

PRE-TOURNAMENT INTERVIEW
July 20, 2021



ANGUS FLANAGAN

HALEY PETERSON: We would like to welcome Angus Flanagan to the 3M Open, the media room here. Former University of Minnesota golfer and making your third PGA TOUR start.

Can you just take us back to your first start here at the 2020 3M Open and your memories from that?

ANGUS FERGUSON: Most of the memories are still there. It's a bit different this time, no mask or anything because we were kind of at the height of the pandemic last time. Yeah, a lot of memories, some good ones and some bad ones. Didn't play too great, but there was just so many guys that I got to know out here through this time last year and also playing in the Genesis as well, so I'm just super excited to get out there. I have one of my best friends on the bag again, Pete Jones, who played at the University of Minnesota for two years with me. We're just out here to have a great time and at the end of the day, this is my first professional debut on the PGA TOUR, so I've just got to stick to golf is golf, lowest score counts at the end of the day and go from there.

HALEY PETERSON: Also, can you take us back to your second PGA TOUR start at the Genesis Invitational? Exciting entrance you had to it. Maybe some memories you made there or talking to certain players?

ANGUS FERGUSON: Yeah, no, definitely. It was a nice format. Played with Denny McCarthy in the Monday thing that they do and that was so much fun. He's an awesome guy. He came out in the playoff and watched me. Most of the other guys left to go practice, but Denny came out and on the third hole I holed a pretty good putt to make it in, gave it a fist pump, and Denny was the first guy to cheer and come up and congratulate me. So Denny McCarthy is definitely a guy that I kind of text a lot, just kind of seeing how he's doing and he's seeing how I'm doing, and I'll see him this week and maybe play with him tomorrow. Yeah, definitely some great memories made, so hope we make some great ones this week.

HALEY PETERSON: And as you just closed a chapter in one book, your collegiate career, do you have certain goals heading into for a professional career?

ANGUS FERGUSON: Well, I think the number one goal is to be the best player in the world. I think anyone coming into this sport is so driven by results. I want to play well every time, but just at the end of the day, just enjoy it, just kind of keep the confidence up. Yes, there's big names out here and people that I've grown up playing with, or looking up to, sorry, but yeah, got to go out and have fun and just have my golf do the talking because I'm

definitely playing well at the moment. Just got to take my confidence there come Thursday on the first tee. I just actually got my tee time and I'm playing with one of the guys I played with in the Walker Cup, so we had a great game. I'm just super excited for that.

HALEY PETERSON: And can you touch upon about what it's been like to have Minnesota as your home, and where will you be playing from or where have you moved to since college has ended?

ANGUS FERGUSON: That was actually just a question when I first came in here. So I'm here for another month and then planning on moving to somewhere in Florida, I think, maybe the Jupiter area or somewhere down there just because there's so many guys down there, there's so many good places to play, it's easy to fly into and fly out of, especially getting home as well. It's eight hours, so if I went to Arizona it's an extra three hours to get on a flight to get back to London, so I'm going to be apartment hunting at some point soon.

Q. Angus, have you practiced yet and what has the course been like. If you have, and how are you feeling now that you get your swing back in Minnesota?

ANGUS FERGUSON: Yeah, so I played yesterday in the pro-am, which was a lot of fun. Kind of one of my first pro-am deals. It was nice to play in one of those. I heard good things about them and I had a great day yesterday with the four guys I played with.

I actually just played nine holes, so my skin's a bit sunburned after this morning, a lot of SPF 50 and SPF 100. So yeah, course is looking great. I was out here a couple weeks ago and it was looking really, really good, but just in the last week it's amazing what they can do. The superintendent has done a great job.

So I'm just, as I said earlier, just super excited to get out there. I've got Pete on the bag, who is one of my best mates. Spent a lot of time with him the last couple weeks and he knows my game probably better than I know my own game. So I couple times today he was like, I really think it's a 6-iron instead of a 7, and hit the 6-iron, hit it to pin high and I was like, I can get 7 there and I'm 10 yards short. So it will be nice to have that. I'm just super excited to get out here and grateful for the opportunity.

Q. You mentioned playing in the event last year. How much more do you feel like your game has grown over the last year and do you feel a little bit better prepared this time around as you take the field at the 3M Open?

ANGUS FERGUSON: I definitely feel better prepared. This time last year I was very, very nervous, that's probably best way of putting it. Yeah, I was standing on the first tee just even in practice and there was no fans and stuff, but I just got to go out there and think it's just golf, like I've hit the same shots over and over again. Yes, there's going to be people this time, but played in the Walker Cup a couple months ago and there was 3,000 people there watching and seemed to compete well. I've just got to take that forward. It's just going to be a learning experience at the end of the day. Everything, equipment's feeling great, swing's

feeling great, I've got Pete on the bag. Yeah, it should be a great week.

Q. What was the Walker Cup experience like, Angus, to end your amateur career with?

ANGUS FERGUSON: It was a nice ending. It's definitely the pinnacle of amateur golf. I actually ended up in Minnesota through Seminole Golf Club. I went down there in about 2016 with my father. We played down there and met the head pro and the head pro, Bob Ford, was Justin Smith, who now is the head coach's mentor at the time when Justin played on like Nationwide, trying to get on to the PGA TOUR.

So I got the contact kind of rolling there and that's how I ended up to Minnesota was through Seminole. We played there a couple weeks after they knew that they were hosting the 2021 Walker Cup and I was walking down the fairway with Bob and we were I think on the 18th. We were just kind of finishing up and he said, "How cool would it be to be done at Minnesota after four years and play in the Walker Cup?" So it was a clear goal of mine to play four years at Minnesota and play the Walker Cup. So it was definitely the cherry on top being able to do that and playing with the guys I grew up with.

Throughout the pandemic I hadn't been home, so I hadn't been home in about a year and a half, and I got to see the guys on the team for the first time in basically two years, and I grew up playing golf with them from 10 to 18, so we had a great time. I was one of the ones that (indiscernible,) so I lost a bit of weight. I kind of was out in the press, everyone seemed to know about it was getting. I was getting text messages left, right and center saying, "Hey, were you one of the ones that got the food poisoning or the bug or whatever it was?"

So yeah, it was definitely the cherry on top. I'm excited to play as well on Thursday. I got a text just now saying I'm playing with Austin, who I played in the singles on Saturday and I know him very well, so I'll have a great time with him.

Q. Are you old enough to grow that thing on your lip?

ANGUS FERGUSON: I try. I did have one point in the Arnold Palmer Cup over Christmas, I did grow it out, and then because I have a bit of a lighter hair color, you couldn't really see it, so I decided to dye it. It was not -- it wasn't the best look. Everyone was asking if a divot got stuck up there after a pitch shot.

HALEY PETERSON: All right. Thank you, Angus. That's all the questions we have. We appreciate you taking the time to join us and we wish you the best of luck this week.

ANGUS FERGUSON: Thank you, guys.