

**PRE-TOURNAMENT INTERVIEW TRANSCRIPT: JEFF MAGGERT**  
**Wednesday, April 30, 2014**



**PHIL STAMBAUGH:** We welcome Jeff Maggert into the interview room here. Jeff's going to play in his first Insperity Invitational, but obviously The Woodlands for you is a very familiar place and you're coming in with a victory already on the Champions Tour in Mississippi. Jeff, just a couple thoughts about coming back to The Woodlands where you've played a bunch.

**JEFF MAGGERT:** Obviously a lot of fun. Played today in the pro-am. The golf course played really difficult, probably more difficult than 15, 20 years ago when I was playing in the Shell Houston Open. Just good to be back home. Obviously played a lot of golf on this golf course as a kid and amateur golf early in my professional career, so just a lot of confidence, a lot of good memories. Looking for my second event on the Champions Tour to be successful. Mississippi obviously was about as good as it could get, hopefully I could repeat here. But a lot of good players this week and a very difficult golf course, so I need to play well, be on my A game, make sure my short game and putting is sharp.

**PHIL STAMBAUGH:** Can you recollect any memories that stand out from playing here, anything funny or anything serious that's pretty good?

**JEFF MAGGERT:** I don't know anything funny. I just have a lot of good memories. Won the Texas State Open here before I was on the TOUR and played a lot of high school matches here. Just a lot of practice, lot of rounds with my buddies and friends when I was younger. Obviously three or four really good Shell Houston Opens, lost in a playoff here to Mark Brooks one year and maybe Top 5 three or four other times, so just a lot of confidence on the course and a lot of good memories.

**Q. (Inaudible)**

**JEFF MAGGERT:** Yeah, I'm trying to remember when that was, 1988 maybe, '87, 89. Yeah, that sounds about right, yeah.

**Q. You had won your first event on this Tour. Tell me what it's like to be playing on this Tour. What does it mean to you?**

**JEFF MAGGERT:** I was a little nervous in Mississippi actually being my first week just because, you know, turning 50 and not really knowing what to expect. But it was a great atmosphere and this week especially, Insperity is just -- to be honest, of all the professional tournaments that I've been involved with as far as a sponsorship standpoint, Insperity is at the top of the list. Just the guys that I've met here this week, they're just -- I can't say any more, just A plus. It's really amazing to see this type of involvement from a sponsorship level. I'm sure a lot of the other Champions

tournaments would be envious to have a sponsorship like this.

**Q. Playing on this Tour, is it like a new life?**

**JEFF MAGGERT:** Yeah, it is kind of strange telling everyone you're the youngest guy in the tournament when you're 50 years old, but there is kind of a smaller window out here to be successful. Obviously on the regular TOUR you can look forward to a 20, 25 year career, and out here the time between 50 and 60 just seems to pass really quickly. You know, you come out and try to have some fun. I think that's the thing that I noticed the most; all the guys out here are just out here having fun. We're all competitive and we want to play well and beat each other and win, but just the atmosphere in the locker room and practice days and pro-am days, it's just a very friendly atmosphere, a lot of fun.

**Q. Going to Texas, how much of an influence was Ben Crenshaw on you?**

**JEFF MAGGERT:** Other than just, you know, Ben Crenshaw, Tom Kite, Lanny Wadkins, you know, those guys were kind of in their prime on the TOUR when I was high school age, so certainly when you turn on the TV, those were the guys you were looking for. My family grew up in Kansas City, Missouri, so I was always kind of a Tom Watson fan growing up as a kid, so he was always my first choice. When I turned on the television, I was always kind of pulling for him. But, you know, Tom Kite and Ben Crenshaw kind of really set the stage for Texas golf in the '70s for sure. Obviously Ben going on to win a couple Masters and things like that, so Texas has a long, great history of golf really. A lot of great golfers have passed through Texas at some point in their career. A lot of good professional tournaments over the years were hosted here in Texas.

**Q. Speaking of great golfers from Texas, upcoming Jordan Spieth, what do you like about his game on and off the course?**

**JEFF MAGGERT:** Well, I haven't had a chance to play with him really in a regular TOUR event because I haven't been playing good enough to get paired with him, but seems like a great kid. I've met him a couple times and it seems like every six or seven years you've got to kind of pass the torch on to a few of the younger guys. Certainly he looks like he's going to be a guy that can come through and play well.

**Q. He's good for the game?**

**JEFF MAGGERT:** Yeah. You know, I said something the other day, I said they're always looking for a new young champion to come up. You have these little cycles, but I tell you, there's a lot of really good young players that people probably haven't heard of their names yet but I'm seeing them come out and the strength that they have in the game and how far they hit the ball is just incredible. It used to be, you know, one out of every 50 guys would come out and have that type of game, but now

it just seems like 8 out of 10 guys are just big, strong, powerful hitters, hit the ball 300 yards. In the next 10 or 15 years the game's really going to change as far as athleticism and the strength of the guys that are playing. 300-yard drives will just be the norm.

**Q. So on this Tour your drives --**

**JEFF MAGGERT:** Yeah, I tell you, there's guys on this Tour that still can hit it pretty far. I'm not the longest guy on this Tour, no chance. It's amazing to see Fred Couples and Kenny Perry and some of those guys, they're moving it out there pretty far still.

**PHIL STAMBAUGH:** Okay, Jeff. Well, good luck. What's it going to take to win at The Woodlands?

**JEFF MAGGERT:** Well, last year I think 6-under was in the playoff?

**PHIL STAMBAUGH:** Well, we had a horrible day to play on Friday.

**JEFF MAGGERT:** I know it was windy and probably a lot like it was today, so if the course played like that, I could see why it played tough. I think the forecast is for dry, sunny weather and the greens are firm, so I don't expect the guys to be tearing it up. I would think if you could get to double figures under par, 10-under par you would be sitting pretty pretty.

**PHIL STAMBAUGH:** Well, good luck. Thanks much.