



# 87TH PGA CHAMPIONSHIP

## BALTUSROL GOLF CLUB

### INTERVIEW TRANSCRIPT

#### THURSDAY, AUGUST 11, 2005

An Interview With:

## DAVIS LOVE III

DAVIS LOVE III: I called the guys in the Titleist truck and asked them about what they thought of me cutting my putter off and by the time I got up to the truck they had me one shorter, they said, "We like it, that's what you're used to." I think I got out of what was comfortable, and once I did that, my routine kind of fell back into place and I quit thinking so much and started trying to make the putts rather than fix my stroke. Certainly the last few weeks I've been more.

I went out on the course with it and immediately started making putts. It was an experiment to see if I should cut down the one I have been putting with. They sent me out with one out of the trailer and I said, "I'm keeping this one," it's just an inch shorter and it's back to the length of my old putter that I putted with for 15 years.

Yeah, I've been fiddling with all kind of stuff trying to get better and instead of getting better I got more involved in my stroke. Now I'm just back to putting, my old putting routine and it feels pretty good.

Well, there's really only one par 5, but I hit a lot of shots close. I made a few of them. I hit one really bad putt at 17, but other than that, I hit a lot of good putts, made a few and missed a few. So I'm happy, like I said earlier, I'm making progress. I'm hitting more fairways than I've been hitting and I'm making more putts than I've been making and I went out there confident I could shoot a good round and I did. Not the best I could have gotten out of the round by any stretch but I got off to a better start. I've been starting off the majors with 75s and 77s, and that's not going to get you anywhere.

They were enthusiastic, for sure. Yeah, I knew it would be like a Sunday pairing. There was going to be a lot going on and it would make me

concentrate. Bob Rotella has always said, "If I can get you to Sunday, I know you'll do well." Maybe it made me have a clearer game plan before I got to the first tee today that there's going to be a lot going on. There are going to be a lot of distractions, a lot you could get frustrated with if you're not patient.

I got into playing my game today and didn't pay much attention to what they were doing or what was going on. When I have played well, I have been kind of in my own little world and today I felt a little more comfortable with my round.

I've been getting better and better this year. That was really one of the main goals is to be healthy and work out a lot and feel better. I've been on a great program with Randy Myers, who is at Sea Island now who trains a lot of golfers. I just feel better and better. I know I can stand up there and hit the shots I want to hit now because I feel 90 percent, which to me feels like 120 percent because I've been a little off the last few years, so you can't get anywhere against these players trying to make do with a body that doesn't feel good. So I had to get back in better shape.

It's been a very, very inconsistent year but I feel like I'm making progress and I'm close.

### **Q. You're up there, Hal's up there; is this a course that rewards experience?**

DAVIS LOVE III: I think it rewards hitting it in the fairway and putting good. I think that's the main thing. You've got to hit fairways and you've got to be patient and you've got to make some putts.

I mean, Vijay made three or four putts that were just crucial that got him to the last two holes where he could make a couple of birdies and turn it and get a decent score out of it. You know, that's the biggest lesson I learned at the *U.S. Open* is you have to make a few putts and not let a round turn into 75 or 76 or par 70, even 74 or 75, because it just blows you out of it. It's so hard to come back.

You know, making a putt here or there doesn't sound like much but it gives you a chance,

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like Vijay today, and me.

You know, it's a big, long, hard **PGA** style golf course. Other than that, not really, you have to hit a lot of long, solid, straight drives, and I think that's very similar. If I take one thing from **Winged Foot** is I drove the ball with my driver very, very well and put myself in position to hit greens and made birdies in a tournament that not a lot of guys are making birdies. So you know you're going to miss fairways, but if you can hit 10, 11, 12 a couple of days, give yourself a lot of chances, you feel like you have a chance, you're not behind the 8-ball all the time.

Today, if you had a little more wind, you might could have gone for it, but it's just conditions; like any other long par 5, you have to have the right conditions. I had 296 front, so I was maybe 10 or 15 yards from maybe trying it.

I had one that was actually two inches longer for a little while and went back an inch and split the middle. I've been trying to get my shoulders to swing more, my elbows in more, thought that that would help, and actually **Jonathan Byrd** last week, I played with him last week and he said, "I think you ought to cut your putter back off." He said, "I've cut mine back off and I've been putting really good." So is it an inch that makes a difference or in your brain? It's probably more in your brain.

It's the setup; all of a sudden it felt like the way I stood up to it, and I don't do it perfectly, but I felt comfortable and then I started putting with my routine rather than my stroke, and you made more if you're -- as **Brad Faxon** says, you're into the process, not the results, and I was more into the stroke and the results.

**Q. How long have you been doing that experiment?**

DAVIS LOVE III: I've been bouncing around back and forth, about a year. Sometimes it takes somebody that you play with to say, "Hey, you know what, you don't look right, you look funny. Maybe you ought to try something different." We do that all the time out here. I really felt good after not putting well last week, to come back and have some confidence, and that's all you need is confidence, and then you can make putts.

I don't think it's that different, not as much as people make it out to be, certainly. You know, we can go down there to that plaque and hit 1-irons and not get there, so I don't think it's changed as much as everybody makes it out.