

**ROUND 2 INTERVIEW**  
**June 24, 2017**



**Gene Sauers (-9)**

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**Q. Did last week prepare you in any way for this week?**

**GENE SAUERS:** Well, I hit a lot of long irons last week. It's a little bit easier this week, playing with the guys that I grew up playing with. You know, I've been hitting the ball pretty good lately. I cracked my driver in Birmingham so I still -- this is the second driver or actually the third driver in the last four, five rounds so I haven't really found a driver yet. I can kind of get it around. Everything else is good, which saved me, and then making a few putts, so I'm right where I want to be.

**Q. Will experience from last year in this particular tournament -- you had the lead in the last round, but you're up towards the top of the leaderboard. Would that help you at all this year?**

**GENE SAUERS:** I had a good run last year; I finished fourth, I do believe. I like the golf course, it's in perfect shape. I've just got to keep hitting the ball solid. When the wind picks up, it's pretty difficult on some of those par 3s. Just keep playing good and making putts that I need to make.

**Q. You had a good run on the back nine here that kind of put yourself in the tournament?**

**GENE SAUERS:** Right. I kind of made a couple birdies and then I made that eagle on the short hole. Hit a wedge in there to like 64 yards and knocked it in the hole for eagle, so that kind of boosted me up a little bit.

**Q. Last year the final round was a little crazy, people coming from behind and all that. Do you see something like that happening again this year?**

**GENE SAUERS:** Oh, yeah, every week. We see a lot of different stuff every week. You've just got to keep just doing what you've got to do and not worry about what everybody else is doing, just try to play your game.

**Q. Is there anything about this course that's conducive to that, guys making runs?**

**GENE SAUERS:** Well, there's a few par 5s you can get home, so you can make eagles. You've just got to play your game. Your game plan is just keep going, not worry about anybody else.

**Q. Did you feel like it's a good thing for the winner of U.S. Senior Open to get an**

## **exemption into the Open?**

**GENE SAUERS:** Right, that was fun. I had a bad putting week that week, I had six three-putts in two days so that kind of put a damper on things for me, but I'd like to do it again sometime.

## **Q. Then you've got to turn around and defend right away. How did that impact where this tournament stood in terms of this run here?**

**GENE SAUERS:** You know, I'm 54 years old. I still feel like I'm 40, 45. Next week will be four in a row for me, which is a lot of golf, but Erin Hills kind of took it out of me a little bit. That's a long golf course. But you just keep going. I'm in decent shape, so I can keep going.

## **Q. Would you ever go back to Erin Hills?**

**GENE SAUERS:** Yeah, I would, I would. Of course, they've got already 10 years ahead, but I would go back. Then I'll be 64. I don't know if I'll go back then. Let me redo that.

## **Q. Did you like the setup, though, there?**

**GENE SAUERS:** I did, it was fine. I'm hitting 3-irons and hybrids and 3-woods and those other guys are hitting 7-irons and 6-irons and 8-irons. That's hard to beat that. Those guys are really good. They can move the ball a long way.

## **Q. Do you feel like you figured out something with your driver today?**

**GENE SAUERS:** Well, today it was a new head and I put it on a new setting. I hit it okay but it wasn't the best. Not like my old driver. My old driver, I could just line it up and hit it, not worry about it. Now, I'm kind of okay, get it in the fairway somewhere. I've still got a little bit more searching to do.

## **Q. So you're hitting wedges in almost every hole here?**

**GENE SAUERS:** No, not every hole. I hit a lot of -- the par 3s, you hit 5-irons. And yesterday was a little tougher yesterday, I remember hitting some 5s and 4-irons and 3-iron into the par 5 over there but 3-iron somewhere else. No. 4 is it, the long hole? That's a good hole. It's not playing real easy, I just had a good day.