this year did you notice anything different?

COLIN MONTGOMERIE: Just his driving, his iron play, his chipping and his putting were really very, very good. Amazing, isn't he? At 57 years old and he's working as hard as ever. We finished the pro-am late, very late at Prestonwood Country Club for the SAS tournament a month ago and I was just behind him in the pro-am, so of course we were late by definition, and -- (laughter.) And you got that. Good, you got that. I'm glad you got that.

And we finished, it was almost dark, the lights were on and he was on the range for a good half an hour in the dark on his own. It was only him on the range. I mean, amazing, you know, to think 57 and that ambition and drive is obviously still there to succeed. Started off very poorly, we played together and we both shot 73 and lying in fourth, fifth after the first round. Went to the practice ground again, finished second or third in the event. Amazing. The consistency has been extreme and something we might not ever see again the consistency of this year. Played I think 20 events, 18 or 19 Top 10s. The standard of golf here is extremely high and to do that is exceptional, exceptional.

I put anybody on the PGA TOUR up against that, to play 20 events and anyone on that PGA TOUR to have 18 Top 10s out of that, I would put anyone up against that. It's been an exceptional year of quality and of consistency and that's what's put him apart from the rest of us.

And the mental attitude to actually want it so much, you know? I mean, he lost that playoff at the British Senior Open last year at Birkdale and he was been annoyed. I think he's been annoyed for a year, you know? We all blame Mark Wiebe actually because Mark Wiebe obviously pissed him off. We all blame Mark Wiebe because he beat him and he's annoyed Langer and we blame Mark for this consistency. And he won it by 13 shots this year, which was an extraordinary performance.

Q. I was going to ask whether he was pissed off.

COLIN MONTGOMERIE: Well, obviously because he doesn't have the "pissed" word off. Annoyed, annoyed.

Q. By losing the Schwab Cup last year to Kenny Perry, I was going to ask if that's the reason he played so well this year?

COLIN MONTGOMERIE: He's that competitive and that's why -- that's why he's such a great partner of mine in Ryder Cups. He was that competitive. He would not allow himself to get beaten and he would do his utmost to do so, and if it meant practicing

in the dark, he would. And all credit to him for everything this year, really. I have to hands up and say well played, very, very well played, yeah, yeah.

Q. (Inaudible).

COLIN MONTGOMERIE: Yeah, I mean, it's a financial drive normally. I don't think it is with Bernhard. I think it's a competitiveness in him that we knew existed. But to still have that competitiveness, you know, he's been a pro for 42 years. He turned pro at 15, he's been a pro for 42 years and he's still as competitive this day as ever. I notice it because I know it. I've known him for 25 of those 42 and I've known him that length and it's amazing, amazing. He's the one guy that has remained off our top five that we had at one stage in the very early '90s when Europe dominated the world rankings with the likes of Faldo and Seve and Lyle and Woosnam and Langer. They were the five. He's the one guy that has remained that competitive level. He's at fit as he's ever been, he's not an ounce heavier than he was at 18. Neither am I, I was just very heavy at 18. But it is -- (laughter.) It is amazing, it is amazing. I'll shake his hand on the first tee tomorrow, I will. I'll say well played, congratulations on what a wonderful, wonderful year. You've set new standards at 57. Those standards on this tour are usually set at 50 or 51, possibly 52, not 57. This is unique.

Q. Switching from him to you, do you wish you were this way when you were 30 and 40 instead of 50? And I know you seem like a different person. I know a lot of your characteristics are the same, but you seem different.

COLIN MONTGOMERIE: I was this competitive, and believe me, still am. I've come this distance, I'm 5,000 miles away from home and I've come here to win. I have. It will be difficult, of course, but I've come here to challenge the victory here. I'm as competitive as ever. I wasn't as relaxed as I was. I wasn't as relaxed 20 years ago, no, and I wish I was, yes. Hindsight's a wonderful thing and you look back and think if I was as relaxed as I am now, I think I would have succeeded in one of those majors, who knows. You never know. If I was to do that, if I was to live my PGA TOUR life again, the 70, 80 tournaments that I played over here in the U.S., mostly majors and the TPC, I would have entered them more relaxed, yes, and possibly the results might have been different, but who knows.

Q. Monty, speaking of being more relaxed with the points decided, is it a different approach to the tournament?

COLIN MONTGOMERIE: Not at all, not at all. The tournament's a very important tournament to do well and to win. There's a lovely trophy on the first tee there. I thought it was an ice trophy. I thought it might melt on the first tee. It's fantastic glasswork and we all want to win that definitely. We're all here to try and win that definitely, there's no question. The Schwab Cup's been decided, that's fine, but we are going to -- we're all going to try and succeed here. It's a bit like the Mauritius tournament on the European Tour. I happen to have won the European Order of

Merit Senior Money List, but we're all trying to win the Mauritius tournament. We're all trying to win that event as we are here.

Q. Do you think it helps him to take a little pressure off him from his aspect?

COLIN MONTGOMERIE: We all hope so, we do. We don't wish him any bad luck, but we don't wish him any good.

Q. Should he have been a Ryder Cup selection based on the season he had this year?

COLIN MONTGOMERIE: That's a very good point. He was certainly -- he was certainly more on form than some of the players that were selected, but Europe won, so you can't say a thing. Europe won the Ryder Cup and you can't say -- if Europe had lost the Ryder Cup, yes, of course, there's always a question, what have you, to the losing team. To the winning team there's never an inquest, you're safe.

Q. When you get as deeply into the mastery process as he is working on all aspects of his game, you get pretty myopic, you've really engaged in it. Is his stoic personality part of that?

COLIN MONTGOMERIE: That's his way, yes.

Q. So it's helpful?

COLIN MONTGOMERIE: Very methodical, very precise, yeah, yeah, and that's him. He will never hit a shot without having thought it out at first. Most amateurs think after they hit the shot, Bernhard Langer thinks before he hits the shot. That's why he takes so bloody long doing it. It will be fun tomorrow, it will. I'm looking forward to it. I've played a lot of golf with Bernhard this year. The first rounds, the first round we've been partnered together a lot and it's been a joy to witness, it really has, it really has. It's been a joy to witness and everybody should be -- you know, there's been new standards set this year on this tour and I've witnessed it firsthand and it's been a joy to do, it really has. And he happens to be a friend of mine, happens to be a colleague of mine and a partner of mine and it's been great to see and great to witness.

Q. With your history with the Ryder Cup, this is kind of off topic, but do you have any reaction to the Americans creating this task force to try and right the ship?

COLIN MONTGOMERIE: Well, I suppose having lost eight out of 10, something has to change, I suppose. The classic case, if you still do the same things and expect the same results, so you've got to change something.

I think it's important that the players are now more involved than just the PGA of

America. You've actually got players now involved in making decisions. Whether that will help the cause or whether that will hinder the cause, and hindering meaning putting more pressure on the team having to perform, especially when it's in America in two years' time, having to win then. But I think it's good that the players are now beginning to have more of a say in what happens and the selection processes and what have you than just one particular body.

Was that diplomatic? That was bloody good, that was. Disappointing, yes, I agree, it was disappointing but it was good.

DAVE SENKO: Everyone okay? Thank you, Colin.

COLIN MONTGOMERIE: Thank you.