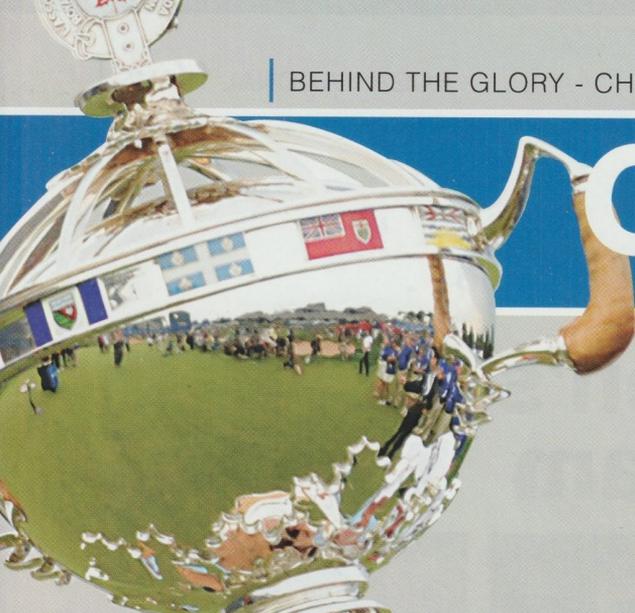


Chez Reavie

By Ryan McNally

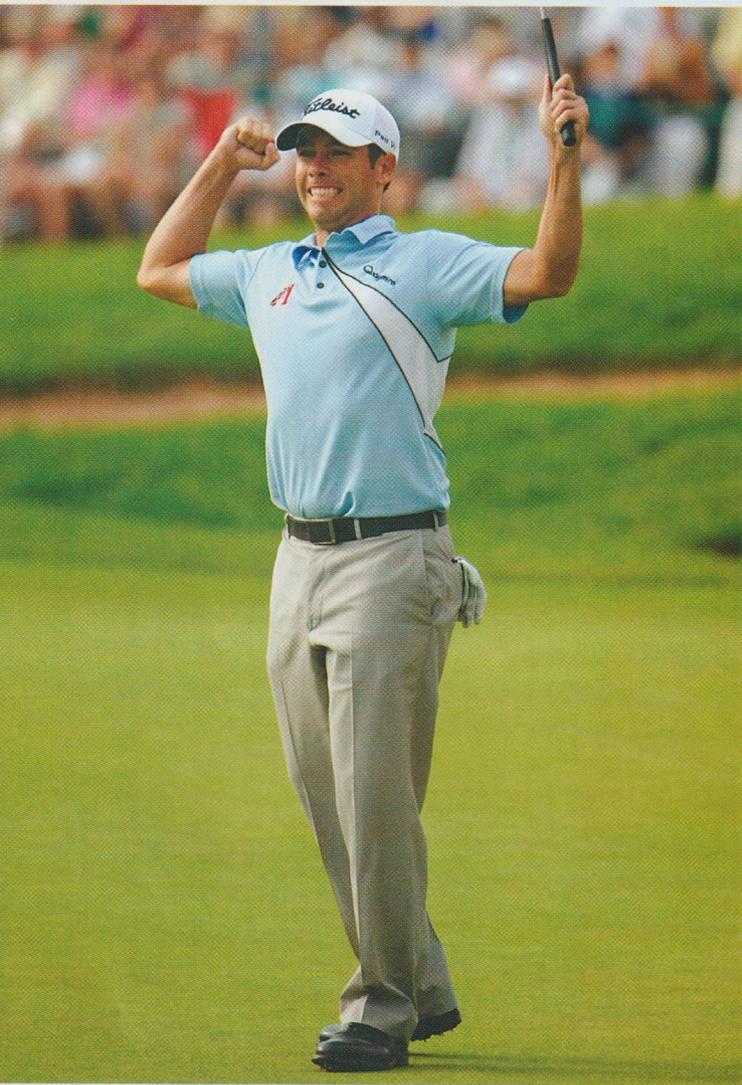
LAST YEAR PGA TOUR ROOKIE CHEZ REAVIE SURPRISED EVERYONE BY WINNING THE 2008 RBC CANADIAN OPEN. THE RISE FROM THE AMATEUR RANKS TO THE PROS WAS CHALLENGING ENOUGH FOR THE YOUNG GOLFER FROM KANSAS, BUT WHAT HAPPENED AFTER HIS FIRST BIG WIN?

As he prepares to defend his first title, Reavie sat down with *Golf Canada* magazine for a chat.



FAST FACTS

- **FAVORITE FOOD:**
Pizza
- **LEAST FAVORITE FOOD:**
Liver
- **ONE THING YOU CAN'T TRAVEL WITHOUT:**
Belts. I like belts.
- **WHAT'S ON YOUR IPOD:**
A mix of everything: Rap, AC/DC, Metallica; I've got a wide variety
- **WHAT'S IN YOUR FRIDGE:**
Diet Coke and water, 'cause I'm never home
- **FAVORITE MOVIE:**
Braveheart
- **FAVORITE BAND:**
A lot of them, I don't have a favorite; it's whatever my current mood is
- **FAVORITE TV SHOW:**
Family Guy
- **GOLF IDOL:**
Fred Couples. I like the way he acts when he plays and he's a great golfer
- **PETS:**
Two dogs. My wife's parents take care of them when I'm gone
- **FAVORITE GOLF COURSE:**
Westbrook, Arizona
- **Favorite piece of clothing:**
Belts
- **Other hobbies:**
Surfing, mountain biking, anything in the water



WHAT GOT YOU STARTED IN GOLF?

My dad played, and I would just go out and hang out with him. I'd hit the ball 10 yards, go pick it up and hit it back and forth. That's how I started.

WHO DO YOU CREDIT FOR YOUR SUCCESS?

My dad, since he's the one who got me started. I now work with Peter Kostis, my whole family, the Quagmire guys; it takes everyone's help to succeed.

WHEN DID YOU SAY TO YOURSELF "YOU KNOW I COULD REALLY MAKE A CAREER OUT OF THIS?"

It was after my freshman year of college. It kind of hit me: Wow, I had a good summer; maybe I can do this for a living. I always worked hard and dreamed of playing on the PGA Tour, but that's when it really sunk in.

TAKE US BACK TO THE MOMENT LAST YEAR AT GLEN ABBEY WHEN YOU HOISTED THE TROPHY IN THE AIR.

Yeah you know it was the best feeling in the world. That's why I worked so hard my entire life, to come out on the PGA and win on the PGA Tour. And I was lucky enough to win a national championship.

DID YOUR LIFE CHANGE AFTER WINNING THE RBC CANADIAN OPEN?

No, you know I'm doing the same stuff I've always done. I'm still working hard, trying to get better every day. I just won a trophy, and I'd like to do it again.

SO WHAT DID YOU DO WITH THE \$900,000 DOLLAR PRIZE?

(laughs) Oh just saved it. I actually just bought a new house in Arizona.

WHAT IS IT ABOUT GLEN ABBEY THAT REALLY SUITS YOUR GAME?

I was just hitting the ball really well. The course seemed to set up really well with my eye, and I played well.

JUST LOOKING AT THE NUMBERS IT SEEMS THAT YOU'VE STRUGGLED THIS YEAR COMPARED TO LAST YEAR. WHAT WILL IT TAKE TO GET YOUR GAME BACK?

You know my putter went cold early

in the season. I started missing putts and I started putting pressure on the rest of my game trying to make up for it. I've started to putt better now; my game's starting to shape up and I'm starting to hit it better. Luckily the season's half over so I can finish with a bang.

SO YOU'RE FOCUSING MORE ON FIXING YOUR PUTTER?

Well it's not just the putting, it's everything; that's just what started it. If you're putting well, it doesn't matter how you're hitting the golf ball because you can make putts from anywhere and save par, make some birdies. The putter is the key to scoring well.

WHAT STRATEGY ARE YOU COMING BACK TO THE CANADIAN OPEN WITH?

You know I'm just going to do the same thing I always do. I'm going to practice and prepare the way I do every day and week. Hopefully the putts will fall this year and I'll hit it as well as I did last year.

LIFE AS A TOURING PRO ISN'T ALWAYS EASY. HOW MANY WEEKS A YEAR ARE YOU AWAY FROM HOME?

I play 30 weeks a year, so I'm gone at least that much, sometimes more; I'm on the road a lot. I like traveling and luckily my wife likes to travel as well so that makes it easier.

HOW MUCH GOLF DO YOU PLAY EACH WEEK?

Um, wow. I'll play a practice round on Monday or Tuesday, pro on Wednesday through Sunday. So I'm playing six out of seven days a week.

IF YOU WEREN'T A PROFESSIONAL GOLFER WHAT WOULD YOU WANT TO BE DOING?

Boy, I don't know. I haven't thought about it, luckily I haven't had to. I went to school, but I went to school to play golf and to see how good I could get. If golf didn't work out I'd have to figure something else out. Luckily golf worked out!

SO HOW DO YOU FIND TIME TO CHILL?

You know you just have to make time. I work a lot so I try to go to sporting events when I'm on the road, anything live, baseball in particular. ♣