

CHRYSLER CHAMPIONSHIP
The Westin Innisbrook Golf Resort
Copperhead Course
Tampa Bay, Fla

October 28, 2005

Second-round quotes

AN INTERVIEW WITH DAVIS LOVE, III

CHRIS REIMER: Davis Love the third, thanks for joining us here today, if you want to start by some opening comments about your round today

DAVIS LOVE III: Well, I scrambled around pretty good on a couple of holes and made a few birdies and just felt like I needed to hit a few more fairways, or it would have been a great round. Both days were very similar. Just putted pretty good, missed a few birdie putts and missed a few fairways and just hung in there. So it's not playing easy.

CHRIS REIMER: You and Steve are both under par on the back 9, are there more pins to fire out on the back today.

DAVIS LOVE III: There is a couple of tricky holes on the front. If you don't get the first hole, there is not really -- I guess there is really not an easy hole.

I guess it may be a little easier on the back to get the ball close to the hole, a couple flatter greens.

You know, all in all, the pins are pretty tough because the greens are fast downhill, and if you don't have uphill putts it's hard to make them.

CHRIS REIMER: We'll take some questions.

Q. When you talk about scrambling around and hanging in there, and then you're on the leaderboard, is that a reason for optimism? Do you guys look at it that way, that all I need is one good round?

DAVIS LOVE III: Yes, I think when the rough is this deep, you feel like unless you hit it perfect, you feel like you're always going to scramble. If you drive it in the rough, you try to get it somewhere around the green, and you're trying to make an up and down, or a 2-putt from a long way away. You just never feel like it's easy. It feels kind of like the U.S. Open. There is not just a stretch of easy holes. Every time you miss a fairway, every time you miss a green, it's a difficult situation. So even though you shoot a good score, you still feel like you're having to work hard for it.

But, yes, if I can keep putting the way I'm putting, and hit a few more fairways, I can really shoot a good score.

But when the wind is switching back and forth a little bit, it's just hard to hit every fairway. That's the only way to make this course play easy, is to hit every fairway.

Q. That makes good sense.

DAVIS LOVE III: Well, you know, it's not like Vegas, it's not like you have to hit every shot perfect. Maybe you shouldn't play Vegas and then have this one be your next one. It goes from like this to like this.

Q. Where do you stand on the philosophy that was first kind of kicked around by Vijay, and certainly a lot by Tiger this year, where you don't worry so much if it's in the rough, you are just blasting away, the idea is maybe your chances are just as good out of the rough with a wedge from the fairway than a 7-iron?

DAVIS LOVE III: That works good some places. Most places, I think, with just average rough, on special situations. Like Pinehurst where you are probably going to miss the green anyway, even if you do hit the fairway, so you might as well bomb it down there and at least have half of your shots be with your scoring clubs rather than laying back with a 1-iron and hitting a 7-iron and missing the green.

That was kind of my theory. If I'm hitting a pitching wedge out of rough, and can try to bounce it up on the front, that's all that I'm trying to do with a 7-iron anyway.

And the first, you know, 27 holes of that tournament, I was so tentative, finally when I said just hit it, just hit it down there somewhere and I started playing better.

Here I don't think that works that good because it's deep, and if you miss it, a lot of them are semi-chip outs, probably. I had a couple in the rough at 9. I should have chipped out. I couldn't get it to the green, two feet off the fairway.

Q. I didn't study it that closely, believe it or not, I don't think that was a good way to go at Disney either, the nature of the grass.

DAVIS LOVE III: If it's deep rough. They have had a lot of rain in Florida and the rough is kind of deep.

But at Doral and Honda, I didn't play Bay Hill, it worked good, just hit it as far as you could because the rough is minimal.

Q. If there was something that's held you back this year, has it been your driving, getting it in the fairway? I seem to remember at the PGA you sort of lamented?

DAVIS LOVE III: Yes, I missed some fairways there. But I hit the ball pretty good overall there.

No, it's just been, I think, inconsistent with everything. One day driving great. Next day not driving good. One day putt good. And the next day not putt good.

So probably more inconsistency with everything which kind of comes back to concentration and patience more than anything.

Q. Do you think, this question aside, that you've reached the Fred Couples stage of life where you're not going to be able to sit through a single press conference without somebody asking you about your back or your neck?

DAVIS LOVE III: I've been there for a while.

Q. It seems like it's picked up in the last year.

DAVIS LOVE III: Like Ian Baker-Finch somewhere, not this year, when I was make playing good, it was at NEC, Jim Gray was interviewing me. He said, well, Ian Baker Finch says you're playing well because it's hot out and it keeps your neck and back loose.

I said, well, it was hot last summer too. Jim Gray started laughing. I get it all the time. It's what I'm trying to do. I'm managing, you know, like Freddy manages injuries.

You know, every time I even think about, golly, I wish I didn't have this problem, you think about guys that have problems that knock them out of the game. I've done pretty good. I'm just trying to get stronger. You know, instead of hitting balls today, I'm going to the fitness truck to work out. That's what keeps me going. If I can get stronger, I can overcome it. I'm about 85 percent of the way there.

Q. Then there is Vijay who given the choice of hitting balls and working out does both twice?

DAVIS LOVE III: Yes. I haven't gotten to that. I can't do both now. Beginning of the year I could. I could hit balls for two hours then I could go work out.

The President's Cup put me behind the 8-ball a little bit. I just wore myself out there. So now I'm trying to not hit too many balls. I'm hitting it good, I don't need to go pound balls. I need to do what I have been doing is go putt.

Q. Did you play them all, or was it just that one day on Saturday?

DAVIS LOVE III: I played them all.

Q. Can you give me your insight on just staying at least at an even level and piquing along the way for a whole season? Golf, it seems it's a more difficult chore than baseball, basketball. You have ups and downs and slumps.

For example, Steve Lowery, he said he missed 11 out of 12 cuts. Now in the last month's he's --

DAVIS LOVE III: You know, it's funny, I didn't know what he shot yesterday. I was watching him hit a few drives in front of me on the range today. I said, boy, he is swinging good. And I go out on the third hole and say, oh, yeah, he's scoring good, too.

You just never know. He looked confident on the driving range. It's a good title for a book. Golf is a game of confidence. When you are confident you swing better, you putt better, you walk taller. And when you get in a bad frame of mind, it just keeps going. It's funny, you can watch guys go up and down, and usually it's more attitude than -- sure there is injuries and swings and that. But usually the guys with the best attitudes are the most consistent, positive approach seem to play more consistently.

You know, what comes first, the chicken or the egg? It's hard to get confidence. But once you get it, somehow it builds on itself.

Q. The chicken, wasn't it?

DAVIS LOVE III: I guess.

Q. Davis, just as a fan observer, whatever in the game, what's your take on where Monty was and the prospects which are looking better and better of him winning the Eighth Order of Merit? Do you pay attention to that stuff at all?

DAVIS LOVE III: You know, I saw it on the ticker last night that he was in the running for it. I didn't realize it. He is such a talented player.

Again, there is a confidence thing, you know. Some things that knocked him off his rocker a little bit, for a while, and now he's back playing great again. He is a great player. He is a competitor. He has, for some reason, a hard time over here. But over there he plays great. I wouldn't be surprised for him to keep going. He and I are exactly the same age. He can certainly still do it.

CHRIS REIMER: Take us through your bogeys and birdies here.
(Scorecard.)

Q. Davis, what would you think if the R & A decided to eliminate the 60 degree sand wedge and everything goes back to say 56?

DAVIS LOVE III: I never heard of that one. I don't know if they could do that. You can take a 55 and just bend it. You know.

Q. Wedge testing?

DAVIS LOVE III: Yes, wedge testing. I don't know if they would ever go that far. That would be a weird one. That would be a hard one to enforce, too.

Q. You got a 60 in your bag?

DAVIS LOVE III: Yes.

Q. For how long?

DAVIS LOVE III: My whole career, I guess. A Ping L-wedge.

Q. They've been around that time?

DAVIS LOVE III: Yes, they've been around a long time. But, you know, what we were talking about the other day, going to 400, 380 cc's, that wouldn't be a bad move.

Q. 380?

DAVIS LOVE III: Yes, because I never in a PGA tournament hit the two back to back. You saw mine. Everybody is telling stories about where they hit it on the driving range and popping them up. If there is any one thing -- I was shocked. The ball is one thing, but the driver is, I think, a bigger deal.

CHRIS REIMER: Great, Davis, thanks a lot.