

Chrysler Championship
The Westin Innisbrook Golf Resort
Copperhead Course
Tampa Bay, Fl

October 25, 2006

Pre-round tournament quotes

AN INTERVIEW WITH RETIEF GOOSEN

JOAN vT ALEXANDER: Thank you, Retief, for joining us a few minutes at the Chrysler Championship. Congratulations on your victory in China. You are back in the U.S. here for two more tournaments. Maybe talk about what's going on in the state of your game right now after your victory.

RETIEF GOOSEN: Yes, it is nice to be back here. I've been working quite hard on my swing the last couple of months. The first time in 9 years I started working with a coach. With Gregor Jamison. So we made quite a few changes in the swing and things like that, and obviously in China it came across nicely, and I hit it quite well the first three rounds. I didn't hit it all that great the last round. But, you know, the things we're working on is coming along nicely. It's just a matter of timing, getting the things you're working on to get into a groove. But I think I've gone a long way the last two months. I'm sort of happy with the way my swing is coming along now. And I am looking forward to this week. It's a great golf course. You need to play well around here this week. It's always in good shape as well. And it's always nice coming back to a course that you know you've done well on before. So I'm very much looking forward to the week.

JOAN vT ALEXANDER: Questions, please.

Q. Why the change Retief, just not happy with the game?

RETIEF GOOSEN: Yes, I've been struggling with my swing, I'd say, a coming up two years I would say. And I have not been very happy with the way things have, and I had to make a choice.

If you haven't used somebody for nine years, and you sort of done well yourself for nine years, in a way I was scared to go to somebody to start working on your swing in case you get more confused.

But Gregor has been very simple with the things we've worked on. Things are going well. Like I say, you know, I finally worked with him for about a few weeks and then already in China I started hitting the ball better and managed to win there.

Q. Why do you think (Inaudible)?

RETIEF GOOSEN: I don't know. I wanted to pick somebody that's just not sort of a main stream guy like Leadbetter or Butch or people like that. They've got so many other guys they've got to look after, too. So I felt like I wouldn't have probably been able to -- there is times when I wanted him to work with me, he wouldn't be able to fit me in because he's got so many guys he is working on.

Gregor, I know, he works with a few European Tour players, and he lives on Lake Nona, and I felt like since I got a place at Lake Nona as well, that would be good. We could just see each other over there.

I like the guy. We got along nicely in the past. That was my choice. Somebody that I felt I knew he was good. It was just a question of finding somebody that I feel is not so much of a main stream guy, that teaches the same thing to everybody else.

Q. Did it have to do with you hadn't won this year? Did you start to get frustrated?

RETIEF GOOSEN: I played okay in the beginning of the year. I never really came close to winning this year. And I just felt that I've been struggling in my swing now, I would say for, you know, two years, I would say. I have not been hitting it the way I know I can hit it. I just felt I needed to get somebody in there that has a little bit of an eye that can see things and it's worked out well.

Q. If at the beginning of the year that somebody told you neither you nor Ernie would have won at this point in the U.S. or Europe, would that have surprised you?

RETIEF GOOSEN: Well, yes, Ernie has not been playing his best golf as well. Since his injuries he struggled to find his top form, but he has been playing better that's for sure. I think he is over his injury now. His swing is coming along and all of that kind of stuff. Yes, it would have been sort of a surprise. But me and Ernie, it's not the greatest of time on the golf course in the last year.

Q. How difficult was it (Inaudible)?

RETIEF GOOSEN: Well, you know, this year I don't have any chance of winning the Money List now in Europe. So I just felt that, you know, for me it was almost no use going there. I know it's a final event, whatever, over there, but Valderrama is not my favorite golf course. And this golf course is one of my favorite golf courses. I would want to come and play here and see if I can finish off the season well over here. I've got two events to try to win on the TOUR for the 5th year running or something. So that's one of my goals in the next two weeks, to try to do that.

Q. You say it's one of your favorite golf courses. Is that because you've won on it? Or did you win on it's because it's one of your favorite?

RETIEF GOOSEN: Well, I won on it because I liked the course, the way it's set up. It's a good shot making course. You need to hit it well off the tee and good into the greens. And I like the greens, the speed of the greens, they are Bermuda greens. So since before I won the first practice round I played, I felt I could do well. And I did win, and I done okay in the last two years. But just not hitting it well enough to win again.

Q. If you just dropped in on this golf course, would you think it was a Florida golf course? Is there any one this would have reminded you of?

RETIEF GOOSEN: Well, it's not a particularly long golf course, you know, but it's just one of those courses that's just in front of you. Everything is sort of in front of you. There is a couple of holes, there is a bit of a blinded shot, but the rest of the golf course is great. It's not a regular sort of Florida course. It's quite hilly at places. It's not a flat golf course. You wouldn't exactly think it's a Florida golf course, no.

Q. Is it coming back (Inaudible)? Then you switched this year? Because you won in China?

RETIEF GOOSEN: Yes, that's true, probably, yes. Maybe I should have done it a bit earlier. But, you know, you keep going and working on things hoping that it will come right, and it just hasn't.

It was sort of a decision between me and Colin, my caddy. Colin has got a good eye for the swing. He is a good player. And my past caddies are good players too. They are always able to pick up something that you should try this or that.

He had said, I don't know, I think you ought to get somebody that has a better eye. I've worked with Gregor now, and I've seen a lot of my swings on tape. I never used to use a camera. I used a camera maybe once a year to look at my swing. And we have been looking at my swing pretty much and seeing what changes can be done on the swing. Sort of mentally-wise make you believe you are doing the right things and gives you a bit more confidence. It all comes down to confidence at the end of the day.

Q. Will the new schedule on the PGA TOUR change anything for you, or how much does that impact how you approach it?

RETIEF GOOSEN: No, I've sort of gone through the schedule. I'm pretty much playing all of the events I normally play. This event though falls in a week that I'm still not sure about if I'm going to have a week off, or if I am going to play this week. If I do play this would be quite a long run of weeks that I have to play. But I think I want to try and fit it in my schedule. . I haven't really quite finalized my schedule for next year.

Q. Speaking of schedule, what's your schedule?

RETIEF GOOSEN: I play these two weeks and straight over to China, the HSBC tournament. Then I'm staying on for the Hong Kong Open, week off. Million dollar in South Africa. Another week off. Then South African Open, then I'm done. A month break, and I will start again in mid January. And I will be in Qatar, and hopefully the next two weeks I will start in Hawaii.

Q. You missed a couple of years of those didn't you, was it last year?

RETIEF GOOSEN: Yes, this year actually, winning last year didn't play this year. I was dead traveling. I couldn't get myself to travel from South Africa to Hawaii to play.

Q. I wanted to ask you that question. You're not getting any younger, but that's a pretty hectic schedule?

RETIEF GOOSEN: Yes, I do travel around the world a lot. So you got to be careful when you work your schedule out that you don't get too tired. I do support a lot of tournaments around the world, and I like playing there and so on. Yes, but to go all the way from South Africa to Hawaii is 30, 35 hours to get there, so it's not an easy trip.

Q. Have you looked at your schedule Europe next year and how that's going to fit in with the U.S.?

RETIEF GOOSEN: Yes, I have had a good look at both schedules. Everything will pretty much stay as it was, I think this year. Play the same events. Although it's just the end of the year, those final Fed Ex cup events, I still have a question mark and so on. I pretty much play the same events in Europe except this year I'm playing -- next year I'm playing Abba (phonetic), and Qatar which I haven't played for quite a few years now. Those are the two new ones on the schedule. Dubai is a question mark on my schedule. And I might play FBR in Phoenix instead of Dubai.

Q. Just out of curiosity, why would you play Phoenix instead of Dubai, or Dubai instead of Phoenix?

RETIEF GOOSEN: Well, I don't know. There is a few reasons but I like Phoenix. I like the golf course. Dubai, I've done well in the past but just never really come close to winning. Although Phoenix I have done well in the past and had a chance of winning once. So I like the course. The prize money, one of the things. Phoenix is big prize money

Q. I'm sorry if I misunderstood, is there a chance you would not play all of the playoff events in the Fed Ex cup?

RETIEF GOOSEN: No, obviously, I'm going to play. I'll be there to play. Play well, qualify for them, that's all. The plan is to be here, big money events, I will be here.

Q. Do you know how it works, the point system?

RETIEF GOOSEN: No, not really. Sort of. But, you know, at the end of the day you tee it up and hit the same shot as the other years. I think a lot of guys really want to know how things are going to pan out next year. Until we've done the year, you got to play the same golf and try to make a living.

JOAN vT ALEXANDER: Thank you.

RETIEF GOOSEN: Thank you.

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