ROUND 2 INTERVIEW October 30, 2020



FRED FUNK (-1) TAYLOR FUNK (+12)

Q. Two days playing together. What was the experience like being inside the ropes together in a Tour event?

FRED FUNK: Last year we played in the same tournament but he was behind me. The whole time I was -- we both missed the cut last year, but the whole time I was saying, why aren't we playing together? It would just be so much fun to play together, and it was beyond fun to play with him. Yesterday and today was really phenomenal. Something you kind of dream about or think about. I don't know if you actually can put it whether it's really going to happen, the probability of it happening, but it did and it's really special.

I love playing with Taylor. I love watching him develop. I know he didn't score as well as he played, especially today. He played really well tee to green, it's just really a hard day. Things got magnified, so it was a great experience, I loved it.

Q. And Taylor, for you?

TAYLOR FUNK: This guy is pretty damn good for an old guy, but it was a great experience. I can learn a lot from these moments, to be next to him and watch him play well. And Mark Anderson is a great guy and they were both very supportive. I felt comfortable out there, it's great. We had a lot of fun together cheering each other on. I think today was, when he made that double on 5, I was like, oh, God.

But he fought back and he made the cut and not many 64-year-olds can do that in the world. It was fun to watch him play. It was fun to be out there and compete in a PGA TOUR event, and to do it next to my dad was awesome.

Q. I know earlier in the week you mentioned you would be Taylor's cheerleader. Did that kind of switch the last couple holes?

TAYLOR FUNK: I told him that on 15, our sixth hole, I was like I'm your cheerleader now, I'm 6 over. I was rooting him on and tried to keep him upbeat and keep his mind off his body aches. It was a great time.

FRED FUNK: Yeah, it really was. It was an incredibly hard day out there, a lot of guessing. Tough to even putt when it's this kind of wind, just get buffered every time you're over a ball just back and forth and the ball's moving. So very difficult. You get behind the eight-ball, it's just hard to come back from. And like he said, when I made the double on 5 I was in good position and all of a sudden I'm not in good position and tough holes coming in. I knew 7, 8

was going to play really hard, and they did. Somehow I made a birdie on 7 and I made a great up-and-down on 8 and a chip-in on 9. It was really sweet.

Q. The moment on 9, the chip in, the hugging?

FRED FUNK: Yeah, he almost killed me. He horse collared me and I wasn't ready for it. He.

TAYLOR FUNK: I went the other way and I was like, I didn't hurt you, did I? He's very fragile nowadays. No, it was a cool moment to hug him after that. Looked like he was about to cry making the cut again. It was cool.

Q. And we were doing the stats, the four to make a cut at 64 or old: Nicklaus, Snead, Watson and you. What does it mean to --

FRED FUNK: Say that again?

Q. Nicklaus, Snead, Watson and you are the four to make the cut at 64 or older.

FRED FUNK: At 64 or older?

Q. Yeah.

FRED FUNK: Shoot, I didn't know they were that old and still played a Tour event. I knew Watson had maybe. Wow, that's pretty good.

Say that again? Watson, Nicklaus and Snead?

Q. Yep.

FRED FUNK: That's really good. And then Funk. You throw that in there, it doesn't sound right, does it?

Q. What does that say kind of like about your longevity and your career being able to still do it and compete against these guys?

FRED FUNK: I don't know whether I compete, but making the cut was big. Especially the last three years I've been really fighting a lot of injuries, or bad back basically. A lot of us do with this game, you get bad backs, like Tiger's really struggling with it as you can see.

Really, the only -- honestly, the only reason I played this week was because I was in the field with Taylor. I wasn't sure I was going to be able to go yesterday the way I felt Wednesday in the pro-am. I said, I'm going to go and tee it up and see what happens. I played surprisingly really well. Ball-striking-wise, scoring-wise, everything went pretty good.

Q. Where does this -- I mean, you've done a lot of great accomplishments, Fred -- I

know this is minutes ago, but where does this stack up like in kind of your career of doing something kind of this late in the career?

FRED FUNK: I don't know. It feels good to know you can do it. Not many guys even have an opportunity to play this late into their career on a regular Tour event. It's not like that many guys have done it because not many guys have even had a chance to do it. It means a lot, but the biggest thing was playing with Taylor. I was just -- the bonus was making the cut. I was really pulling for Taylor. I wish it was flipped, I really do. I wish he was out there competing in the championship on the weekend. It was fun.

I think I learned a lot about the way Taylor plays in tournaments and I think he's learning a lot. It was a lot of pressure on Taylor. You know, it was a big moment for him. It was really an opportunity, if he makes the cut, he gets out of those pre-qualifiers. Every step is another step to just get there and just make it a little easier to get into an event.

It's really unbelievably nice of the tournament directors to allow me to come here with Taylor, give us a spot. They did it two years in a row.

I have a great amateur caddie, Tony, that he brought in his team last year and then he brought in two teams this year to play in the pro-am. It's really special. They had a great time. He's caddying for me, it's fun with him on the bag, so everything was good obviously.

Q. How many rounds of golf do you think you guys have played together?

FRED FUNK: Oh, jeez, a ton because actually when he was coming up and starting at 9, 10, 11 years old, he was home schooled and out on the road every week with us, because my wife home schooled him. He literally 95 percent of the time was on the road with us.

So we would play, instead of me hitting balls, we would go to another golf course and play and we'd probably do that two to three times a week if I made the cut, and if I didn't make the cut, we were playing on the weekend somewhere else. We played a lot of golf together and we learned to play really fast because Taylor would get there, we'd have three hours or two and a half hours to dark. He'd say, Dad, c'mon, we've got to get 18, can we get 18? I don't think. No, we're going to get 18. So many times we got 18 holes in when it looked like we had no chance.

We just learned to play speed golf and that's why he still plays pretty quick. I'm a little slower than I was before, but that was a great time and a great way to have your kids out on the road. It's a hard life. You don't really have your -- a lot of people, their wives, it's so hard on the wives and it's hard on the families because the wives aren't going to be willing to do the home schooling. Sharon sacrificed a lot to do that and we're really a close-knit family. It was really cool.