

On his week off

“I didn’t play much golf. The first four days I didn’t touch a club at all, and then I practiced a little bit towards the weekend knowing I was coming here.

Watched my son play golf, spend time in my office, many hours. Spent time with my wife and my son. It went way too fast. And I’m going to have two weeks off after this one.”

On practice time

“It varies. I’m not on a strict regiment. Sometimes I do an hour a day, sometimes three hours a day at home. Sometimes I play nine holes and it takes an hour and a half. It totally varies.”

On record for majors and Hale Irwin

“There’s many other goals. The goal is to improve. The goal is to get better. And if I can do that then I will have opportunities to win majors, win tournaments, and that’s the goal too.

At least stay at the level or get a little better. And if you do that, the goal is to win tournaments, win the Schwab Cup, win the Money List, be the Player of the Year. Things like that. That’s the short term and immediate goals and then if I achieve some of that I might have a shot at Hale Irwin, but it’s very unlikely.”

Reasons for performing at high level

“It’s not one or two, it’s a whole list of things. It’s like a puzzle, it all has to come to together. You’ve got to be healthy otherwise you can’t play the game the way you want to. You have to pace yourself. You have to have a good support system, family around you. Coaches and caddies and things like that. And you got to be eager and willing to work at it still.

After doing that for 40 years in my case it gets a little harder to continue doing it. But I take lots of time off, I get away from the game so when I do come back I am usually hungry and eager to do what I need to do.

On eating habits and health

“It’s not a diet. Actually I love desserts, I eat lots of desserts. I’m a sugar addict. But on the other hand, I eat reasonably well. I love vegetables and salads and all that kind of stuff. I don’t drink much alcohol. I don’t take any medication of any sorts. Just try and live a healthy active lifestyle. I work out. I have good genes. Maybe that’s what it takes.”

On playing Wakonda Club

“I’ve been pondering why is it that I haven’t had a win here, or a top three or anything like that, which I’ve had many other places.

It’s a different golf course. It’s very hilly. Lots of sidehill, downhill, uphill lies. Very undulated course in general. But also the greens are very tricky.

I’m going to be contemplating that more the next couple days as I play the Pro-Am tomorrow. I have another good look at it. I had a practice round yesterday. And see where I might have made mistakes in the past, or what part of the course gets me that I don’t seem to perform as well as the others do.”

Why PCC is an important event to play

“I think it’s a great event. It’s the only one we have in Iowa. The people are phenomenal here. They do such a great job and put so much effort into it. It’s very well supported and has been for many, many years. It’s in a great spot this year in the date. I’m happy to be here and support the tournament. They raise a lot of money for local charities and that’s what it’s all about.”