

Good afternoon.

Welcome to the 2002 Solheim Cup and welcome to Minnesota.

(Recognize Navy SEALs Leap Frog team)

There are quite a few things we take a lot of pride in in this state, and our golf is one of them.

If you're a native Minnesotan like I am, chances are pretty good you're also a golfer.

Yes, we have some "hearty" winters here, so you can't exactly play year 'round, but you try to find a place with better golf courses.

And I'm not just talking about the jewels of the state, like this one, Interlachen.

I'm talking about the public courses that guys like me can walk onto and maybe knock down a couple of birdies.

Then you throw in the great big-time tournaments we've hosted, like last month's PGA championship, and you can see why this is the perfect place for the United States to take that Solheim Cup back from our European friends.

Thanks for coming and enjoy the tournament.