



Q. Phil, thank you so much for joining us today at Charles Schwab Cup Championship.

How many times have you played this course, and do you have much experience here? And obviously it's so connected to the Phoenix Open history, what does it mean to you?

PHIL MICKELSON: There's a lot of great history at this place and they've done a great job with the renovation that took place a lot of years ago. But it's taken place since I last played here, so the greens are different. They were bent when I last played it in college and there are some new tee boxes and some of the holes are a little bit longer.

But I thought the golf course is in as good of shape as I've seen any golf course, and to be able to come here and play and complete back in Phoenix is fun for me, especially out here with this kind of relaxed, fun -- it's still competitive, but a much more enjoyable experience. It's been a fun opportunity for me to come back and play a great golf course.

Q. What made you want to come here?

PHIL MICKELSON: I enjoy it here, I always have. I enjoy playing and competing on a course that I grew up in college playing. Probably once a month we'd come out here. This course has always been very good to the AC program, very supportive. The renovation has looked amazing. The greens are extremely quick and add a lot of character, make it difficult when you miss greens, getting up and down because of the speed and the contour. That's really the challenge of the course.

It's tight. I'm not gonna lie, this thing is a tight golf course for me, but fortunately there's some areas where even if you miss the fairway, you have a chance, but the rough is challenging.

But I've always enjoyed it here and coming back to Phoenix. It's where I met my wife, where I lived for 12 years and where we had our first two children. It's a special place for me.

Q. How has it been? You went to school here in Phoenix, you lived here for 12 years, like you said. What has Phoenix meant to the development of your game?

PHIL MICKELSON: Going back to when I first came here and the impact that Steve Loy has had on my life. He was my golf coach, he's been my manager ever since, my best friend, and the impact that he has had, and coming here, being able to spend that time with

him and start that relationship was important. It's also where I met my wife, the other vitally important relationship of my life. So this place will always be special to me for those two reasons.

Coming back is always fun, and the people here have been so special and treated me so well and have welcomed me that it's been a very special moment. Especially winning the Phoenix Open, that's been really fun for me.

Q. How do you feel you're playing right now?

PHIL MICKELSON: Not bad. It's hard to say, but not bad. This is my last tournament of the year, I'm going to shut it down after this. I kept playing and working on my game on some areas to make some equipment adjustments for next year. I can't use them right now because they're not on the approved list, but I wanted to be sharp. I didn't want to be trying new stuff when I hadn't been playing, so I spent last week really getting dialed in, trying to get ready for the upcoming season.

After this week I'll shut it down. I'll start working on my fitness again to get speed back up. It seems as though as the year goes on, slowly, slowly the speed starts to decline. So I have to really work hard now at 51 to keep my speed up and be competitive on the regular tour. It's not easy. Those guys hit the ball a long ways, they're incredible players.

But when I get a moment like I had in May, it makes it all worthwhile, so I'm going to keep striving to having a few more of those moments.

Q. Do you think you'll play this year at TPC?

PHIL MICKELSON: There's a good chance because there's nothing conflicting. I love coming back here and playing, but I don't know what my schedule's going to be next year. So for me to say that far in advance, I just don't know.

Q. Phil, how about playing with the two kids you played with today, Jake and Abigail? What was that like for you?

PHIL MICKELSON: It's fun for me to see the efforts that have gone in to The First Tee programs throughout the country and see people come out like Jake and Abby. They both are quality individuals, they've got great golf games. They're heading off to college next year and they handled themselves with a professionalism and maturity that you don't normally see in kids that age.

So to see them interact with CEO's of such a strong company like Charles Schwab and to see them do it with such maturity is impressive. That's a product of The First Tee and the coaches and the volunteers and the people who have come out and worked there. I think that you might not always see the benefits from The First Tee program because they may not be out on Tour, but when you see young men and women like that become such quality

individuals and so intelligent, educated, well driven, well mannered, maturity, it makes it worthwhile and it really shows what an impact that program is making on a lot of kids.

Q. A little off topic, but what do you remember about Tiger's hole-in-one at the '97 Phoenix Open? Were you still on property when that happened?

PHIL MICKELSON: I wasn't on property when that happened, but you could see the TV and everything vibrate. Yeah, it was a pretty special shot.

Q. Any chance we'll see you at Hualalai?

PHIL MICKELSON: No, no, because it's during the AmEx and I'm involved with that tournament, so if I end up playing that particular week, I would end up playing there.

Q. What was your reaction when Abby almost holed out there on the back nine?

PHIL MICKELSON: Yeah, she's a talented golfer. She comes out and makes a par on the first hole for a net birdie. She only gets one stroke, she pars that hole. Then she holes out the bunker shot on the next hole. She's got a great short game. Almost holes out for eagle from the fairway there. She hit a lot of really good shots, she's a great player.

Q. What's the fun part about playing this tour, besides the winning obviously?

PHIL MICKELSON: So, for me the fun part about playing this tour is I know everybody, I know all the guys. I go in the locker room, I'm like, oh, hey, it's great to see you again. On the regular Tour there's a lot of guys, I just don't know who they are. They're talented, they've got a lot of game, I just haven't had a chance to spend time with them. Coming out here and seeing so many familiar faces of guys that I grew up watching play as a kid and competed against for so many years on the PGA TOUR makes this really fun.

Q. Phil, is the interaction with the golfers different on the Champions Tour than it was when you played on the PGA TOUR?

PHIL MICKELSON: I think it is for me, I think it's much more social. It's competitive, but it's also, these are guys we've known for decades now and friendships have been formed and a lot of moments have been shared. I think that that kind of closeness doesn't come right away, it comes over time. So you see a lot of really strong relationships out here.

Q. Phil, first time back here competing since a couple years at the Phoenix Open. Do you end up back here playing casual rounds very often?

PHIL MICKELSON: I do because I have a strong relationship with everybody up at Grayhawk. It's the first deal I ever signed and we continue to this day, and my relationship with Whisper Rock as a member and my instructor, Andrew Getson, who teaches at Grayhawk and is a member at Whisper Rock, we end up coming out here and spending time

here as well.

Q. Phil, the next time we see you I guess will be at The Match. Are you getting a lot of prep work in for the TV side of things?

PHIL MICKELSON: I am. It will be interesting for me to be a part of that. I'm going to be hosting like a little Q and A session with each player tonight that they'll use as some content for social media and that's a new thing for me, like asking the questions, not answering them. That's a different dynamic. I'll have a chance to be on course with them, too, and try to get out some of the personalities, some of the thought processes.

Because both players are brilliant players, both players are great players, but both players do it a different way. Their thought process is different. What I would like to do is kind of let that out and let that be seen. Obviously Bryson is very analytical, numbers, math, and a more scientific approach, and Brooks' approach is using his talent, skill, feel, vision, visualization to bring out his best. I'm hoping that I can get them to articulate that a little bit better because I think it gives great insight into how great players like those two guys think and go throughout a round, and maybe throw in a few jabs here and there.

Q. You'll have fun with Charles, right?

PHIL MICKELSON: Charles is one of the funniest people I know and he's one of the quickest wit, articulate, and for him to carry over, cross over into golf. You know, we're partners and we've won before, so we have a certain credibility when we talk about The Match that I think will provide some insight, too.

Q. Phil, have you had a chance to talk to Tiger, and if you have, do you have any update on how he's doing?

PHIL MICKELSON: I don't, I have no idea. Hopefully well, but I don't know.