



PRE-TOURNAMENT INTERVIEW
June 22, 2017

Nate Pokrass, Tournament Director

Q. So initially a wrinkle because of parking, but if that's the only wrinkle for the week, you'll be okay?

NATE POKRASS: Yes. Obviously with today's rain and pending rain this evening, we want to plan ahead and give our patrons plenty of notice of pending adjustments. We're moving all general public and those with S parking passes off site to Verona schools, and we'll shuttle them in right to the main gate. All other passes will continue to follow the directions that are their standard locations, just general public and the S passes.

This is for Friday only. We think the rest of the weekend will be dry enough that the fields will dry out tomorrow and we'll get everybody back on site. But knowing what we think is coming, best just to plan ahead. We've got a full shuttle program right in place and we'll be ready to go first thing in the morning.

Q. (Question regarding last year parking on the grounds.)

NATE POKRASS: It really was. We heard great feedback last year on Sunday at post tournament as we surveyed some of our fans what did they like better, on site or off site. Everyone said our shuttle program ran extremely smoother, they got door to door in under 20 minutes, dropped off right at the front gated and had a minimal walk, so they really enjoyed it. So we think we have a great plan in place.

We've got great partners. We've been spending the afternoon getting all the logistics worked out and we'll open those lots starting at 6:00 a.m., gates are at 7:00 a.m. so we'll start running those shuttles right away. We know we've got a strong tee time group in that 9:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. window, so hopefully everyone still plans ahead, but we'll be ready to get rolling.

Q. In general, the course, this isn't a whole lot of rain for a course like this. You're prepared for this amount of rain?

NATE POKRASS: Yeah, the golf course itself is in great shape. It drains extremely well. This rain is having no impact on the golf course itself. The cross-country course isn't typically used for parking and we want to protect it as well for the weekends. We want to ensure we can try to get everybody back Saturday and Sunday. That's why we're going plan ahead right now and shift to that shuttle program for those two categories of general public and that S parking.

Q. Should anybody be doing anything different, the fans? Should they be coming a little bit earlier, any other recommendations you have for them?

NATE POKRASS: We're always encouraging everybody to come early, always plan ahead. We know PD and M is just a congested corner regardless. But Madison police, UW police, Verona police are all prepared for it. We're preparing all new signage. We have digital boards in the area as well that will continue to direct everybody in that right direction. But with any sporting event in town, whether you're going to Camp Randall, the Kohl Center, you're going to Alliant Energy, it's always good to plan ahead. Same applies here as well. We'll get everybody there quickly, safely as best we can.

Q. Those that were here last year, the new wrinkle here this year, there will be 1 and 10 starts the entire weekend, so the window time to actually watch the golf this year will be much smaller than last year?

NATE POKRASS: Correct. We felt it was a better fan experience to start off on both 1 and 10. It definitely tightens the window. It also, given our TV window as well, gets more opportunity to get more players in on the TV side. If all holds as planned, most golf will be done by 4:00 and fans can enjoy the rest of their evenings in the city of Madison and have a good time. So it is a little bit tighter, but at the same token they'll be able to catch just as much golf.

Q. And the other wrinkle this year is you had a few more WDs, and losing Vijay to the Travelers and John Daly to I presume watching his son play golf. You may be able to withstand it, though, because you have Steve and Jerry. Is that kind of a nice card to have?

NATE POKRASS: From the moment we knew we were getting this year Steve and Jerry, the Wisconsin connection was the big aspect. We have Skip Kendall and of course Jim Schuman. That's first and foremost what's exciting. WDs are part of professional golf. We see it on the PGA Tour, we see it on the PGA TOUR Champions. It's what happens. John sent me a really nice note last night apologizing. He's having some shoulder problems as well, just wasn't able to play but apologized for not being here. He does want to come back next year. So these guys are all extremely respectful. They want to be here, they want to be playing.

But regardless, we've got a great field. That great threesome of Faldo, Woosnam and Monty, that's going to be an outstanding group in there. Throw in the Wisconsin connection, our field's extremely strong this year.

Q. Ultimately with this rain, is that a negative in your mind of having to shuttle the fans over?

NATE POKRASS: Not at all. It's the nature of outdoor sports, it happens. Regardless, it looks like tomorrow's going to be a gorgeous day. And the feedback we heard from the

shuttles, it was just as good as parking on site. So we clearly have a good team in place that operationally we'll be ready to go and fans will have just as great an experience. And the fans are accustomed to it, they just had it at the U.S. Open. So it's what they're used to. The shuttle ride will be shorter than they had last week up at the Open, but it's the nature of golf and that's how it goes.