

Tom Cade: Hello, this is News from Washington Golf, and this is Tom Cade, Senior Director of Communications with Washington Golf. Today, we have with us Shane Prante, who is the PGA Lead Instructor at the Home Course in DuPont, Washington. Shane also is the defending champion of the Washington Open Invitational. Shane, thanks so much for having the time this afternoon to come on board.

Shane Prante: My pleasure, Tom. Thanks for having me.

Tom Cade: Yeah. I'm looking at the schedule here right now, today [inaudible 00:02:25] Invitational, they bumped the dates of that because of the situation going on with the virus. How has that schedule change affected you and not only you, but what you've got planned for the summer, and what you've got planned with the other PGA pros this summer too?

Shane Prante: This whole scenario has been pretty a unusual experience. I don't think we'll see this again for a long time. I hope not at least. My schedule probably isn't going to change as far as tournaments, the Home Course and Justin and Troy, everybody at the WSJ and the Home Course really, they support my playing and I appreciate that part of what I do. I think my schedule probably is going to remain the same. It's just going to be a lot more condensed. The Washington Open now is a two-day event with ... It was supposed to be 54 holes with a cut, and now it's just two days. I think there's probably been some modifications on the length of events and some stuff like that, but as far as me being able to play, I plan on playing all the ones I normally would. Hopefully that holds true.

Tom Cade: Yeah, they did a cut it down to 36 holes and that kind of changes a little bit, the tournament I would think, and your approach to it because 36 holes from a playing standpoint, I would think that a player can get hot for 18 holes and maybe even 36 holes, but not typically 54 holes, so it does change that dynamic a little bit as a player?

Shane Prante: It does. I feel like for me, I would rather the longer the tournament goes for me, normally, I feel like the more advantage I have. I know I'm going to play over four days or three days play. I feel like my play is more consistent the longer the event. It definitely makes it feel more like a race than maybe a marathon, 36 holes is definitely, you don't have the luxury of a bad nine holes or even a couple bad holes. I'm going to definitely, probably play more aggressive than I normally would, but I'll also try to make sure that I don't do something that's uncalled for or be silly if I'm at a position. That's what I feel like ... Two days definitely keeps a lot more guys in the event that maybe a 54-hole or 72 holes in it, I feel like,.

Tom Cade: Yeah, do you like Meridian Valley? The venue?

Shane Prante: I love Meridian Valley. I think it's a great golf course. It's not long for the scorecard, but if anybody that's ever played there, there's a lot of up and down

shots. The green, a lot of elevated greens, the greens are great and they have a lot of slope and you can hide a lot of the pins. There's some definitely some tight driving holes. I feel like it challenges all parts of your game and that's something that I really enjoy having to work the ball and being able to hit it in the right spots and so forth. I think it's a great, great course for that event.

Tom Cade: Yeah, so you've got to three Northwest Open titles. Is that right, Shane?

Shane Prante: That's correct, 2013, 2017 and 2018.

Tom Cade: Yeah, and now one Washington Open title last year. What other ... Are you going to play in all the majors? The regional majors this summer?

Shane Prante: Oh yeah. That's my goal. That's my hope. Unless something unforeseen as far as family or something with who know. My plan right now is to play Oregon Open. Actually, the Oregon Open is going to fall first this year, normally that's the second event. The Oregon Open and then the Washington will be the next week and then it'll be [inaudible 00:05:54] in Spokane and then Northwest in August and then the PPC, the PGA Professional Championship will be in September.

Tom Cade: Is that a regional one or is that the national one?

Shane Prante: That's the regional one. It's the one the top seven to nine guys from that one get to go to the national event next spring.

Tom Cade: Okay. Where is that going to be held this fall?

Shane Prante: Gosh, let's see. Put me on the spot. It's in Montana. I forget the name of that, Canyon River, something like that. I believe it's in the Missoula area, I'm not mistaken. I've not played the course, so I'm looking forward to it.

Tom Cade: Oh, there you go. Okay, so just from a playing standpoint, for these like the Washington Open and Oregon Open coming up too, how are you keeping your game in shape? I mean, are you able to workout at home? Are you hitting balls into a net? What are you doing?

Shane Prante: Right now, I haven't done anything for quite a while. I have two small sons, my sons are four and six, and so we've been doing a lot of projects around the house and hanging out with them and helping my wife with their schooling and stuff like that. I've been kind of in the mode of ... I just got done doing a pretty big fire pit project in the backyard. I've been doing a lot of stuff like that, but we have a big park next to our house, about 100 yards away. It's five-acre park. I'm actually thinking about going down there in the next couple of days and just hitting some lead shot. There's nobody ever down there and so at least hitting some shots and stuff like that. As you know, all the golf courses are closed, so driving ranges, there's nothing available.

For me, I know how to get ready. I kind of know what I need to do to get myself in shape. My game's pretty simple. I'm not real flashy. My dad taught me. It was very fundamentally based and so I'm pretty good at ... I'm actually enjoying the break with them teaching and just being with the family. I'm going to definitely the next couple of weeks, start shifting mindsets to try to get out there and start even just in the backyard, just trying to get in that mode of thinking about the game and how to start getting ready for it.

Tom Cade: Sure. For your work at the Home Course as the lead instructor, are you getting a program getting ready to go once things open up again, or how are you preparing for that?

Shane Prante: Yeah, it's kind of unknown right now with [inaudible 00:08:24] PJ Junior League and there's some Operation 36 and I was looking into doing some of that, but a lot of it remains unknown as far as what the guidelines are going to be as far as doing, how many people can be for clinics and [inaudible 00:08:42], so there's a lot of communications and kind of stuff going back and forth with that, but definitely looking forward to getting out and teaching.

I got a lot of students that have reached out. I'm excited to get out and get after it again, so I'm looking forward to it. I know it's going to be really busy when we finally do open with a new clubhouse and people just dying to get out and play golf. Then obviously, there's going to be people wanting to get out and get help with their game. It's going to be a lot to handle I'm sure as far as everybody at the course when we finally do let up, but yeah, I'm definitely thinking about what I need to do and based on timeframes, what that's going to allow based on different scenarios, as far as far as programs and whatnot.

Tom Cade: Okay. Shane, I'm just going to give them the URL or the website address is thehomecourse.com, if people want to go there and check out the programs for the season, correct?

Shane Prante: Correct. Yeah. All of our information on rates, tee times, obviously can't book a tee time now, but all relevant information's on there and they also have a lesson page where if they want to know anything more about what I'm doing or reach me, all the information would be under that lesson tab.

Tom Cade: Okay, good. You mentioned the clubhouse, the new pro shop being built there at the Home Course. That's still on schedule, yeah?

Shane Prante: Yeah. I talked to Justin recently. There's been a little bit of a setback far as just with construction has been in one of the things that's been affected a little bit. Got just independent contractors and stuff that [inaudible 00:10:11], so it's been delayed a little bit, but the inside's pretty much done from what I've heard. I know they're supposed to be pouring concrete for around the outside this week. It's been pushed back, but it's not going to be anything where it's going to be months. It's just maybe a couple of weeks delay from what I'm

hearing. It's wrapping up pretty quick. I'm looking forward to seeing it. The unfortunate thing is probably nobody would be able to go inside even when it does open because there's probably going to be some still guidelines in place as far as contact and whatnot.

Tom Cade: Sure. Yeah. Okay. Shane, again, I appreciate you taking the time this afternoon to chat about this and good luck with your season as a player this year. Also, as an instructor at the Home Course. We'll be watching for you for the Washington Open Invitational, and see if you can do two in a row.

Shane Prante: All right, Tom. Thanks. Appreciate it. You take care.

Tom Cade: All right. Talk to you soon. Bye-bye.

Shane Prante: Bye.