

PETER WILSON



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INTERVIEW WITH PETER WILSON
AUSTRALIAN OPEN
THURSDAY 3RD DECEMBER 2009
AT THE MEDIA CENTRE, NSW GOLF CLUB

FACILITATOR: Peter, great to see you in here. It wasn't all calm for you, I'm sure, on the way round.

PETER WILSON: Yeah, the last 10 holes, maybe 11 holes, it started getting windy. I play better when it's windy.

FACILITATOR: Before we heard from Adam Scott and he said it makes you concentrate better in the wind.

PETER WILSON: I think probably that would be true. I just didn't feel right the first seven holes, just being lazy and just wasn't firing yet and then – I missed a few putts, yeah, things started working at the end.

FACILITATOR: Questions?

QUESTION: Peter, last time you were in the media centre that I was present in, you had a totally different image. You had long hair, you had non-golfer's clothes on.

PETER WILSON: Yes.

QUESTION: You look like a golfer today.

PETER WILSON: I've got a Rip Curl shirt on. I cut my hair a couple of weeks ago; I just wanted to have a bit of a change. It was really hot in Melbourne, so I needed to shave my head.

QUESTION: Shouldn't you have kept it for the skateboarding?

PETER WILSON: No, well it's easier actually to have shorter hair when you're surfing – the hair doesn't get in your eyes.

QUESTION: You made a big thing, you didn't want to look like the normal professional golfer out there; you wanted to be an individual.

PETER WILSON: Yeah, well I still am.

QUESTION: Tell us more? Remind us what you told us last time.

PETER WILSON: I keep on getting breached so I've got to clean my image up a bit.

QUESTION: How do you keep getting breached?

PETER WILSON: It's just the way it is. Just commenting, sort of.

QUESTION: Opinionated?

PETER WILSON: Yeah.

QUESTION: What have you said recently that's got you in a bit of strife?

PETER WILSON: I've been pretty good the last couple of months, so it's alright.

QUESTION: Have you got anything to say now?

PETER WILSON: Nothing to say.

QUESTION: You don't want to cop another one?

PETER WILSON: No, I don't want to say anymore.

QUESTION: You're still surfing?

PETER WILSON: Yep.

QUESTION: And skateboarding?

PETER WILSON: Yep.

QUESTION: What other sports do you engage in?

PETER WILSON: Motor bike riding. I got a dune buggy. When I played well last time I brought a 250cc dune buggy for home. I've got 10 acres at home. I broke my ribs, I broke four ribs motor bike riding last year, in the middle of the year, so I bought the dune buggy so I wouldn't fall of it. It's got a roll cage in there.

QUESTION: When were you in here after that terrific round? Where was it, which tournament?

PETER WILSON: Coolum. Two weeks later I broke my collar bone surfing.

QUESTION: That was not last year but the year before?

PETER WILSON: That was...

QUESTION: It was last year.

PETER WILSON: No, it was this year, the start of this year, because I missed the PGA, the Vic Open, all the Johnnie Walker and everything like that because I broke my collar bone.

QUESTION: It was December last year at Coolum?

PETER WILSON: Yeah, that's when I broke it. I snapped it in half.

QUESTION: Where were you surfing?

PETER WILSON: Phillip Island.

QUESTION: You live down that way don't you?

QUESTION: It was big?

PETER WILSON: No, it wasn't that big, I just fell off awkwardly and landed on a sand bank and broke my collar bone in half. As soon as I did it, the first thing I thought was: Okay, like I knew it was broken, I thought it takes eight to ten weeks and I started thinking when are the major events on, like when I can heal, but I wasn't ready for those events.

QUESTION: You've got a little farm down Phillip Island?

PETER WILSON: I've got 10 acres, yes.

QUESTION: What's on it, two cows and a sheep?

PETER WILSON: No, I got rid of all the animals, it's more like a fun park now.

QUESTION: With all the dune buggies and all that.

PETER WILSON: Yeah, for all me mates and we muck around every weekend. I've got a driving range at home and short game area that I built a couple of years ago. It's great for the kids. My five year old had her friends over not long ago and all they wanted to do was go down and hit golf balls, so that's what I wanted to have it there for.

QUESTION: Is it 10 acres or 10 hectares?

PETER WILSON: Ten acres.

QUESTION: Exactly where is it?

PETER WILSON: It's in Nyora, which is 10 minutes out of Langland.

QUESTION: What age are you now Pete?

PETER WILSON: Thirty one.

QUESTION: How many kids have you got?

PETER WILSON: Three – five, three and two.

QUESTION: You told me you broke your collar bone earlier. How long did it take you to get it right to play well again?

PETER WILSON: Probably four months ago, five months ago. Just physically – it snapped and then it joined. I asked them to pin it, but they didn't want to pin it and it joined and overlapped itself. So it shortened my range in my left shoulder. My timing probably for the first half of the year, I couldn't time the golf ball properly, which is, you know, a couple of inches with a golf club is a fair bit.

Probably four, three months ago I started to get back to where I was last year.

QUESTION: Do you feel like you've got full range again or are you just compensating a little bit?

PETER WILSON: No, I'm okay now. It looks deformed but it's alright.

QUESTION: Just in these recent events you've been playing, the State championships, what's been your best tournament?

PETER WILSON: I finished third in the Volvo – the last One Asia event. I finished I think seventh in the WA PGA. I finished fourth at NSW PGA, then I think I finished 49th or something at the Masters and then 18th last week. My form's good.

QUESTION: Where are you taking your golf? Where do you want to go?

PETER WILSON: I think it's fantastic, this One Asia concept, for a player like myself. I've got a young career, so I don't really want to go to the US or the European tour as yet. If I can get better and this tour gross 15, 20 events where I can get home and have my family and go away for two weeks and come back, I think that's perfect for someone like me.

QUESTION: But if you want to go to the US sometime, you don't want to leave it too late, do you?

PETER WILSON: No, I want to try to go next year. Next time I go to the US it'll be next year.

QUESTION: You haven't been at all yet?

PETER WILSON: I went a couple of years ago. I missed by one the first stage. I haven't gone back. It's a big expense. It costs about \$20,000, \$30,000 and not a lot of us are sponsored. A lot of guys get backed, but I haven't got a backer.

QUESTION: You've got Titleist on your head.

PETER WILSON: They don't pay you any money.

QUESTION: That's because of the balls. You get some balls, do you?

PETER WILSON: Yeah.

QUESTION: Pete, the round was a highlight obviously but was there any specific highlight in the round?

PETER WILSON: What hole was it – the fourth hole. I hit it on the other fairway, which was the eighth fairway and I was pretty much at a guess what club. I hit a four iron and hit it to about four feet. That's probably one of the best shots I've hit with a longer iron in my playing career.

QUESTION: Did you start on one?

PETER WILSON: No, I started on 10. I was two over after the 17th for the round and then I birdied 18 and got six birdies on the front nine.

QUESTION: That event in Melbourne, how did you come to golf from skateboarding?

PETER WILSON: That's just what I like. That event, it was looking fantastic but a bit of a shame, the guys that were helping me do it who suggested it, put me in the right direction, they were going to underwrite it, pulled the pin two weeks ago. I worked on that for a year and a half, so I'm not happy. It's a real shame.

Actually, the week that they said that it wasn't happening I finished 16 under par, so I don't know if there was a distraction or not, I'm not sure.

QUESTION: That's dead in the water, it won't be happening?

PETER WILSON: It's been postponed. We'll just have to see how I feel, if I push it again. It's got a sour taste in my mouth to tell you the truth, right now. A lot of work went into it and promises from people that don't deliver. I just want to play my golf and do my own thing.

QUESTION: What about as a surfer, did you see any breaks out there?

PETER WILSON: Yeah, on one of the holes, I don't know what one it was, there were a couple of body boarders out there, we were watching, fell off and went on the rocks, we were having a bit of a laugh.

I think that's what makes me calm, watching the ocean. I played well at Wollongong, which is right on the ocean as well; it seems to have a calming effect.

QUESTION: And the cut.

PETER WILSON: And the cut as well, I finished third there. I'll just have to play courses near the water.

END OF TRANSCRIPT