

PRE-TOURNAMENT INTERVIEW
June 22, 2017



Nick Faldo

CHRIS RICHARDS: Good morning. I would like to welcome Sir Nick Faldo to the American Family Insurance Championship. It's been a couple years since you've played on PGA TOUR Champions. Does it feel good to get the competitive juices flowing again?

NICK FALDO: Well, yes. Yeah, I thought somewhere this year, I'm 60 in July and I thought, wow, I'll celebrate being 60 because 30 years ago I won my first Open. Thirty sounds okay, but when you say that's half your life ago, you go, oh, shoot. So I thought I would like to come out and do something.

So I kind of worked with my schedule, mainly with my daughter Emma, what she was doing for her summer, and I thought, well, can I play some golf in June because I plan to play -- once TV season finishes, I finish the end of August, I'm going to play Calgary and looking at trying to be a golfer for a couple months.

So it's been fun gearing up. It's been really cool. I've got all the fancy gear, working on everything, working on my swing technically, physically. I've got Greg Farnsworth here as well, my old putting doctor, to help me out. Yeah, I'm trying, as I say, to pretend to be a golfer for a while.

CHRIS RICHARDS: What are your first impressions of not only the golf course but Wisconsin and the fan support that we have here?

NICK FALDO: Well, lucky college kids. This is some setup for a college golf course. I mean, this is very impressive. Great place for youngsters to be out there beating golf balls all day long, so I would have been very happy here, all that long grass.

I haven't seen a lot of Madison yet, probably later in the weekend, but so far I've been a golfer. Get here, practice. Came in Monday late, practiced Tuesday, practice round Tuesday sort of thing, and then yesterday was kind of a practice day, did a little bit of everything. Pro-am today, so hopefully I'll be well prepared.

Q. Nick, how do you balance your competitiveness with the fact that you haven't competed much?

NICK FALDO: Yeah.

Q. And what does that do to your expectations?

NICK FALDO: Yeah, this week I'm going to be sensible. I played in South Africa, South

African Open, and I nearly made the cut there. I learned some things from that, so hopefully I'm bringing a little bit more swing thoughts to my artillery. So yeah, I want to try things out just to see. You only find out what you can do under a little bit of tournament pressure.

Then see how much I can stand, yeah. I've been sitting, as you know, I've been sitting up in that booth for a long time so this is my first golfing run, if it all pans out this year for whatever. I've been up there 13 years so it's nice to get out and get some fresh air.

Bottom line, I'm looking forward to it. Whatever happens, whatever happens. Fortunately, I don't have to feed four children anymore. They're all fine.

Q. As you've watched them from the booth, are there things that you see that you say that may have taught you about the game or things you might want to implement?

NICK FALDO: Yeah, the good thing is when you play, you hay-make your mistakes and you beat yourself up over mistakes. I watch TV, I watch the world's best golfers. A 30-foot putt, they can leave it 10-foot short and 10-foot past. We see shanks. We don't see many tops. But you know what I'm saying? Guys doing their best and it goes wrong.

So I think that's what I've kind of like, hey, just go easy on yourself. If it goes wrong in places, well, fine, don't feel embarrassed. Because I've watched the best in the world hit the wrong shot at the wrong time. I've also seen them hit the great shots, which is key as well. Guys pulled off great shots. You can sense that. So I'm just going to do the absolutely best I can and that's all you can really do, isn't it?

Q. Throughout most of your career people saw you as a fearless competitor, very serious competitor, but once you stepped into the booth, they kind of saw a different side of you. Now that you're back out on the course, what side are we going to see?

NICK FALDO: What side will we see? Hopefully, I think more the fun side because I think, as I said, we were -- that was a different era. Wow, 40 years ago. We were just striving to make a career and what have you. I had fierce competitors, Seve to play against, and Nick Price and Greg. Back in that time, it was a complete different era, wasn't it? We didn't show our cards, we kept them close. Now everybody's best buddies, they Tweet everybody, they go on holiday to the Bahamas. I mean, goodness me. They sit and have lunch together before they go out and play for \$2 million. Oh, it's your turn to win this week. Oh, thanks very much.

Do you think Seve and I had lunch or Greg and I had lunch before we went and played? I think it's a different style. Yeah, we were very much individuals. But again, I was only starting new. To be honest, that's all I knew. I knew I had this great ability. Some people would be envious of the quality to really concentrate for five hours out there. Some people would think that's too much or whatever. But I had a quality to be able to really head down I used to call it. So it kind of worked. So here now I'm a completely different guy. My dad's amateur dramatics, as I give him credit, he used to love being on stage, so I think that finally

came out of me.

Q. I guess seguing into the pairing for Friday with Woosie and Monty --

NICK FALDO: I know a good joke about an Englishman, a Welshman and a Scotsman, yeah, that play golf. We'll start with that one. I need to go and Google silly jokes about an Englishman, a Welshman and a Scotsman. I'm sure there's plenty. That's fine, that's the Brexit three-ball.

Q. Monty said yesterday it's also a Ryder Cup practice round from years gone by?

NICK FALDO: We had fun at those. I had two great partners with those guys. My goodness, Woosie, '87, '89, that was amazing. And then Monty right after that. Monty was later, wasn't he? He was like the '93, '95 sort of thing, and '97 as well. Yeah, I had really two great partners in that era when we turned the Ryder Cup around. That was really cool, yeah.

Yeah, I can remember some good stuff about that. Woosie and I at Muirfield Village, ham and egg, 6 under after six, that second four-ball we played, that was all right, against Curtis and Tom Kite.

Q. Monty told the story yesterday about practice round at Valderrama where Seve made you go back and play 17 again because he didn't like the way you did it the first time?

NICK FALDO: My version of the story is I made the decision to go back. We played the 17th hole and because, you know, we rushed along. We said, well, maybe we've got to go for it or lay up or something, we have to come up with a different strategy. So I suggested we went back. That's my side of the story because the media made it into Seve demanding us to go back and play again. No, Seve was a great captain that week. "You have to win." The intensity was great.

Q. Can I ask you a couple current events types questions? You had a caddie for a long time on the regular tour with a great relationship. What do you make of Phil and Bones breaking up this week?

NICK FALDO: Well, I was doing the call. If you ask the Golf Channel to replay that 17th tee at THE PLAYERS. Wow, that was unbelievable. Just sit and explain it. That went on for three minutes of Bones telling him, because every shot's got a name, it's a Peltz 9-iron and this sort of thing. I'm telling you, believe me, trust me. Gave him all of this and Phil kept saying, "I want to hit a wedge, I want to hit it 140." So Phil then hits a wedge, plunk, over the green in the water. Then he walks to the drop zone and Phil just says, "I just want a number."

So I was there, I was in the call on that one and I said, wow, there was so much -- you need

to listen. It was a lot going on, a lot of -- even Bones was even talking himself, "Don't think of this and don't try this and I don't want you" -- I'm like, whoa.

Fanny and I had a great relationship, Fanny Sunesson. It was really simple. I wanted bang, bang, bang numbers and a bit of information, and the player's got make the decision. The real bottom line is the player's got to go with his own gut feeling.

Sure, you want a great relationship with a caddie to duck and dive, and sure, they make great calls at times, yeah. But bottom line it's on the player's shoulder. And I thought, wow, he wasn't letting Phil hit the shot he wanted to hit. So maybe more went on, but that to me really, really stood out.

Q. And then related to the U.S. Open last week because there was so much abuzz around here about the way Erin Hills played or didn't play, and then guys like Brooks Koepka hitting a 380-yard 3-wood off the 18th tee on Sunday, what were your impressions of the course? I don't know how much of it you saw.

NICK FALDO: I only saw it through TV. It looked pretty dramatic. I'm sure if it played firm and fast they would have got their 1 under par winning it, but because it was soft and the guys could stop it, I don't think the hay came into as much play as they talked about.

Look at good old Muirfield, Scotland. My goodness, you stand on that first tee and you neck it down there and you're in this up to your waist for starters. You marked in your yardage book as a hazard. That right of No. 5, your second shot, if you hit it in there, you come out and you lose a shoe, so you just said I cannot go near that stuff. That's how you used to pluck your way around a golf course.

But it looked good. Brooks played great. I was very impressed, once Hideki set a score, he then plowed on. I thought that was very impressive. So yeah, they've got a good champion.

All right. I'm going to be a golfer. Are you good?

CHRIS RICHARDS: Thank you very much for joining us.