

Blind approach: Chad NeSmith

Transcript

00:00:06:13 - 00:00:07:21

CHAD NESMITH:

Get us a number.

00:00:07:21 - 00:00:16:20

JAMES STEPHEN:

99. Hell of a shot, doc. Good putt. Hell yeah, doc. Great putt, great putt.

00:00:17:12 - 00:00:20:15

CHAD NESMITH:

And that's the sound I love. And I love to get my ball out myself.

00:00:20:22 - 00:00:21:28

JAMES STEPHEN:

Yes, sir.

00:00:23:06 - 00:00:41:22

CHAD NESMITH:

Do you want my glasses on or do you want them off since you're doing blind? It doesn't matter to me. My name is Chad "Blind Doc" NeSmith. And I am currently ranked as the number one blind golfer in the United States. I have been fortunate and blessed to win the United States Blind Golf National Championship.

00:00:45:01 - 00:00:49:12

CHAD NESMITH:

There's nothing I can do on a golf course. Nothing without my coach.

00:00:49:12 - 00:00:54:02

JAMES STEPHEN:

You know, caddying is one thing, but this is a whole another level.

00:00:54:28 - 00:01:09:10

CHAD NESMITH:

People say, "Great shot, doc." And I'll say, "No. Great shot us." The number one thing is you have to trust they're going to keep you safe through 18 holes. The special, special relationship in golf, blind golf that you don't get in a lot of other sports.

00:01:10:00 - 00:01:25:10

JAMES STEPHEN:

Doc has been a friend of mine for a couple of years now. Seeing him hit a ball for the first time, you know, that was something that, like, you're like, how does this guy play golf? And not only play golf, but play well.

00:01:25:29 - 00:01:51:10

CHAD NESMITH:

Golf has given me that last missing piece that I needed to feel good about who I was. Something challenging, something athletic. You know, and that's what I feel like when I'm playing golf. I feel like an athlete. I feel like I am competing. And that's what I was missing before golf. 2016, I played in my first national tournament. 2017, I won it a second time back to back.

00:01:51:20 - 00:02:12:10

CHAD NESMITH:

And one other tournament I won was the Irish Open during that year. And I felt no joy in winning it in 2017. None whatsoever. I was doing it for the wrong reason. I mean, the only reason I was playing was for me. My wife said, "You've got to give back. You'll feel joy rather than this happiness is external, that only lasts when you get the trophy for an hour or two."

00:02:12:25 - 00:02:38:09

CHAD NESMITH:

And so that's when we started AVID A Vision in Darkness. We started the first golf team for blind students at Tennessee School for the Blind in the United States. We started out with 6 and now we're up to 14. In 2018, I was fortunate to three-peat and the kids came to the award ceremony and I won the tournament and they were there. And it meant the world to me because it was for the right reason.

00:02:39:04 - 00:02:52:09

CHAD NESMITH:

They're like, "We hope we can be as good as you are." And I said, "I don't care if you're as good as I am. Just enjoy, you

know. And if you don't like golf, find something else." You know, I want them to at least find something, and golf is one of those things you can find.

00:02:52:09 - 00:03:05:19

CHAD NESMITH:

In terms of sport for blind people, the safest, the most challenging, the most rewarding and the one you can play the longest is golf.

