

PRE-TOURNAMENT INTERVIEW
August 11, 2021



MIKE WEIR

CONNOR STANGE: Mike Weir, making his debut at the Shaw Charity Classic. Can you just give us some overall thoughts on being here for the week for the first time?

MIKE WEIR: Yeah, first off, first time in two years I've been able to cross north of the border, which is great. Even though it's not close to my hometown, it feels great being back up here. I guess I was back up here a couple years ago for the Sports Hall of Fame induction and so got a chance to cruise the city a little bit and visit. It's always great to get back up here. I had a chance to check out the golf course, first time around. It's very good, really good condition. Yeah, it's good to be back up and playing in Canada.

CONNOR STANGE: In your last outing on PGA TOUR Champions you had a runner-up finish at the U.S. Senior Open. That was about a month ago. How have you felt about your game since then?

MIKE WEIR: Well, it's a question mark. I haven't played. I've been off. I took a few weeks off and started practicing, you know, a couple of weeks ago, I guess. I guess I took two straight weeks off. Just playing casual golf with friends. I haven't played any competition in a month, so it's good to get back and get started. Well, it will be good to play the pro-am tomorrow and get a semi competitive round going and then get ready for Friday.

Q. In 1999 you won the (inaudible) in Canada, made history. Are you hoping to do something similar out here?

MIKE WEIR: Well, yeah, sure, I'd love to be in contention come Sunday. That was a special memory at North View in '99, my first win on the Tour. Yeah, I'd love to be in contention and try to win again.

Q. And you were competing against Fred Funk and Carlos Franco.

MIKE WEIR: That's right.

Q. Some of the same names that were there are going to be here again.

MIKE WEIR: Yeah.

Q. Have you made some bonds with those guys over the years to be able to compete against them at a high level?

MIKE WEIR: Yeah, that's been the great thing about playing the PGA TOUR Champions is

a lot of faces I hadn't seen in a long time and reacquaint myself with those guys and playing and playing practice rounds and playing tournament rounds. You know, it's super competitive and guys still take, as I've said all along since I've been out here, guys take a lot of pride in their game and guys work hard, but we have fun, too. We have a great time out here. It's good to see those familiar faces again.

Q. You've had some great results this year. What's been the key to your resurgence?

MIKE WEIR: There's a lot of things. I mean, I'm healthy and very motivated after some time away and some injuries and things. Just very motivated and a lot of hard work in the last few years.

Q. Considering how long your resume is, how does it feel to be at this point in your career and still having those (inaudible) and being the rookie?

MIKE WEIR: Yeah, it feels great to be a rookie at 50 years old. It's kind of fun. But I'm still motivated and I still like to challenge myself, I still like to push myself. We have that Charles Schwab Cup Championship to kind of shoot for at the end of the year and we have 10 or 11 events and that's on my radar now. I didn't know with the late birthday I had last year, kind of getting started late against some of the other guys, I didn't know if I would be in this position, but if I can play well here at the end, I might have a shot at it.

Q. Have you had a good look at the course?

MIKE WEIR: Last night I was able to take a pull cart and walk around. My caddie didn't make it up, so I've got a friend coming in, a college friend of mine coming in tomorrow to caddie for me. Yeah, I buzzed around as best I could. I saw all the holes. I didn't play them all, but I got a chance to see them all. Like I said earlier, the course is in tremendous condition. I think it's a great mix of some shorter holes that challenge you if you want to kind of drive it up by the green or lay back, and then you have some long par 4s. I think you've got to use every club in the bag, and it's difficult around the greens. Yeah, I think it's a real nice golf course.

Q. Is it to your liking? Is it a course that you can do well on?

MIKE WEIR: I mean, yeah, I think so. Like I said, yesterday was the first time. I think tomorrow after the pro-am, playing it a little more seriously and getting used to it, I think we all like to think every golf course, once we kind of get used to it, we can play well on. I think it suits my eye pretty well. I think the altitude, I live in Utah, it's a very similar altitude the way the ball flies here so I don't have to make too many adjustments for that, so that's nice. I like it.

Q. (Question about caddie.)

MIKE WEIR: Yeah, Jeff Cramer. He won the Canadian Amateur back in I think '90, which

he still reminds me of to this day because he beat me by a couple of shots. Jeff's a great friend that lives in Peachland, BC and my caddie unfortunately had some trouble getting across and I just told him I'd see him in Seattle next week and brought my buddy Jeff, who's flying in later this afternoon. That will be fun. We're still really close friends and it will be good to have him on the back.

Q. How have you been able to see each other during the pandemic?

MIKE WEIR: Not at all. I haven't seen him, I think the Masters in 2019 was probably the last time. Well over two, two and a half years, so we'll have a fun few days.

Q. As you were getting the lay of the course, have you heard a lot about or did you see Wes Short Jr's -- (inaudible)?

MIKE WEIR: I did, yeah. That was a great break to win a tournament. And sometimes you need that, you need a few breaks. Whether that's on the last hole or somewhere during the course of the week, you might have a good fortunate break to get you over the edge. Yeah, I've seen that shot many times. I think the guys have given him the business quite a bit. Hopefully catch a little magic like that.

Q. (Question about other Canadians in the field.)

MIKE WEIR: Yeah, Stephen's been playing very well of late, David Morland's in. Remind me of who else is in? Yeah, Hendershott, maybe he can take advantage of an opportunity here this week. Wish there was more guys playing, but the other guys, hopefully they play well and we have a good showing as the Canadian contingent I guess here.

Q. You'll have some support from the fans, a little less (inaudible)?

MIKE WEIR: Yeah, having some fans is great. During the pandemic there was a lot of events we didn't have anybody. The first time I really felt the energy of the fans is when I won in Houston. We had pretty similar, kind of probably 50 percent limited fans, but still on the last hole with John Daly and myself kind of battling it out in the end, there was some really great energy. That's what we need, that's what we play for and that gives us real motivation when we're playing. Hopefully, we get that energy here, the Canadian guys especially.

Q. (No microphone.)

MIKE WEIR: I think, you know, anytime, yeah, I think you do a little bit, for sure. I think at 51 years old you feel a little less than when you did in your 20s, 30s probably. You know, I think it's always there a little bit. You want to play well, you're at home and you want to play well.

Q. There might be some internal pressure there, but is the vibe just ever different on the course?

MIKE WEIR: Yeah, I think so. Whenever we play the Canadian Open or here and then back in the day at the Air Canada Championship, it was just the support that we got. I think the fans have always been just so wonderful to me and rallied behind me and supported me, and the Presidents Cup in Montreal, they're phenomenal memories. Having that kind of support and the crowd cheering for you like that is incredible, so something I'll always carry with me the rest of my life.

Q. Are you having as much fun right now in your career as maybe (inaudible)?

MIKE WEIR: I think so, yeah. I'm having a lot of fun. When you've been down and struggling for a long time and you've kind of clawed your way out of it, it's very satisfying. Now my game's in a really good place and I'm excited. Like I said, I'm very motivated, I want to push myself and I want to see where I can take that. That doesn't mean just out here on the PGA TOUR Champions, it means when we have the Canadian Open back, when I play the Masters and maybe a handful of other PGA TOUR tournaments. I think my game's trending that I can compete there, too, if I choose or get in some of those and play some of those. I'm very optimistic about the next few years.

Q. Do you have any family or friends here?

MIKE WEIR: No, no. Just my buddy Jeff who's coming to caddie. There's a couple other guys, friends of his that I think are coming over for a couple of days. We're hoping when we play in Michigan in a couple weeks, that's close to home, it's only an hour from Sarnia, hoping the border, the United States lets the Canadians come across. That's what I'm hoping.

But I will get to see -- no matter what, I will get to see my family after the tournament. I'm going to go home. I haven't seen them in two years, so really looking forward to that.

Q. (No microphone.)

MIKE WEIR: Well, sure, yeah. I want to win. I'm here to try to win, no doubt. I have to get off to a good start. That's the thing with the PGA TOUR Champions, you have to get off to a fast start. The U.S. Open, I felt like maybe part of the reason I was -- I didn't end up kind of getting over the line is because I didn't start great. I finished pretty strong, but I didn't start great, so I'm hoping to get off to a better start Friday.

CONNOR STANGE: Thank you, Mike.

MIKE WEIR: Thanks.