

LIV Golf Virginia

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Potomac Falls, Virginia, USA

Trump National DC

Crushers GC

Paul Casey

Press Conference



THE MODERATOR: Let's welcome to the Media Center Paul Casey of Crushers GC. Paul, nice playing today, 4-under. You're currently at 6-under for the tournament, T-4. How are the conditions out there today, and how proud are you of your performance all things considered?

PAUL CASEY: Conditions are -- it's great. If you like a bit of wind, it's great golfing conditions. I thought yesterday was the same. It's the first time I played it. I didn't play when we were last here. I was out with a back injury if I look back on it, when Harold won.

Great conditions, sunshine, wind, testing the ball striking skills. You can kind of be creative, a testing golf course in perfect condition, long. I mean, I could sit here for a while and like rave about it. It's really cool. Was I happy with my round, was it?

Really happy. I struggled with the game a little bit beginning of the season. Worked hard. Typically not getting off to a good start. Got off to a good start yesterday and was able to parlay that into moving up the leaderboard. So I'm happy.

Q. On the team front, currently Crushers have three in the top seven right now. Those are right there on the team front. Obviously had a big win in South Africa not too long ago. How nice would it be to chase that team title again and keep that momentum going?

PAUL CASEY: It's always fun. South Africa was -- every victory is cool. South Africa was special, just the vibe and the energy. Those that were there know how amazing that event was.

To get the double with Bryson and the team as well and the way it came down, I genuinely -- look, I will never -- we'd never not try, and I love every victory, but there was a little bit of me that was a little bit like I kind of felt bad for stealing it away from the South Africans. It was just -- felt bad, you know. It didn't feel that bad. It didn't last that long.

We'd love to get another one this week, plain and simple. We've stayed a unit, the four of us. Our team has never changed. Well, in its current -- say it's never changed. It changed at the beginning. For a long time we've been the same guys, and we're proud of that. We'd love to have another one this week.

Q. Paul, kind of early in the season there's been a lot of events where there's a lot of low scoring. Do you view a tougher event as kind of an opportunity for you to get one up on these younger guys?

PAUL CASEY: Yes (laughter). And it's weird because I'm a big fan of Chapultepec. I'm a big fan of Hong Kong Golf Club, go through the list. But honestly I've really enjoyed this week. Something about trying to hit some hard drivers, hitting 4-irons into par-4s, that's awesome.

My bread and butter has been -- yeah, has been that kind of -- I tailored my game to try and compete on those types of golf courses. When I came from the UK, college golf, I didn't know how to play big golf courses, had to change the game, and learning how to play kind of -- I'm going to say this is a major level golf course. I don't know its history or that kind of stuff, so I don't know if they have aspirations to ever push for that kind of event.

To me this is a really -- Lucas has obviously gone bananas, but apart from that, take him out of the mix, it's a helluva challenge.

Q. Does it almost take the pressure off when you don't have to fire at pins and you can miss in the right places and aim towards the middle of the green?

PAUL CASEY: The pressure's not off, but it's a different level of expectation from some of the shorter courses and really low scoring and you're firing at pins. If you don't make the birdie on the easy par-4 and then there's another easy hole and if you don't make the consecutive birdies, you're just so far out of it. This is attrition. This is a different style.

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It doesn't mean the pressure is any less. You've got to be incredibly intelligent. This tests all facets of the game. Yeah.

Q. When you've got a player as far out in front as Lucas is now -- I think he's 10 strokes ahead of you at this point. I know, it's a lot. What is your strategy for going into the weekend in terms of chipping into that lead? Do you even worry about the lead at all? How do you focus on that?

PAUL CASEY: Do you kind of mess with his golf clubs or something? A little practical joke, I don't know.

Nothing you can do. This is going to sound wrong. Am I worried about Lucas? Of course I am, he's leading by 10. Am I worried about Lucas? No, because he's so far ahead, he's leading by 10, so what can I do?

My goal would be to continue to play the kind of golf I played today. If that's not good enough, I'm very happy with that, and tip your cap in another two days.

Q. Obviously lots of chatter about the league's future. Can you discuss how much the league listens to its players as we look ahead to navigating that future?

PAUL CASEY: Scott's been very receptive, and those in charge that come up with the plan have been very receptive. Look, I'm 26 years as a professional, and we got Blandy coming in here in a minute who's got more than that. So there's -- yeah, there's also so many opinions as well.

He's doing a wonderful job of filtering that, and he's done a brilliant job also of learning this ecosystem of ours, understanding what happens when you pull certain levers.

Yeah, I've chatted to him. I've chatted to Katie O'Reilly and these folks. Yes, they're listening to us.

Q. I know how important Peter Kostis was with your career. I lived in Scottsdale at that point in time. Can you tell about the things you've been working on in your golf game now that you've kind of moved on from that? I know you still love the guy but --

PAUL CASEY: I love Peter.

Q. I know.

PAUL CASEY: Basically take what Peter's taught me for 25-plus years and keep doing what Peter said. I got to a point with my ball striking where I couldn't hit it any better,

for me. There's no reinventing the wheel. I'm doing that work myself now, and it's torturous, but it's also kind of exciting at the same time. But it's so much of what Peter said.

Yeah, I don't know what to tell you. He was, still is, to me one of the world's great teachers. And I love the guy to death.

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