

STEPHEN AMES

Q. We're now joined by Stephen Ames, the defending champion here at the Mitsubishi Electric Classic. Just to start, how does it feel to be back?

STEPHEN AMES: Always fun to be back here in Atlanta. The golf course obviously is in great shape. Actually, probably is in better shape than it was last year. And this year looks like the weather's going to be cooperative and be nice and warm, so that will be nice.

Q. Just looking back a year ago, what do you remember about that week and your victory?

STEPHEN AMES: I think the most important part was the fact that after getting fired by my caddie, I had to actually get my recruit to come in, which was actually my son. So the most important part that week was the fact that I had Ryan on the bag with me and we had such a wonderful, fun week. Obviously the win actually capitalized the whole week there for us together.

Q. Do you believe in the courses for horses theory?

STEPHEN AMES: Oh, yeah, without a doubt. You can go to the horse himself, Tiger Woods. Look at the courses he's won on and how many times he's played on them. Yeah, there's horses for courses sure, without a doubt.

The funny thing is that to my eye the golf course suits me. Design-wise, it doesn't. Overall, the course, it's in front of you, you know what you need to do and what you have to do. Certain courses you look at it and go, why am I hitting it over there sort of thing. This is one, it's right in front of you. You pick your line, you put your best swing and it comes out, which it's nice, it's kind of fair.

Q. It just feels good when you drive into --

STEPHEN AMES: Obviously, yeah. Everything about TPC, all our TPCs that we have are pretty much that way. Like wow, can I be a member here kind of thing, which I know I am, but I don't have the privilege of using and practicing at them so it's difficult for me.

Q. When you're looking back how your career is now that you're an old guy --

STEPHEN AMES: I am, 60 on Sunday, yeah.

Q. -- are you doing things better, different? How have you changed and evolved?



STEPHEN AMES: I would say probably better, yeah. I haven't changed much what I've been doing, just everything's a little bit better, more efficient.

The main one is the fact that I'm staying healthier. I'm constantly in the gym trying to keep that up. Obviously we have to at our ages. I think that's probably the difference with the younger guys coming up to the older guys going out. I mean, Bernhard is a classic example of that, very fit at 65 now? Or 66? He might be 66.

Q. Sixty-six.

STEPHEN AMES: Yeah, 66. And he's still capable of winning out here. We all know how fit he is and how well he looks after himself. I think that's the benefit of being there or trying to keep yourself there. In my case, yes, that's what I'm trying to do also.

Q. When you're younger, you just kind of take that for granted that you feel good?

STEPHEN AMES: I think -- I think everybody that's younger takes everything for granted until it actually happens. That's the reason why you always listen to the wise old man, they've learnt from experience, the younger guys haven't. Yes, without a doubt, yeah.

Q. Did you go racing yesterday?

STEPHEN AMES: I did go racing yet, yes. I did the Porsche experience, it was phenomenal. I had a blast. I'm actually -- I think I'm going to do it every year now from now on. It's a good experience. It's definitely worth it for everybody just understanding how your car works under certain conditions and teaching you the braking part, when to brake, when to accelerate. Also the fact of learning how to do your wheelies in the water and that kind of stuff, so you learn a lot from it, yes.

Q. Top speed reached?

STEPHEN AMES: I think we got to 110 on the straight, yeah. I was doing the 911 RS, so that's extremely quick. I can't believe it's street legal, to be honest with you, how fast it was.

Q. Probably not as many crossovers --

STEPHEN AMES: No.

Q. -- between golf and what you did yesterday?

STEPHEN AMES: No, absolutely none. That was just pure kind of bucket list kind of things. Yeah, I'm going to do it again. I'd like to do it was Ferrari, though. I don't think they have that.

Q. And you've got a new course in development that you're designing; is that right?



STEPHEN AMES: No.

Q. I thought I --

STEPHEN AMES: Nope, not me. Nope, I'm keeping that one off the books. No, I'm not doing that at all. No, I am not in anything, not where I live. Nope, definitely nothing there.

Q. Are you still in BC?

STEPHEN AMES: No.

Q. You're in Turks?

STEPHEN AMES: I'm in Turks and Caicos full time.

Q. It's kind of like here except for the ocean, right?

STEPHEN AMES: Very close, yes. Let me think about that one. Oh, no, it's not. The good thing about there is there's no tax, that's what I like about it. Exactly. And I live on the ocean, so yes.

Q. What are you going to do for your birthday on Sunday?

STEPHEN AMES: We have probably about 20 people going to Frankie's, so we'll have a couple glasses of wine. It would be nice to celebrate two things, so we'll see what happens. That's kind of the goal right there, see if we can celebrate two things, 60th and another win, which would be great.

