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Chat with the Champ: Fred Funk

March 20, 2006

Editor's note: The crowning moment of [Fred Funk](#)'s career came a year ago when he won [THE PLAYERS Championship](#). The enormously popular 49-year-old returns to the TPC Sawgrass for his title defense this week. Before things got too hectic, he spent time with PGA TOUR media official Joan Alexander for this "Chat with a Champ."



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PGATOUR.com: What is your favorite PGA TOUR golf memory as a kid?

FUNK: I don't know whether I was really a kid, but I have to say (Jack) Nicklaus winning the Masters in '86.

PGATOUR.com: What's your favorite beverage?

FUNK: Iced tea.

PGATOUR.com: Tell us your idea of the perfect day.

FUNK: Perfect day? Spending the day with my family at a ski resort snow skiing.

PGATOUR.com: What was your first job?

FUNK: My first job was working the range at University of Maryland.

Feature content

FREE video:

[Fred Funk re-lives the pressure-packed final holes at '05 PLAYERS Championship](#)

PGATOUR.com: Name the last concert you attended.

FUNK: The one at Kapalua with Glenn Frey.

PGATOUR.com: What is your proudest moment?

FRED FUNK: Winning THE PLAYERS Championship.

PGATOUR.com: What did you do on your first date with your wife?

FUNK: We got lost on a one turn route from the airport and going to the date -- okay? We got lost.

PGATOUR.com: What is the weirdest place you've ever been noticed and asked for an autograph?

FUNK: Probably at the chair lift at a ski resort. I had everything. I don't know how the guy recognized me. I had goggles, I had a headkerchief on, I had a helmet on. I said, "How the hell do you know it's me?"

PGATOUR.com: What's your favorite food?

FUNK: Crabs, blue crabs.

PGATOUR.com: What was the V show you watched as a kid that you could not miss?

FUNK: McHale's Navy (with) Tim Conway (and) Ernest Borgnine.

PGATOUR.com: What's better, the NCAA basketball tournament or the college football bowl season?

FUNK: I'd say NCAA basketball.

PGATOUR.com: What's your favorite candy bar?

FUNK: Reese's Peanut Butter Cup.

PGATOUR.com: As a chef in the kitchen, what is your specialty?

FUNK: French toast.

PGATOUR.com: What was the name of your pet when you were a kid?

FUNK: Arnold the Turtle, the Real Riding Girdle.

PGATOUR.com: Name the best place you've ever visited.

FUNK: Oh, it would have to be up in Vancouver, the Sonora fishing resort.

PGATOUR.com: What's your favorite course?

FUNK: Cypress Point.

PGATOUR.com: What's your favorite golf hole?

FUNK: I'd have to say No. 16 at Cypress Point.

PGATOUR.com: Name the best shot of your career?

FUNK: The best shot of my career was probably the tee shot on No. 18 at THE PLAYERS last year.

PGATOUR.com: What's the oldest club in your bag?

FUNK: My TaylorMade 3-wood. I think it's been in there seven years.

PGATOUR.com: When was the last time you bought a golf ball?

FUNK: It's been a long time, a long time.

PGATOUR.com: If you're not playing professional golf, what would your job be?

FUNK: I'd probably be a golf coach, more than likely.

PGATOUR.com: Who would be in your dream foursome?

FUNK: That's a loaded question. I'd have to say, Faith Hill, Shania Twain and Angelina Jolie or something like that.

PGATOUR.com: Who is your favorite male athlete?

FUNK: Tiger Woods.

PGATOUR.com: And your favorite female athlete?

FUNK: Annika (Sorenstam), no question.

PGATOUR.com: Who would you buy a ticket to watch?

FUNK: A lot of things, a lot of the country singers, or rock and roll.

PGATOUR.com: Who's your favorite musician?

FUNK: I like Vince Gill.

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