

DAVID TOMS

CONNOR STANGE: David, thank you for joining us at the Mitsubishi Electric Classic. You've won in the Atlanta area before with the '01 PGA. Can you just talk about how great it feels to be back here at TPC Sugarloaf this week?

DAVID TOMS: Sure. Always enjoy coming back to Atlanta. Over the years, I was able to win south of town at Callaway Gardens years ago and to win at the Athletic Club. I was there last night doing a little Q and A, so that brought back memories. Always enjoyed it. I think getting to play a golf tournament in the south, that means a lot to me. Conditions similar to maybe what I grew up on as far as the grasses and everything are concerned. Always enjoyed the TOUR Championship for quite a few years. Just a great sports town that I've always enjoyed coming to. They have sweet tea and Chick-fil-A and all the stuff I like. Just a good spot in general.

CONNOR STANGE: Last week you finished seventh place. How do you feel about your game heading into this week?

DAVID TOMS: I showed signs last week of some good things. I made a few putts there the last day before the rain delay especially.

I'm still working on some things in my swing, trying to be a little more consistent. My driver, I've been keeping it in play but haven't hit it real solid, so therefore you don't get full distance and everything. Working on that right now.

I've got an old set of irons in the bag that need to be replaced just because they're really old, so I'm trying to maybe work in a new set here soon. That's always something interesting to pay attention to, trying to get confident with that. Just a few things going on, but I still enjoy playing. We're in a four-week stretch of golf that was pretty regional to where I live, so it's easy to travel, I'm able to get in my own car and go. So I look forward to the next couple weeks. Hopefully I can have a good finish, contend and you never know when something really special can happen.

Q. You mentioned an old set of irons. What's like the process? How do you decide when you're ready to switch them up?

DAVID TOMS: Well, the thing is they don't really even make the model that I've used for quite a while, so it's not like I can get a new set of those. They ran out. It's just a process trying to find something that looks the same. I've used Srixon irons for quite a long time now and they have what is called a V sole on all their irons, so it's not like you can go pick up another manufacturer. The bounce on the bottom is completely different. So it's something

that I need to find a new set and I'm working through that. People are great out here about taking care of us when we need things like that. It's just a matter of time.

Q. The set you're currently using, how long have you used it for?

DAVID TOMS: Oh, jeez, I don't know. Eight years or more. We're lucky that we actually hit good range balls. I mean, they wouldn't have made it near this far if I was having to hit hard range balls like you do at the club. It's been good. And they've been good to me, so it's just a matter of finding something new. It's not that big a deal except as a player getting used to something new. Sometimes it could actually be better, so that's what I'm hoping for.

Q. Is there a hole or a stretch out here that you really like?

DAVID TOMS: You know, the whole golf course is pretty solid. Obviously it's a risk-reward type of golf course much like all the TPCs that are fun for television and fun for spectators, but a lot of crazy stuff can happen as a player. You can make birdies, but you can make doubles. Just some interesting holes. I haven't played the golf course yet. I look forward to getting out there today. I understand that after the rain that they've had recently it's pretty soft and pretty long, so that's not what I love to hear. Still, I enjoy the golf course enough to where I know I can play it well, it's just a matter of executing.

Q. You mentioned going to the Athletic Club yesterday. They just got three national amateur championships.

DAVID TOMS: Yeah, I saw the banners last night walking into the clubhouse. It's a great venue for majors at all levels. Just a great club in general. A lot of golf holes, great practice facility, beautiful setting and obviously a built-in fan base with all the members they have. It's a good place to host events.

Q. This year Bernhard set the record for oldest winner on this tour. What do you think it is about him that allows him to compete at such a high level year after year while in his 60s?

DAVID TOMS: Well, I'm sure a lot of it is confidence. Once you've won as many times, I mean, that's kind of what his expectations are and that helps him to have a lot of experience to draw on. But also his focus and determination. He seems like he's always the first guy at the next tournament, last guy to leave, is prepared every day to play the best he can. I think that's just his DNA. I'm not -- you have to ask him. He talked to me this morning at breakfast about how he's been following Formula 1, he's kind of a new fan of that. I'm like, well, at least you know something besides golf. I wasn't sure he knew anything else. But no, a great man and certainly does a lot for this tour and is a great player. I admire him immensely.

Q. Was he talking about certain drivers and stuff with Formula 1?

DAVID TOMS: Well, I guess behind the scenes. I guess he's watching something on

Netflix, kind of really getting into it. I just thought it was interesting. I'm like, yeah, I guess he's not all golf. I'd like to see him fishing one day, like throwing some bait around out on the golf course and make him think that maybe he is human, not just a German robot. But no, a great guy, certainly a great player.

Q. We were asking Retief about his putting.

DAVID TOMS: Do you have to ask me?

Q. We were asking about how long he's used his putter. How about you, how often do you switch?

DAVID TOMS: Too often. You know, it's interesting because I don't switch for a long period of time. I always tend to go back to what I know, but I might -- shoot, I might pull out a brand new one today in the pro-am, you just never know. Sometimes I do it just to look at something different. If you feel like you aren't making putts and you just want to try something different, whether you break up your routine, align your ball differently. I think three times last week during the tournament I started lining my ball up differently with the label one way and whatever.

I think it's just -- I mean, golf is, I don't know, it's so mental that you end up doing things like that trying to create a spark. Whether it's a swing thought, a putting thought, a new putter, maybe you switch golf balls for the conditions, just different things to get you excited. When you're 55 years old and you've been doing it forever, just the fact of being excited the next day to go to the golf course and do something a little different kind of keeps me going.

Q. Do you cross paths with Jacob Bergeron at all from LSU?

DAVID TOMS: Yeah, my son played on the golf team with him. I haven't seen Jacob in a while honestly, but certainly know a lot about his game. He's a great player. I'm not sure where he is. If you ask me where he is this week, I have no idea.

Q. It's funny because he shot 61 at the Monday qualifier on KFT and then got in on a sponsor invite, so he withdrew from the Monday qualifier after 61, which is such a unique --

DAVID TOMS: Well, shows you how good his game is. I mean, great player, nice kid from Louisiana. So I pull for all those people that are from the state and try to follow him. That's good to know about him. I guess he's playing well, maybe he'll have a great week.

Q. What's your go-to order at Chick-fil-A?

DAVID TOMS: Depends on what time of day. Egg white grill in the mornings, chicken strips in the evenings. Don't tell my wife, though. I try to pay cash so she doesn't see it on the credit card. She says too much sugar in it, that's why all the people are addicted to it. That's

just what she says, I'm not sure that's true.

Q. With sauce?

DAVID TOMS: Chick-fil-A sauce, no doubt about it. Can't beat it.