
Q. Tell me a little bit about the feeling coming in as the defending champion.

WOODY AUSTIN: Well, obviously it's the first time as far as kind of getting a good see of what it's like to come back to a place that you've won on this tour. You know, it's always nice to go to a place that you play well. It's funny that two of my three wins were former Tour courses. So I won in Tucson, which I played a lot, and then I've won here, which I played a lot. So it's neat because I already know the golf course so I don't need to get out there too much and try and see if there's any new nuances to it because I've been playing it since 1995.

Q. What about this course suits your game well?

WOODY AUSTIN: This is a rarity for a lot of the courses we play; you actually have to drive it straight here. We don't usually have too many courses that we play that are penalty courses, and this one, you really have to drive it straight. There's a lot of tough little driving spots out here, so you really have to drive it well. But ultimately it comes down to whether or not you can putt, and I putted well on Sunday and I made a comeback.

Q. How's it kind of played so far as you've been out there?

WOODY AUSTIN: I haven't played it yet. I'll play first off this afternoon and I'll see how it's playing.

Q. Where do you kind of assess where your game's at now versus last year?

WOODY AUSTIN: Probably a little worse. My game's never really sharp at the beginning of the year. I don't do anything in the offseason. This offseason I had offseason surgery for the very first time so I didn't do anything this offseason. And I don't practice when I'm home anymore. I've had enough of that. So I pretty much practice when I get to the golf tournaments, and this week I got here a little late because I played the Hootie & the Blowfish pro-am on Monday.

It's okay, but it's not as sharp. I need to get -- when the season gets going and we play successive weeks in a row, we haven't done that yet, so when we play successive weeks in a row, then my game will show up because then I'll have a couple weeks of practice as opposed to three days, tournament, three days, a tournament.

Q. What was the surgery?

WOODY AUSTIN: I actually had hernia surgery this offseason. I had umbilical hernia surgery.

Q. Was there a rehab process or anything?

WOODY AUSTIN: Just seven weeks, not allowed to do any physical activity whatsoever. The typical bored out of your gourd because you feel fine after a week and then now you've got six weeks where you're not allowed to do nothing.

Q. Did you catch up on some movies?

WOODY AUSTIN: Yeah, and there's a casino within 30 minutes of my house so I was there quite a bit.

Q. A year ago at Tucson you switched putters on Sunday?

WOODY AUSTIN: That's correct.

Q. Did it here as well?

WOODY AUSTIN: I did, that's right. All three tournaments, did not finish -- well, but Tucson and this one were different putters on Sunday, shot 65 and 64. The two-man tournament, since it's a par-3 course, I just carried two putters in the bag all day and switched.

Q. When did that stop? Are you still doing it?

WOODY AUSTIN: Oh, I'll do it every time if I'm -- I mean, I did it last week. Unfortunately -- or two weeks ago in Mississippi -- I had it going and then I four-putted the last hole and cost myself the whole round. Oh, yeah, I mean, because it's really hard to beat those guys or even contend if you can't make anything. In Mississippi I did something I never -- in Mississippi I didn't make one putt for birdie. I actually was on your stat line, I was 2.0 for greens hit in regulation for a day and I made 26 feet of putts in one day. That was it, 26 feet, so I averaged 1.5 feet per green. I mean, it was just sickening, and I still shot even par.

Q. It's a putting contest.

WOODY AUSTIN: It is, it is. Especially when you've got a couple of the guys like Bernhard and McCarron with those brooms and they're so fricking good with those brooms. Bernhard might have a day where he shoots even par, but he never has a week where he shoots even par, even par every day. He'll shoot 64 one of those three days, and then the other day will be 66 or whatever. So he may have one bad day, but that broom never takes more than one day off. Mine takes months and years off.

Q. What fits your eye out here on this course?

WOODY AUSTIN: What I was saying, it's a good, tough driving course. If you drive it well,

it's not a hard golf course, but there's some good little -- I mean, the third hole's a tough driving hole. The fourth hole, the par 5, I mean, you can get there if you hit a perfect drive, but if you don't hit a perfect drive then it's a really ugly layup. So there's some -- No. 9 is a really tough driving hole, 12. 14's a little, you know. And then 18 you've got to -- I mean, it's an easy hole if you hit a perfect drive, but if you don't hit a perfect drive you've got kind of a goofy layup. So if you drive it well, you can put together a really low number like I did on Sunday, but if you don't drive it well, it kind of makes you look kind of goofy.