

STEVE FLESCH

Q. What is it about this course that seems to agree with your game and how excited are you to be back at the Mitsubishi Electric Classic?

STEVE FLESCH: You know, I'm always excited to come back to Sugarloaf. Like you said, I've had success here, won twice on this tour, but actually my rookie year this was my best finish on the PGA TOUR when it was the BellSouth Classic. I finished third.

And you asked what about it coming back here, it's one of those golf courses which always looks good to me. Off the tee I tend to fade the ball right to left and there's a ton of holes here which go right to left, so it takes pressure off my driving a little bit.

And the other factor is I've always putted well here. If you're driving it well and you're putting it well, you've got a good chance to play well. I got fortunate winning in the playoff here in 2018, but last year I just played a great final round, got off to a hot start and was able to end up with a victory. It's just one of those places I show up, I'm comfortable, the course suits my game and that usually translates into playing well.

Q. How are you feeling? How's your game right now as you come back to this tournament?

STEVE FLESCH: It's trending better. My game hasn't been that great this year. I played pretty good last year, won twice, but this year it's been a little bit of a rocky start. You know, it hasn't been that bad, it's just one of those things you find a nice key or a good swing thought or -- hey, let's face it, if you putt good, you make a few more putts, you're always going to shoot a better score. I think if I can get some putts to go this week, we'll have a good chance.

Q. I wanted to ask you about the popularity of golf at this point. With the hit Netflix series, golf is on so many different platforms now, as someone who's been here for the popularity skyrocketing and former Rookie of the Year --

STEVE FLESCH: Yes.

Q. -- how different is it now? I guess what is your reaction to just the growth of this game just during your time?

STEVE FLESCH: I think it's easy to say Tiger Woods kind of made the game of golf cool. The popularity of it, his charisma, the purses of all the events are growing, game's in a great place now.



There's not necessarily one dominant No. 1 in the world, but you've got three or four guys, Scottie Scheffler, Jon Rahm, Rory McIlroy, they're all rotating the No. 1 position. There's a lot of parity in the game and there's a lot of excitement in the game.

And I think guys are hitting the ball a long way. The majors I think are really interesting now because it's not just one guy who's the favorite all the time. I think people are realizing golf's fun, it's accessible to everybody and it's a great way to spend time with your family. If it's just nine holes or just an hour on the driving range in the evening, it's just a good way to get the whole family involved. It's a game that everybody can play, and now with the Netflix series you see the behind the scenes, guys' lives away from the golf course a little bit. We're just human beings, we're just pretty good at the sport that we play. I think we're just regular people.

Q. A lot of guys say you're a fan favorite, people getting to see guys like you, I think people are relating a whole lot more to it, it's a huge deal. What is kind of your outlook for the tournament this week? How do you feel going into it and what is your prediction for how you'll play? Weather may or may not be -- kind of what is your approach, what is your prediction for how you'll do?

STEVE FLESCH: Well, we're playing a different front nine this week than we did the few times I won here, which I'm a little concerned about because it doesn't look as good to me as the other nine holes. It's the same for everyone, we've all got to play the same 18 holes.

Again, I'm just focused on kind of what I did in Houston last week to kind of get ready for this week. If I can make those little bit of improvements in my game and putt a little bit better than I have been, I think I'll have a chance this week. It's great to be back. Sugarloaf's always been special to me and coming back here to Atlanta, it's always fun.

