

PRE-TOURNAMENT INTERVIEW
April 27, 2022



DAVID DUVAL

ALLIE LeCLAIR: Thanks for joining us. We're here at the Insperity Invitational. Can you talk a little bit about your round today and how the course looked?

DAVID DUVAL: Surprisingly dry for -- I'm not sure what the number was to rain on Monday, two or three inches, but it's in perfect shape. It's going to be a good week.

Q. How was it playing with Phillip today?

DAVID DUVAL: It was great. I think, if I understand it, he's just getting into the game, I'm not sure. That's at least kind of what Charlie had said at the end. He said something about good having you playing golf. Really nice man, fun to be around.

Q. You haven't played a lot of competitive golf.

DAVID DUVAL: Nope.

Q. What made you want to come back and play golf and play on the tour around here?

DAVID DUVAL: Well, I guess it's just who I am and what I do, you know. It's well documented, had a lot of injuries through my career, a few more in the last couple years, but I'm healthy now 100 percent and just was anxious to go chase the white ball again.

Q. You have a love of the game?

DAVID DUVAL: Oh, yeah, absolutely.

Q. Did you miss it when you weren't playing? I know you had the TV career and all that. When you were doing that, did you kind of really want -- couldn't wait until you turned 50 to get out here?

DAVID DUVAL: There was certainly some thought to that, but at the same time I enjoyed watching those guys. Life moves on and generations take over. It was fun to see how the game has changed and evolved involved in the last 25, 30 years since I started. As somebody who has done it all their life and played the game all my life, I just was anxious to start hitting more balls again.

Q. What do you like about this sport?

DAVID DUVAL: This. Low key, easy, golf carts in pro-ams. You know, just -- and really just I think the general pleasantness of the entire environment of the people involved, of the players, the caddies, the staff, the volunteers. It's just kind of, you know, the people who come out and the people who help just, we're the players they used to watch and follow and they're just appreciative of seeing the guys doing it again.

Q. How about as far as the players out here, how they welcomed you and everything pretty much?

DAVID DUVAL: Absolutely, 100 percent.

Q. You've got I imagine some good memories of playing in Houston.

DAVID DUVAL: I do. It didn't dawn on me, I was talking to Charlie on the 10th green, our first hole of the day. I was like, I won twice in Houston, I kind of didn't put it together that way. Yeah, I knew I had played here and won in '98, but no, I like this golf course. It's good to be back on it.

Q. In '97 you won at Champions.

DAVID DUVAL: Champions, yep.

Q. You beat Furyk by a shot at the TOUR Championship. What do you remember about that?

DAVID DUVAL: Just playing really well, frankly. It was my third victory in a row to finish out the season and just enjoyed being out there. I just remember it being a difficult golf course, a challenge, but just executing well.

Q. Can you talk about that four-year stretch where you were just so up there? How do you explain playing so well?

DAVID DUVAL: Hard work. I mean, just you work hard and it really started -- it was more than four. It actually started back in '94, '95 on the Nike Tour. If you call it a slump finishing 11th on the Money List your first year, then that's your problem, not mine, you know. I won a lot of golf tournaments that year, but to start out finishing 11th and 10th my first two years was just great. It took me a little while to break through, but just you build tremendous confidence, you have belief in what you're doing and yourself and you just run with it.

Q. Are you still going to work a little bit on ESPN for the PGA?

DAVID DUVAL: For the PGA, ESPN, yes, with Scott Van Pelt again, um-hmm.

Q. David, we talked about Hale today, a little bit about Bernhard and 45, 43. As someone who's just like coming out here, can you sort of like explain like 45 wins and

43 wins on this tour?

DAVID DUVAL: Right. No, I mean, you would -- you know, I don't know the best way to explain it. I mean, Bernhard, they're talking it's like -- I'm not sure the last time Hale won as far as age goes, but Bernhard's been playing, what, 14 years basically? So 43 times he's been victorious.

You go to a player like Phil Mickelson on the PGA Tour, some player in that realm who has 40-some odd wins and you're talking about a 20-plus year stretch. Then you kind of compress it down to that small window and, you know, it certainly seemed like Hale's 45 is something that wouldn't be touched, but looks like it's possible now.

Q. David, you seemed to be intrigued when I was out here that because you played golf and you were the No. 1 player, quite often you would be brought into the media room and asked questions about politics and asked questions about religion and business. You always had the attitude, you know, "I'm a golfer."

DAVID DUVAL: Right.

Q. "Why are you asking me this stuff?" Am I accurate in that assessment?

DAVID DUVAL: Yeah, mostly. You know, I just -- I think it just goes back to, you know, I was actually asked about it with -- in reference to Scottie Scheffler, who took over World No. 1 and just was like, you know, when you do that, you become the figurehead of the sport and you're expected to have the answers, right, wrong or indifferent.

For me, I didn't quite understand why I was the expert when a computer says I'm whatever I am, and I'm going to have the same answers if I'm No. 10 or 20. It's just who you are and who you think you are and what you believe.

But everybody's looking for kind of the one person to put it on. And I don't mean "put it on" in a bad way, but that's who's going to be requested a lot and that's kind of how I saw it and felt about it.

Q. One other thing, David. I was fortunate to be with you at Royal Birkdale, and holding that trophy during our interview I got the impression that it was a little bit of, "Is this all this is, after all the hard work that I did and the years of striving to get to this pinnacle?" It seemed like you thought maybe it would be a different feeling?

DAVID DUVAL: You know, we all have our moments in life where we reflect and think about the things we've done and the things we haven't done. I think as you grow and mature as a person, we all change. Certainly with some of the -- well, with all the near-misses I had had before I won The Open, when you do it, you might expect or maybe I expected a different kind of elation or feeling, but it was a hell of an accomplishment regardless.