

PRE-TOURNAMENT INTERVIEW: IAN WOOSNAM
Wednesday, May 13, 2015



Q. Ian, you come here finally a winner on the Champions Tour. It's got to be a different feeling than when you came here last year.

IAN WOOSNAM: Yeah, you know, obviously been going on invitations, sponsors' invites, and came here last year, played pretty good but not good enough. Beginning of the year I've been going on exemptions for five tournaments, I think it was. I won a tournament, one in five. Been working very hard in the winter to get my game in shape and it's all come together. I won a tournament in Europe end of last year in Holland and been playing well since.

Q. I looked it up when you got done, you're the third oldest first-time winner in Champions Tour history, just past 57, two months, I guess.

IAN WOOSNAM: Is that right? I guess I don't play as much tournaments as some of the other guys.

Q. To go from 50 to 55 and really not have much success on this tour and then all of a sudden you get it all done at Houston, your thoughts on that?

IAN WOOSNAM: Yeah, I think what's -- I don't think I've made a big enough effort to do what I want to do. I've played in Europe and it was good for the first few years. The European Seniors struggled a little bit. I wanted to come and play over here a little bit more, but I couldn't get the invitations. I got them this year and I've got to thank the sponsors for that, it's giving me a new lease on life. I don't want to keep playing forever, but it would be nice to keep playing for another three years over here anyway.

Q. How is it coming into a week just having won? Does that mentally help you, does it just give you that confidence?

IAN WOOSNAM: Confidence, I think. A lot of time I've been lacking in confidence. Trouble was I've been messing around with my swing. I went to a guy in France called JJ Rivet. He's a biomechanics in Terre Blanche in France. He sorted out my swing a little bit. Not changed my swing, just my balance more, I think. And then I was working with Sandy's caddie a little bit, just basically wasn't quite aiming straight and that seems to have all come together. I'm just aiming a bit more left, but I feel like I'm aiming 50 yards left. I've just got to trust it. So got some confidence at the moment. Flew back to the U.K. last week, I had to do some corporate stuff, so I'm a little bit tired. I'm looking forward. I played yesterday and I'm still hitting the ball beautiful, so just hope it just keeps going. Now I can relax a little bit, be a bit freer and maybe I can just challenge it a little bit more.

Q. Was last year the first time you played here since --

IAN WOOSNAM: '90, yeah, definitely, yeah.

Q. What do you think of this course and kind of how it fits your game?

IAN WOOSNAM: I think it fits my game really well, but when I first played here in '90, I think it was a different ballgame altogether. We had the big, long grass. But as the course sets up here now, it really suits my game. You've got to drive it well and you've got to hit your irons well, and I think that's a strong part of my game.

Q. You talked about confidence a little bit. For a guy who's done everything that you've done in the game, it doesn't seem like that would be an issue, but I guess golf is a funny thing.

IAN WOOSNAM: Yeah, it is. Confidence is sometimes you're not -- confidence is like not knowing for sure where the ball's going to go. Now I've got more confidence where it's going to go and what shape it's going. I've always been sort of a player when I've got the confidence, I do really well. When the confidence isn't very good, I don't do too well. My game's always been -- goes in sections where I sort of play really well for six months and I don't play well, then I play well again. Just have to put up with it really, get through it, get on with it.

Q. Like regular people.

IAN WOOSNAM: Right. So you know, I've got to ride this wave going at the moment hopefully. I guess what I want to do now is I've got to go back, which I committed to a couple tournaments in Europe and my daughter's getting married. So after that I come back for the U.S. Seniors Open and I'll be playing full time out here.

Q. You're playing next week, right?

IAN WOOSNAM: Yes, playing next week. Then I go back and play the Wales Seniors and I play Jersey Seniors, where I live, and then my daughter gets married and then I'm back over. Got a lot of golf to play, yeah. I'm looking forward to it.