

**PRE-TOURNAMENT INTERVIEW**  
**June 9, 2021**



**MIKE WEIR**

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**Q. We'll get started with Mike Weir, who had a runner-up last week. You've had top-5s in three of your last four starts out here on PGA TOUR Champions. What's been going right for you during that stretch?**

**MIKE WEIR:** I think my game's just been solid. You know, a certain week it's been ball-striking and another week it's been putting, some weeks it's been a little bit of both. Just overall, yeah, my game's just felt nice and solid and consistent.

**Q. Mike, what was your motivation for wanting to come out here and play this tournament again?**

**MIKE WEIR:** Well, this is my first time here. I think motivation is Strick's a great friend, so is Jerry Kelly. I knew Wisconsin's a lot like home where I grew up, and getting here it feels very familiar; the big trees, the type of grass. I guess the hospitality, too. And I heard great things about the event. All in all, definitely want to come play.

**Q. Have you been able to go out and play a round yet?**

**MIKE WEIR:** I drove around last night. I just got in yesterday, so I just drove around. Didn't really play any holes, just to kind of take a look and practice, hit a few balls. But today the pro-am will be the first time checking out the course.

**Q. It feels like the world is kind of returning to normal. Does it feel like sports are returning to something close to normal, too?**

**MIKE WEIR:** It's starting to feel that way, yeah. I guess starting in Houston about a month ago having fans there, feeling the energy of the fans, and then the last few weeks, Tulsa and last week and here, to have fans back is huge. I think the Tour's done a phenomenal job out here for all of us guys getting vaccinated, just the hard work they've done the last year and a half, setting up in parking lots where we all have to get tested, get our lanyards, do the whole thing. It's been a big effort, but it's gotten us to this point where we can kind of start to ease off some of those restrictions a little bit.

**Q. Can you elaborate on the difference of playing in front of fans and playing -- what difference that makes for you as a player?**

**MIKE WEIR:** Yeah, I think for me the big difference between fans and not having fans is the energy, I think. When you're playing well and you're getting in contention, how the crowd can get behind you, just how fun it is. There's just a relationship there with the players with the

fans that we feel their energy. Not having it there, the events we played a lot last year and earlier into this year without them, you still feel the competition, but not to the level and I guess the attention to detail and how focused you get I guess with the crowds around. It's a big difference.

**Q. What are some of the things you've heard about this tournament that made you want to be a part of it?**

**MIKE WEIR:** I heard great things about the golf course. And then the town, I heard great things about Madison. So far, we just got in last night, but had a great meal already and looking forward to cruise around the campus, I want to check out the Mercy and town. That's what I've heard from the guys and Steve and Jerry in particular. But I just heard, yeah, what a great event and how first class everything was was kind of the word in the locker room amongst the guys, so yeah, I wanted to come check it out.

**Q. You mentioned your relationship with Steve and Jerry. What is that camaraderie like on the Champions Tour? You guys have played together so long, completed against each other so long.**

**MIKE WEIR:** Yeah. I mean, for myself and Jerry and Steve, I mean, I remember playing Q-School with Jerry back in, boy, that was in the early '90s we played. I think we first met, we played in California, the second stage of Q-School, we got paired together and hit it off. We both loved sports and hockey in particular, so we had that commonality.

And then I played with Steve on the Canadian Tour back in the early days, cutting our teeth in professional golf on the Canadian Tour, kind of making our way. Steve got up there a little earlier than I did and has had great success. They're both great guys and represent the game in such a great way, and the community here in Madison. We just always had a great relationship.

**Q. Mike, is it pretty cool when you think back on those days, like playing the Canadian Tour with Steve or being paired with Jerry and all these years later you guys are still kind of competing and grinding?**

**MIKE WEIR:** Yeah, totally. It's a blessing really to think that in your 50s we're still competing and carry the friendships through all those years. I know at least for myself, I know when those guys are competing, if I'm not playing a week, Steve's playing a regular PGA TOUR event, pulling for him all the way and want him to play well.

I think -- I feel like all of us guys on the Champions Tour. Very grateful that we have this PGA TOUR Champions and we can still compete and keep those friendships going. It's really, really special.

**Q. Just one other from me. I'm just curious like, you're up to like No. 6 I think on the Schwab Cup standings. I know there's obviously a lot of time left in the year, but is**

**that something you kind of like pay attention to, think about, that sort of thing?**

**MIKE WEIR:** Sure, no doubt. I check the list. When we kind of got started back up in Hawaii, I looked at the list and I thought, well, to win the FedExCup this year it's going to take a big effort. I turned 50 and my first event was in August, or I guess whenever we played in Michigan, I guess it was late July last year, so I felt like I was playing catch-up, but I've made up a little bit of ground and still have enough tournaments, I think if I play really well, I might have a shot at it. It's fun, it's fun to have that to shoot for.

**Q. Jim mentioned that the golf course is pretty big, a little bit different than the usual Champions Tour course. What were your impressions of it the first time you drove around?**

**MIKE WEIR:** I heard the same thing. Some tournaments, last week in particular, was a very good golf course but quirky where you're hitting some blind shots and you're having some wedges to very difficult greens, so it was a challenge for your wedge shots, some strong winds, and putting was in particular difficult there.

And I've heard different things about here where you're hitting a lot more mid irons, the par 5s are quite big, the par 3s are long, so you're hitting more your mid irons and long irons, so totally different golf course. Just driving around my first impressions are you had better be in the fairway, too. You don't want to be off the fairway too much. Looks like a real challenging course.

**Q. Have you and Jerry ever been on skates together?**

**MIKE WEIR:** Never been on skates together. We talked about it I think earlier back in our days on Tour. I skated a few times back in Dallas, Brennan Little, who caddies for Gary Woodland now, he caddied for me, we would lace them up in Dallas every once in a while. But we talked about it. Now it's probably not going to happen. You know, we've talked about it. We talk a big game.