

PRE-TOURNAMENT INTERVIEW
August 23, 2023

BOO WEEKLEY



Q. Well, you said yesterday you were all turned around, you hadn't been here in so long. You're kind of getting used to things again (inaudible). Just some thoughts on a (inaudible)?

BOO WEEKLEY: Yeah, it's just the first two tournaments, kind of like you said, just trying to get the nerves and knock the dust off a little bit. It's still unreal to be out here playing, you know, but at the same time it's fun to be able to come out and play, see the guys again that I kind of played with when I was out on here. Here it's been 20-something years since I've been here. The golf course I think is kind of the same, but I just couldn't really remember it. It's still kind of the same, though.

Q. How much good does it do you (inaudible)?

BOO WEEKLEY: Yeah, it does, especially anytime you get people rooting for you, pulling for you, it kind of keeps me excited knowing that they're pulling for me so I'm going to try to play my best, too. It's fun.

Q. Boo, what is it about this crazy game that pulled you off the fishing boat, out of the woods and back into the hard work that it takes to compete?

BOO WEEKLEY: I want to compete. I missed it, you know, the last couple years. I've been playing on the Korn Ferry Tour, but it's been kind of like building up to get to this tour. I think that's what I've been trying to do, just trying to find equipment that will work for me. I know I don't hit it as far since I got a new hip put in, you know, getting older a little bit. I don't know. I'm ready to play again, you know, and I want to play with these guys out here. They're good. It's been very impressive of how their game is out here.

Q. How do you assess your own game as you kind of get into this rookie year of yours?

BOO WEEKLEY: I mean, I need -- of course I need to get back to hitting balls like I used to. I don't hit them -- I haven't actually practiced as hard as I used to, so I've kind of got to get back to that rhythm and get where I can putt a little more, practice a little more putting, get back to my drills, get back to all that stuff.

Q. There's no way to shortcut the game, right? You've got to put in the work, and I think the perception sometimes of Boo Weekley is, oh, he's a good ol' boy, he just slaps it around out there. You put in a lot of work to get here, didn't you?

BOO WEEKLEY: Oh, yeah. I mean, over the years I have, yes, sir. I'd say, like I said, I haven't -- I've gotten lazy in the last couple years, actually about the last three or four years I've gotten lazier. I haven't really put in my time, put in my effort.

Now coming out here and seeing how hard it really is, you know, like these guys really, how good these guys really are out here. They haven't changed much from the time they were on Tour to now, we're just older. I need to get back to work.

Q. So what's the hardest part of your game to recover after a couple years of not working at it?

BOO WEEKLEY: I'd say like I've lost a lot of distance, like I mean --

Q. Me, too.

BOO WEEKLEY: Well, driver wise I've lost about 20 yards. With my irons I've lost probably about eight to 10 yards. So I'm just trying to figure out how to get all that back.

Got to, like I said, got to go back to the gym, start working in the gym a little bit getting myself back healthier, stronger.

Like I said, I got lazy over the last couple years. I been drinking them cold beers and having a good time riding around on my tractor, fishing, you know what I mean? Just goofing off.

Like I said, I really ain't put the time in, and now after my third tournament of being out here, or this being my third tournament of being out here, I'm kind of looking back, all right, this what I've got to do in the offseason to get myself ready for next year.

Q. So you come out here and you watch a guy like Langer, who never took a day off, who's still hitting it the same distance he was when he was I think 25 years old, does that set a standard for you or do you just like look and go, "What is wrong with this guy?"

BOO WEEKLEY: He's a man of myths. I mean, the way I look at it, you know, he's played golf for as long as he has and he still hits it the same, like you said. He's amazing.

Q. How do you define then a successful week here in Grand Blanc for you?

BOO WEEKLEY: I mean, I would say I've got to make the cut, but out here you don't gotta worry about that, thank goodness, because I ain't made many cuts since I got hurt.

No, I don't know. It just -- I just want to come out, have fun and play and hit some quality shots. And I mean, that's my goal really, just to go out and just be competitive and just kind of keep it in front of me and just see what happens at the end of the week.

Q. It's good to have you back.

BOO WEEKLEY: Yes, sir. It's awesome to be back.

Q. Is there anything about this course that kind of stands out to you that kind of made you want to be like, hey, I need to be a part of this?

BOO WEEKLEY: This tournament or the Tour?

Q. Yeah, the course.

BOO WEEKLEY: Oh, the course? Nah, no, each golf course has got its own character. Each one of them defines what course it is, you know what I mean. This one here, it's a good golf course. Like the rough out there is a little bit higher from the last two weeks I've played, and I know they got a lot more rain up here the last couple weeks.

Look out. We almost got hit right here. Remind me to shut the doors.

Q. Didn't expect that happening.

BOO WEEKLEY: You ought to have seen the people I was playing with yesterday, they was about to kill some people over on 17. They were hitting it all up in the grandstands. It was fun, though. We had fun. It was a good time.

This golf course is an awesome golf course. It's fun to come back. Like I said, I vaguely remember like some of the holes. I remember 17, you know, because to me that's kind of like a signature hole out here. I remember it, how everybody used to, like back then it was everybody sat on the side of the hills there and had a little bit of the grandstands and it was a fun time.

Q. I might be going out on a limb that's not there, but your wins, Hilton Head twice, right?

BOO WEEKLEY: Yes, sir.

Q. And Colonial?

BOO WEEKLEY: Colonial, yes, sir.

Q. Similar style golf courses or not at all? Any connection to this course, like this, an old, traditional-style course?

BOO WEEKLEY: I'd say Colonial would be close to this, I mean. But, I mean, yeah, back then, like I said, I hit it a little further back then than I do now. Like I'm standing out here on like 4, a couple of them holes and I'm like, wow, tee off and hit it and all of a sudden I'm like,

OK, what do we got, about 160? Well, how far that go off the tee? Uh, 258. Oh, wow, OK, all right. Maybe we need to work on this. Let's try something a little different here, maybe aiming on the right side a little bit and maybe catch a slope or something.

Q. Every golfer over the age of 50 is asking the same questions, where did all the distance go. So as you try to regain it, how are you doing it? Is somebody advising you on how you can recapture some of the power and some of the angle of attack and those technical things?

BOO WEEKLEY: No, I just think I got to swing a little faster at it. Like, I mean, I don't know. I don't get into all breaking everything down. I just know I need to go back to stretching a little more, getting where I turn a little more on it. That's just things that I got to do. That's the way my body -- that's the way my golf swing's built. I never was one who liked to swing at it 100 percent anyway, I like to swing at it about 85, I'd say about 85 percent is what I like to go around playing golf.

Q. So we're not going to see you on the range with a camera, a TrackMan and 14 advisors around you. Is this just Boo on his own?

BOO WEEKLEY: Yeah, just me on my own. I tried all that, that ain't work out too well, so I'm going to go back to me.

Q. "You" was working?

BOO WEEKLEY: Oh, yeah. Like I got a teacher, Scott Hamilton, back in Georgia where I live, and he's a good teacher. He tells me like before I came out to my first tournament up in Washington, I went and spent time with him trying to figure out, because I had five different sets of irons that I was trying to figure out which ones the best ones that would fit the way I'm hitting it right now.

He's like these are the ones. So I spent like two and a half days up there pounding balls and trying to figure out what I needed with the irons and stuff. He said these are the ones, so we went -- that's how we're going about it now.

Q. Whatever feels right?

BOO WEEKLEY: Yeah, oh, right, whatever feels right. It's like a gun, whatever feels right. Got to feel it.