

PRE-TOURNAMENT INTERVIEW
June 9, 2022



DAVID DUVAL

JULIE NELSON: We've got David Duval here. How's it feel to be in Madison this week and what are you looking forward to with this tournament?

DAVID DUVAL: It's nice to be here. I have not been here before. Stricker was nice enough to give me a spot. My oldest daughter, her boyfriend is from here, they live here, his parents live here, so to see this place is cool.

Q. As you go around to these new places, what's the drill of trying to get to know courses, try to be able to compete favorably on them?

DAVID DUVAL: Right. I think there's -- honestly, I haven't entirely looked. I think there's been two I've played before being Atlanta and Houston at The Woodlands. Actually won at both of those. Playing Firestone, I actually won there, too. I think that's the only other one I've seen.

Coming in like this week, I was doing my best although it turned out wouldn't have played yesterday. We wanted to play twice just to see these golf courses. I'm coming in a little bit kind of hamstrung not having seen these golf courses before, not knowing where to go. Really, some of it's the routine of as simple as knowing the routes from your hotel, where to go to dinner, things like that that just got to relearn.

Q. When you made the transition from what we saw on TV, Golf Channel to here, what was the physical commitment you had to make to try to get yourself back into playing shape?

DAVID DUVAL: Right. Well, certainly paid attention to it. It started nearly two years ago when I was having a lot of pain, some more injury issues. I actually had to have two disks replaced in my neck last July of 2020, so that was kind of started with that, doing that surgery and thinking it's going to take a while to recover from that and this isn't that far off so I better get after it and get it done. So just went from there and getting used to the practice and the play and walking golf courses, all those things.

Q. Do you feel you're at a point now where you are getting where you want to be?

DAVID DUVAL: Yeah, if you break down each aspect of my golf and what's going on, I'm happy with everything I'm doing except it's been a little bit of a square peg in a round hole. None of the pieces have been put together yet, it hasn't all been put together yet. I think that comes from being competitively rusty, not having played any type of full schedule for nearly a decade. Just trying to have that word of patience that we hear so much in golf.

Q. Did the neck surgery compromise you in any way swing wise when --

DAVID DUVAL: No, no. It actually made things a lot better.

Q. When you look ahead to trying to stretch this out, it seems like you look up and down this line here and everybody's had to make some sacrifice or do something to prolong their career. Have you thought about what you would have to do to get out here, stay out here, that kind of thing?

DAVID DUVAL: Really, it just all goes down to shooting low scores, doesn't it? That's the thing even with me and how it's gone this year results wise and score wise, I just haven't shot the scores I need to shoot. Happy with everything I'm doing again, like I said, but the only thing that matters in golf is what you shoot.

Q. Are you in any way grateful not to be on a TV set this week talking about the issues of the day?

DAVID DUVAL: You know what, I did it two weeks ago doing the coverage for ESPN for the PGA. I have my thoughts on it, I made it very clear what they were during the coverage. So if I was sitting on a desk or doing some live coverage this week, I wouldn't hesitate to voice what I think.

Q. What do you think and what do you think about the tour's reaction?

DAVID DUVAL: Well, the reaction is simply from the tour the way I view it is simply kind of the condition of membership you've chosen to agree to, which is as far as competitions and when you have conflicting events and things like that, having to get releases. That's in what you agree to do when you choose to be a member. You're not made to be a member.

As far as what's happening and what's going on, it's not something that appeals to me. I disagree with everything behind it, disagree with the people behind it. I just wonder as a player who chooses to do this and the way I choose to live my life, I wonder if any thought has ever gone into the examples you set for your wife, your friends, your children, what you're willing or unwilling to do in the pursuit of the dollar. I'm not so sure that that's something I could live with myself and it's a lesson I teach my kids.

Q. Sounds like if they had come along when you were world No. 1 and won a major, you would have had no problem making the decision to stay with the tour?

DAVID DUVAL: No, not at all.

Q. You spoke about winning in Akron. What does it take to win there?

DAVID DUVAL: Long and straight, make a few putts. I assume we're going to play a very

similar length golf course. That's what I've heard at least in the past. I'm looking forward to getting there. It's been a long time since I've been there. It's been, what, now 24 years since I won there, so I look forward to it.

Q. I don't know how much you played with Jerry Kelly over the years.

DAVID DUVAL: A fair amount. I've known him a long time.

Q. What stands out about his game?

DAVID DUVAL: Consistency and persistence, pretty simple. And a lot of guts. I think he's a gutsy player.

Q. Somewhat underrated?

DAVID DUVAL: I don't know. If you're out here and you're winning golf tournaments, I don't know if you're underrated. I don't know how you could say anybody's underrated, so I don't know if that's the word I'd use.