



**Fred Couples**

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**Q. How does it feel, Fred, the back, and how do you feel about playing this week?**

**FRED COUPLES:** I feel good, otherwise I wouldn't be here. I'm not coming just to talk to Strick about the Presidents Cup. And I get paired with him tomorrow, which is fantastic. But I've been off since Houston, I don't know, seven or eight weeks, and I just keep waiting for it to get better. I feel okay. Obviously rusty, but anyone would be rusty. But I'm excited to play and sometimes you play better when you're more excited than if you're playing every other week.

**Q. Your impressions of the course?**

**FRED COUPLES:** Yeah. I've done a couple outings in Madison before. I don't know the course. I'll be seeing it here in 20 minutes. But obviously talked to a few players and they all liked it. I know the scores were good last year. I don't know what won or what the average scores were. But I love Steve Stricker, so I can tell you that. He's been a friend forever, and anything he does is first class, so I'm sure this is a great spot.

**Q. What is it about Steve that you like or other people like so much?**

**FRED COUPLES:** Well, for me -- I can't speak for other players -- he's very, very friendly. He's got a great family and they're always fun to be around. I don't know if Nicki's caddying or not. He may have Aaron Rodgers caddying for him or something. You know what he is? He's going to be a perfect Presidents Cup captain. I keep telling him, Don't be nervous because you're just one of the guys. He's a big-time tour player, he's won a lot of times. He's 50 or 51 now so he's been doing it a long time, but he's just easy to be around.

**Q. There's some good competition, not only on this range, I see a lot of faces. But this whole tour is filled with golfers who still want to win. They have a little bit more fun, but is that the enjoyable part of the PGA TOUR Champions, they still get to go out and have fun and be competitive?**

**FRED COUPLES:** I've said this every time people ask. My favorite thing really is my Friday tee time. Today is fun, don't get me wrong, I love pro-ams, but it's the pairings. So I get Stricker tomorrow and Kirk Triplett. I've been on tour 37 years, I've known both of them 30 years and 37 years, so we've played a lot. There's no surprises.

Then if you play well, then you're going to get the Miguel Jimenez and Brandt Jobe, who just won, and Kenny Perry and all that. It's a pretty studded tour, it's just a little deceiving. We play in front of nice crowds. I know there will be good crowds here, but not every week.

For me personally, it's just about the playing and the competition. At 57 I really still feel like I can win so I keep doing it. When there comes a time when I just come and I'm 25th and 30th, I'm not saying that's bad, I just can't do that. My body's not strong enough anyway. So I want to compete and I want to play against the best players, so I've got hopefully two or three more years. I keep saying that, but hopefully.

**Q. Did you watch much of the U.S. Open last week and what were your thoughts on the way that tournament unfolded and especially all the buzz about the length of guys these days?**

**FRED COUPLES:** Yeah, well, I did watch a lot of it. The best thing I liked was seeing everyone pretty much hit drivers. But there's Jay, whose son I think finished fifth, Jay Haas, so he was pretty excited. I was texting him mostly on Sunday.

But I think they missed a little bit -- just length is not a problem. It's not really even a problem for us. If we play a course that's 7,200 yards, we don't really get intimidated. Some people think it's long, but 7,700 for the PGA Tour and the U.S. Open, that's nothing. That's a 510-yard hole, that's a driver and an 8-iron. They hit their 8-iron 170 yards and they drive it 320. Not everyone, not Jim Furyk and not some of the other guys, but for the amount of power they have, that was not much. And the fairways were a little wide.

But I'll tell you, the fans supported it. They had a great leaderboard with Ricky Fowler up there and obviously Matsuyama's one of the best players in the world, so the right players were at the top.

**Q. Are you going to partake in anything Wisconsin like cheese curds or beer or anything like that?**

**FRED COUPLES:** Actually, I came with a friend who's from here. We flew out together and he's here visiting family, so he's with Suzanne right now and they're figuring out dinner for tomorrow night, and then we're going to go see Darius Friday night. Friday will be a big night for me. Dinner's a lot of work, but then dinner and a show, that's a long day. But Darius is a friend, so we're going to go check him out.

But I am coming back for a Packer game against my Seattle Seahawks, but I won't have any Seahawk gear on, I won't do that. But I am coming back, I think it's September 11th, to watch so we may do a couple things there. But here I'm mostly golf and we'll visit a few things. Like I said, I flew in here twice a long time ago to play in a pro-am here and then I left, so I've never really spent much time in Madison.