

# Zurich Classic of New Orleans

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Avondale, Louisiana, USA

TPC Louisiana

## Geoff Ogilvy

## Cam Davis

### Press Conference



THE MODERATOR: We would like to welcome Geoff Ogilvy and Cam Davis to the Zurich Classic. This is a first-time pairing for you both, obviously both Aussies. Can you talk about how this pairing came about?

GEOFF OGILVY: Cam started it. He sent me a message five, six weeks ago. Five weeks ago? He said, Hey, do you want to play? I said yes pretty quick. Pretty obvious for me.

I was going to come here anyway to play, but to play with Cam, we're pretty good mates. Clearly one of the best players in the field. Yes was a pretty quick answer.

THE MODERATOR: Geoff, this is your tenth time playing. Cam, second time playing here. Share what you enjoy about this event and the unique format.

CAM DAVIS: It's a really nice shake-up from the usual on tour. Most of the time you're trying to beat everyone's head in, and it's very rare to have a week where you get to play alongside someone and you are hoping their putts go in and their drives go down the fairway.

I love playing as part of a team. I feel like you find a different part of your game that you don't really get to experience any other time, that experience of, you know, you might not feel like you're playing your best golf, but you find a way to pull yourself out of it in a very different way to when you are playing on your own.

So I think having someone else out there alongside you can definitely -- it can help elevate your game. I think that rush when you're both playing well, especially coming down the stretch, I can imagine it's so much fun.

So, yeah, I've looked forward to this one this year. This has been a lot of fun.

GEOFF OGILVY: I would just say, look, all of that. Playing with a partner is more fun than playing on your own, in all

versions of golf, to be honest. So that aspect is good.

I just think New Orleans is one of the most interesting cities that we go to in the world of golf. I mean, I've played everywhere around the world. This is right up there with one of the most interesting plays. Incredible food. It has such a good vibe about it. The music.

We stay in so many similar hotels and do similar things every week our whole career. To get an opportunity to come to a place that's got a bit of vibe like this, I'm always going to say yes.

THE MODERATOR: Geoff, what about Cam's game are you looking forward to seeing this week?

GEOFF OGILVY: All of it. Watching him swing it, he's obviously got one of the best swings out here. He hits it quite a lot further than me at the moment, which is going to be fun in the foursomes. He just has a good all-around game.

I don't know what to say. He's a good player, and I just want to play with him.

**Q. Cam, talk about your guy's relationship. Obviously it's a Presidents Cup year. Do you feel any pressure playing with the captain, or is this just fun for you guys?**

CAM DAVIS: Honestly first part is I would say through the Presidents Cup is how we both started spending time together. I've always known Geoff as an amazing golfer, and I mean, I watched him win a major on TV. He's one of those guys that you look up to as you're trying to make your own way in the game, especially as an Australian.

Through the Presidents Cup was my real opportunity to spend time to not just pick his brain, but just hang out. He's been so much fun to talk to, spend time with. I've spent a bit of time with him at his place in Melbourne as well.

Over the last few years, yeah, it's been nice. Out of that Presidents Cup I would say more of the closer friendships



I've been able to form has been with Geoff. I don't think that adds any extra pressure, because I feel like I'm playing with someone that I've gotten to know quite well.

This is more of just a lot of fun. We're both extremely competitive, and we still want to play really, really well, and we want to give this thing a shake-up, but at the same time, there's no extra pressure on my side.

I've had a bit of a rough sort of last 12 months in terms of my own game, and I'm more looking for having a great week, but I'm also just trying to figure my own stuff out to the point where I can really compete out here again and start winning again.

I think we're both still really looking to trying to get those vibes as you come down the last hole out here. We would love to be in contention again. I think we both spent a bit longer than we would like out of the final groups. This is a great opportunity to get that rush again. Really looking forward to it.

Yeah, again, such a cool place to do it as well. I've had a lot of fun on this course. I've only played it a few times, but yeah, it's a really enjoyable, fun trek. There's a lot of chances for really fun moments out there.

THE MODERATOR: Geoff, it was announced earlier that Camilo is returning as a co-captain. Can you talk about what went into that decision and what he brings to the team?

GEOFF OGILVY: Well, look, it was a pretty easy choice. I mean, his enthusiasm for life is infectious. His work ethic is incredible, but every time we played in a Presidents Cup together I think and he's been an assistant the last couple of times, his commitment and his -- enthusiasm is the word that comes to mind when I think about Camilo for the tournament and how invested he is in the Presidents Cup and the international team winning the tournament. It was just a no-brainer.

He brings a lot of experience. He has a great relationship. He's still a current player out here, so he has great relationships with all the players. So you guys just found out that he's been an assistant, but I've known for a long time, so he's sort of almost sort of that player liaison/captain out here, because he's been out on the range and in the locker room so much the last sort of 12 months.

It was a no-brainer. If you look at the selection pile of people who would be appropriate assistant captains, his name just lights up. He's going to bring so much. You can't manufacture enthusiasm, and it's a very powerful

emotion, you know?

THE MODERATOR: Camilo mentioned earlier today about a team dinner tonight. How important is it for you guys to get together with a bunch of the guys this early on during a Presidents Cup year?

GEOFF OGILVY: I think so. Look, I think it's really important. You see the European Team clearly have a pretty cool pond in the Ryder Cup. They're always together in the breakfast room. They play practice rounds together.

I think for us we're all individual athletes, and I think we're all friends anyway. I mean, the Shield crew, if you like, the greater family of the international team, there's a bit of a bond there, and we all have that.

We all go about our business. We hit balls, and we practice, and we're focused on our own game, because that's the nature of golf. It's an individual sport. You can go a few weeks without really sort of getting together as much as maybe you would.

So organizing a few dinners, getting guys together. It gets the WhatsApp chat going again. Just reminds everyone, hey, we've got a big event this year. It reminds everyone how much they love the Presidents Cup.

There will be quite a few guys there who will still be in that position where they're hoping to make the team, so it sort of maybe solidifies that goal in their mind. Like, wow, Presidents Cup is coming up. It's only in 186 days I think, so we have six months. That's a really cool goal for guys to have this year, and it might spur them on to playing really well.

For guys like Cam and a bunch of other guys who are in this field are going to need a few points to get there, it's a good reminder to get together with the boys, have a beer, some barbecue shrimp and oysters and whatever we do and have a really nice night and remember this is a great group of people, and we really want to be there in Chicago, because this is a fun event and one we really want to win.

**Q. Cam, obviously you guys want to win the golf tournament. That's the goal for everybody, but what for you individually do you look to get out of a week like this on a team-type format? What do you look to sort of get out of a week like this? I would imagine you're wearing a couple of hats potentially this week that one of them maybe he doesn't have to wear, so...**

CAM DAVIS: For me, I mean, the main goal is to try and play some great golf, but I think it's soaking up the

atmosphere out here. I think playing alongside someone is just a completely different feel to the week, so I think you want to soak up the fact that you're not trying to beat the guy you're playing with, but you just want to enjoy the feeling of watching him play good golf, making a putt that you feel like is more than just for yourself. That change to the status quo out here is a really fun change.

I think that's more of what the focus is on. We're both still, again, yeah, really wanting to play really good golf. I don't think we've had the opportunity to really show it lately. I feel like I've had opportunities and I haven't done it lately.

I think for Geoff it's great to get back out here and get that rush again. I mean, we're going to do everything we can to make it all the way to Sunday with a chance to win this thing.

Yeah, I mean, that's really as far as it goes. It's great to play golf alongside someone you've gotten to know well and you consider a good friend. Yeah, just make the most of it.

GEOFF OGILVY: I mean, yeah, I'm trying to play a good golf tournament. This is my first opportunity to play a foursome tournament with Cam, so that's great. It's the PGA TOUR, so who doesn't want to come and play and compete and feel it?

I have played this a few times. I think this feels like it would be close to the funnest one to be in the mix on Sunday. It feels like there's always a lot of pairs involved with four or five holes to play.

When you are on song in teams golf, it's incredible fun. That aspect, the playing side of things, and the Presidents Cup side of things. I'm just getting around the players, keeping that relationship going, reminding them that the tournament is in six months. This is going to be really special, give them a few sneak speaks of what can we expect from the week.

We have a few players here that you would imagine are definitely going to make the team. Then we have quite a few players here who are hoping to make the team.

Pretty similar to my last answer. Just remind them all it's a Presidents Cup year. Introduce them to Camilo. Most of them kind of knew that Camilo was probably going to be an assistant before you guys did, but yeah, it's just to get together.

More than anything, these teams are relationship things first. I mean, obviously there's a lot talked about pairings and data and matchups, and that's clearly very important,

but we're not at the point. We're at relationship building, putting a bit of motivation and lighting a fire under all these boys.

This is one of those catalysts that can help you all have a great year individually, and this is the reward you get at the end of it. Just staying in front of the boys, you know what I mean, and keeping the communication open and building the relationships.

**Q. You mentioned we're six months out before Presidents Cup, but a lot of things can change. Guys can get hot, cool down. Guys can be cold and heat up. How much can you as a captain takeaway from this event and sort of store, and one of the things that you might want to either jot down or remember from being at this event that you notice or that you see?**

GEOFF OGILVY: I think there's a bit. I mean, stroke plays is very different. Match-play is a very different animal, and a team event is a totally different environment to this. You see there will be obvious -- there's a few international pairings out there. Chemistry is very important.

Obviously, like I said, the analytics is a very talked about aspect of team golf these days, but chemistry is just as important. Looking for that sort of thing.

Obviously there are players that are generally very suited to alternate shot foursomes golf, and there are others that make lots of birdies and they're really suited to -- some players get better in a team environment than they would normally be individually. We all know the players over history that have somehow been better in that format. Maybe some things like that will stick out.

More it's just, like I said, continuing to build the relationships, get them excited that the Presidents Cup is this year, and it's something that we really want to win, and you guys really want to be a part of it.

**Q. I'm sincerely not trying to start anything with a question like this. For example, last year --**

GEOFF OGILVY: Yes, you are.

**Q. That's always a great lead-in. I asked this to Luke about how there was incentive for the Europeans to pair together at this event. They got extra points towards Ryder Cup. You are talking about dinners, having beers with guys, getting the bonding thing going, getting the chats going and stuff like that. Are you surprised that there aren't more American teams and historically that have done that, or is that really a matter of, like, the schedule for a lot of the guys that**

**typically have played in cup events for the United States, this year they would be going potentially five straight weeks, Masters, signature event here --**

GEOFF OGILVY: Six weeks really.

**Q. Exactly. Is that more the reason why you think that thing doesn't happen, or is there something else going on that we don't see?**

GEOFF OGILVY: I think it's mostly scheduling. I think if this was in a spot on the schedule that everybody wanted to play, that it made sense, then you would have seen Brandt and I bring everybody and pair everybody up and, like, have a real sort of -- it's not a dry run, but an experiment and play around with pairings and have a look. It's just the nature of the schedule this year, especially this year, is that you can't -- I told the guys, I'm not going to force you to play.

You can't play six weeks in a row, especially when two of them are majors. Some of them if they want to get prepared for the Masters, they really want to play the week before the Masters, so then it's always seven events.

I think it's mostly schedule. I think if this was a month before the tournament and it was in a spot where everybody would play, I think you'd see both teams do some experimenting.

I said, look, match-play is a totally different animal. Team events are very different animals. It would be an opportunity in the right situation, but I think it's mostly just schedule that we don't do that.

**Q. I know where I was 20 years ago at the U.S. Open. I was writing about him. What were you doing in, say, June of 2006?**

CAM DAVIS: 2006?

GEOFF OGILVY: He was glued to the TV.

CAM DAVIS: I was watching it on TV.

**Q. Were you?**

CAM DAVIS: I was at home. I was absolutely watching that. I was deep into any golf tournament I could watch on TV back then, and the majors were definitely one of the ones that were on free back home, so we were able to get all of it. No, I remember it pretty vividly.

GEOFF OGILVY: How old were you in 2006?

CAM DAVIS: Do you really want to -- I was 11.

GEOFF OGILVY: We weren't.

**Q. No, we weren't. We were not.**

CAM DAVIS: I was at an impressionable age where I'm looking at a guys and saying, that's what I would love to do, experience what he just experienced. It was so cool to watch.

I mean, there was so much chaos that day as well. I don't know what it would have been like to live it, but to watch it, it was pretty amazing.

If you want a crazy finish, can you just look back to that one, and that's a perfect example of it.

**Q. How much do you sort of see the PGA TOUR having changed? Obviously 20 years since you won the U.S. Open at Winged Foot. Your relationship with the tour and your relationship with the guys on the tour, it would seem that there is a mentorship that you can pass along things, especially to the Australian players and things like that. Do you ever catch yourself thinking how your place on the tour has changed over the course of from then to now?**

GEOFF OGILVY: There's a lot more electronic devices on the range than there used to be.

No, for sure, but that's I think been around since the beginning. When I got on tour, the 40-plus guys that I'd grown up watching, they did the same thing. I think it's one of the nice things about our sport is because we don't sort of get kicked out by the coach, you're not good enough anymore when you're 30, and we can play for a really long time, or still make the odd appearance like deep into our 40s.

The mentor side of this sport is so strong. It always has been. Like, I'm on the spot, so I'm not going to be able to pick up any names, but there was lots of guys who had been out on tour for 20 years when I first got out there that I learnt all sorts of stuff from, either by watching or by advice, all sorts.

I think it's one of the nicest aspects of the tour. I hope it keeps going, and I hope the young guys -- it might seem like the old guys don't know what they're talking about, but I had some older guys tell me some stuff when I was young, and I thought they didn't know what they were talking about. Now that I'm their age, they knew exactly what they were talking about, to be like your parents.

It's a nice aspect. I don't seek out to do it, but like I said, I think in observation there's some stuff for guys to pick up how the 25-year veteran sort of guys go about things, and I think there's some pretty good questions that they could ask of guys of some stuff they could pick up, because you pick up a lot when you do this for 25, 35 years.

As much as everybody thinks golf has changed, it hasn't changed at all. We might be using slightly different sticks to do it with, but it's still the same game. I was picking up from Peter Thomson, and I thought he made it too simple. I'm getting much more closer to thinking he had it pretty right. I'm trying to help guys in that way.

It's a great aspect of the sport. Probably the best aspect of the tour is that.

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