

The GOLFCChicago Interview

From 2:00pm until 6:00pm, Waddle and Silvy are on the air at ESPN AM 1000 with keen insights and clever banter for Chicago's sports fanatics. Retired Chicago Bear hero Tom Waddle and Skokie-native Marc Silverman hold court weekdays and make our commute back home more bearable. Moreover, listeners will find themselves joining the conversation as the tandem slides from baseball to football to all things sports. Both men are golfers, which is what brings them to our pages for an extended session of Waddle and Silvy on the other end of the questions.

WMVP- ESPN 1000's Tom Waddle and Marc Silverman

by Dave Weretka

Photos by Mondo Productions



GOLFCChicago: How long have you guys been together now?

Marc Silverman (aka Silvy): We have been together since right after the Bears Super Bowl. So it's been over eight years already. We started doing some night shows and then they put us on nine to noon.

GC: Who is on your bucket list for guests on the show?

Silvy: Michael! Michael Jordan. Charles Barkley is a big fan of the show and we are sitting here in Chicago and have not talked to Michael Jordan once. I think that is weird.

Tom Waddle: I would say Tiger and Michael are the only two.

GC: What are your thoughts of John Fox, the new Bears head coach?

Waddle: I think it is a fantastic hire. This team will instantly be held more accountable. Accountability and respectability are two key words that come to mind. I would not predict instant greatness for them. I think his history and his resume tell you

that he will take a bad situation and make it much better in a short period of time. I think he will continue that trend.

Silvy: If you look at his track record, and that is what we judge a lot of people on, wherever he has been—like Carolina, where he took a group that was really bad and improved them the first year and eventually went to a Super Bowl with Jake Delhomme as their quarterback. He goes to Denver and takes a team led by Tim Tebow and they win a playoff game in his first year. He's then able to adjust on the fly as they get Payton Manning as their quarterback, and they get back to another Super Bowl. With Cutler, and with a lot of bad on the defense, I think he is going to build respect back for the Bears.

GC: Did you ever get a chance to play golf with Jim Harbaugh or Coach Ditka?

Waddle: Over the years, I have probably played with Jim 10 to 20 different times with various groups. That was our summer group activity: golf. We had a lot of good golfers on the team.



Neal Anderson was a very good golfer, and Jim (Harbaugh) was a good golfer. P.T. Willis was an excellent golfer. We also had Shane Matthews, Koz, Jim Morrissey, and Jim Thornton. We played in that large group pretty consistently. Then when the weather would turn bad, everyone would go bowling. That was back in the day where we really functioned as a unit both on and off the field. Everyone was pretty close. Kemper Lakes was our destination most of the time. It was close and such a beautiful course.

GC: Where did you pick up the game?

Waddle: I picked up the game as a kid, growing up in Cincinnati. My dad has been an avid golfer for as long as I can remember. I have been playing since I was 12 or 13 years old. Silvy: My grandfather would take me golfing on Saturdays. We started when I was probably seven years old. I played at the Weber par-3 course in Skokie. When we were in junior high, my friends and I got season passes, and we would play two or three rounds a day at Weber. My grandfather belonged to Buffalo Grove GC. We would go to Winnetka as well. In high school, my friends and I would play Chick Evans all the time. Golfing off the mats—good memories there. I played with Niles North golf team. I was on [the] the varsity

team for three years. Our home course was Glencoe. We would get out of school every day at 2:15 and we would go play nine holes. It was quite the life my sophomore and junior year. We had a chance to play all the good courses up north. We were in the North Suburban Conference, so we got to go to Libertyville, Mundelein, and some of the good courses up there.

GC: Where would you take your foursome of buddies for a golf trip in the States?

Waddle: I go to Kiawah Island every year, and that is where my family hangs out. There's all the golf you want there. The Ocean Course is the most challenging course I have ever played. If you like golf and you like good weather, I haven't found a better place on this planet than Kiawah Island.

Silvy: Pebble Beach is a bucket list item for me. I watch the tournament every year that is held there.

Waddle: One of the best trips I have taken was to Pebble Beach. We went with some other couples and played Poppy Hills, Spyglass, and Pebble. We will go back there at some point. The golf course was nice, but the view was the best part.

GC: Is Tiger done? Is it mental or physical or both?

Silvy: I think it's both. We used to be asked would Tiger break Jack's record. It used to be *when* would Tiger break the record. Then it went to *will* he break Jack's record. It has now changed into, will he win another major? I really do think it's both and when a back goes- it's not easy to fix. That changes everything.

Waddle: When we were asked that question, I have said from the beginning that, no, I don't believe he will break Jack's record. I think it is physical. He is almost 40 years old. I don't think he has the mental intimidation factor that he once had. The level of competition and number of quality players is significantly better. The international guys are more involved. There is a deeper pool of talent now.

GC: Is there one rule that you would like to change in the game of golf?

Silvy: You don't need silence. To me, as a sports fan, where in sports do we ever see a time when they ask the crowd to



be quiet? In every critical moment of a big game—the crowd roars. The littlest camera click can sidetrack a guy. As a meathead sports fan, that's always one that has rubbed me the wrong way.

Waddle: I don't think the game needs to be manipulated. This is what makes the game unique. It's a completely different set of rules and attitude. They do need to address the golf ball. They are going to run out of land. Some of these courses can't be stretched any further.

GC: What makes you tune into television golf coverage?

Silvy: To me, it's when the stars of the game are great. The drama this year has been very good. I'm a star guy. I think that is what changes all sports. When stars are great, that is when fans embrace a sport. The Tiger factor still rings for me. I tune in to watch him.

Waddle: I would agree with that. I'm watching the majors, for sure. I love watching the British early in the morning. I would watch the Greenbrier Classic if Tiger Woods was playing. Because I knew that if I tuned in, then something dynamic might happen.

GC: Do you have any unique betting games while out on the links?

Waddle: Not really. Just a standard Scotch game. My handicap got down to a four and my phone has never rung more often. Everyone wanted a piece of me because they knew I couldn't play to a four handicap. The sharks I was playing with knew I was an easy mark.

GC: Do you have any pet peeves on the course?

Waddle: I won't play golf if it's slow. I'm not interested in any round over four hours and fifteen minutes...

Silvy: I agree. Who has five to six hours to spend on the course?

Waddle: I heard a suggestion to play golf as 12 holes. That is intriguing and more appealing.

GC: What is your most memorable golf experience?

Silvy: I shot a 39 against Lake Forest in high school. It was at Glencoe GC. That is by far my highlight round. I don't know what happened that day. I had a chance for a 38, but I missed the putt. I remember looking up and my golf coach was shaking his head. I had just turned in the best round of my life against one of the top golf teams in Illinois ... And he's shaking his head.

Waddle: I won the inaugural Chicago Bears shootout on CBS 2. I beat George Blanda on the final hole. It was me, Ditka, Fencik, Hampton, and McMahon. I won the event at Kemper Lakes.

GC: What would you suggest to grow the game of golf?

Waddle: It's too much of a time commitment, especially for people with young kids. I think the idea of six or 12-hole loops would be great.

Silvy: Cheaper beer prices. I go to that beverage cart often. Let's knock that down a little.

GC: Is there anyone that you would like to play golf with that you haven't had the chance to?

Silvy: Isn't the fun of golf to be with a good group, share great stories, and have good fun? I would love to play with Barkley. How many great stories would he share?!

Waddle: I would like to go back in time to the days of Midlane CC with all [my] former teammates. To get P.T. Willis, Koz, and RoboCop together— that would be great.

