

Charlie - Welcome to "15 Minutes with Charlie." As always, I'm your host Charlie Mechem. I want to make your speaking and writing more effective, and I that believe anecdotes are your tool to becoming better. In each episode, I'll share anecdotes from my book, *Total Anecdotal*, and have my guests simply react to them and share their insights.

Charlie - My guest today is Dottie Pepper. Dottie has had two distinguished careers: The first, on the LPGA Tour, where she won two major championships and 17 tour events, and played for the United States in the Solheim Cup, six times. She is now in golf broadcasting with CBS, and is as competitive, outspoken and honest as ever!

Charlie - Without further ado, here's my 15 minutes with Dottie.

Charlie - Dottie, we're delighted to have you with us.

Dottie - Well, thank you Charlie. That was a very biased introduction. But I would expect nothing less.

Charlie - As long as you behave yourself this morning. I can always undo it.

Dottie - Okay great. So we have that.

Charlie - Well, the pattern we've used in these podcasts, is I will quote an anecdote, or two or three or four or five from my upcoming book, *Total Anecdotal*, and then ask Dottie to react to that anecdote from her own experience and career.

Charlie - Now the first one Dottie, is under the category of "Courage and Risk Taking" in the book and it goes like this: "Suppose that Sir Edmund Hillary, as he and his Sherpa neared the Summit of Mount Everest had said, 'Tenzing it's getting dark, it's really cold, I'm having trouble breathing, let's go back down to the base camp and have a drink. We'll try this again tomorrow.' "

Charlie - In other words, courage and risk taking, obviously he didn't say that so he achieved the summit. What are your thoughts on the whole concept of courage and risk taking?

Dottie - I think they are somewhat mandatory. If you're willing to change pathways, if you're willing to go into a new business, if you're going to start a new family or whatever it might be. I think you have to have a little, a little of both of that. And in my experience in order to have courage and have a little risk taking, you've had to lay a pretty good foundation, so that if it doesn't happen it's not destructive. And there's just a little something to fall back on. But without, I feel I do something every day that scares the hell out of me.

Charlie - That's good.

Dottie - Whether it's, yeah, whether it's jumping into a conversation that I, you know, cutting in on another announcer where I know we're going in the wrong direction or I know there's been an error made that needs to be corrected or whatever it is. Or just planting a new flower in my garden that I have no idea if it's gonna make it through a Northeast winter. I try to do something every day that goes a little off the, always sure path. And I think you have to have both of those to make that happen.

Charlie - Very good. This next anecdote comes under the heading in the book of "Hard work," and it's one of those innumerable great Yogi Berra comments in which he said, "Give a hundred percent to everything you do and if that isn't enough, give everything you have left." How do you react to that?

Dottie - That's it. And if you've been to his museum, you would understand that. Everything that's in that museum in New Jersey says exactly that, from his time as a kid to his last days on this planet. And his Yogi-isms were of course were, they were endless it seemed like. But yes, I mean I think if you get to the finish line whatever that might be and you haven't expended every bit plus, then I think you haven't done yourself a whole lot of good and probably not those who are in some way maybe depending on you too. So, spend it all and crash into the finish line going 100 miles an hour, that's okay.

Charlie - It also suggests to me Dottie that, even when you think you've given a hundred percent, there's probably still a little bit of gas in the tank.

Dottie - Absolutely, absolutely. It's not very often that a, I can't think of many opportunities that I've said, "That's all I've got, I'm done. I can't give any

more." Seems like if you remove yourself a little bit from the situation or from the emotions of it, you will find that that little extra 50 miles in the tank or whatever.

Charlie - Good. This next anecdote comes under the category in the book of "Humility," and it says, "Albert Einstein had little use for rote learning. Instead, his creative genius stemmed from his ability to imagine concepts. He summed this up once by stating 'Imagination is more important than knowledge.' " And I wonder Dottie, in the golf world, both as a player and as a broadcaster, have you seen imagination at work in some of the great players?

Dottie - Well we probably should keep this podcast ever green, but I'm gonna use this week as an example because we're at a place, Trinity Forest in Dallas, that requires that imagination and so many of today's players are cookie cutter and paint by numbers and this is an abstract painting at its best. On a sand capped landfill core crenshaw bringing everything they loved about traditional golf in the UK, and they brought it to Dallas. And people walked around here with a closed mind attitude, I'm not gonna like this place, I'm not playing, I'm not this, I'm not that. And when they got here, they were all very pleasantly surprised.

Charlie - That's great.

Dottie - I think it's just, this place to me is exactly what you're talking about in that book.

Charlie - Let me ask you this too, often we hear the great players say, "I always try to see the shot that I wanna hit." Now us middle and high handicappers, don't wanna see the shot that we're about to hit. But explain-

Dottie - Not very often anyway.

Charlie - Explain that a little more. How do you see the shot that you wanna hit, how do they?

Dottie - Well I think it goes back to the visualization of actually seeing the ball in flight. Where you want it to land, where you want it to ultimately end up, and to me that wasn't as valuable as a player as it was, I needed to feel it

in my hands before I went through the process of executing the shot. I was much more of a, if I feel it I can just repeat what I already know how to do, and I knew how to play by feel.

Dottie - So I'm a little bit against the grain when it comes to that sort of a thought, but to me if you feel it you can redo it. And a lot of this golf course, if you go back to the start of that is a lot of feel. How do you wanna feel this shot in your hand before it hits the ground and tumbles or hits the grounds and bounces or hits the ground and stops dead. To me that's what the great players have had, they've had immense feel.

Charlie - Good good. This next anecdote in the book comes under the heading of "Passion," it goes like this-

Dottie - I wouldn't know a thing about it.

Charlie - A subject with which you are not familiar, come on. "It is critically important for success to make every goal a stretch goal. If you get there fabulous, if you don't get there you're still gonna get a lot of farther than you would have had you not set that lofty goal as an objective in the first place. As the great showman P.T. Barnum put it, 'If I shoot at the sun, I may hit a star.'" And you've already alluded to the importance of that in your life, golf, broadcasting, everything.

Dottie - Definitely and I'm going to continue to push that envelope because where I am in broadcasting is not where I want to end up being at the end of, when I decide to move on from this. I wanna go further. I don't wanna be the backup walker, the second string walker for the rest of my life. I don't wanna just be a tower announcer for the rest of my career and have that be the end of it. I think I'm aiming higher and that higher is the eighteenth power. At some point I wanna get there for a men's tournament. And I think I have the credentials to do it. I know I have the work ethic to do it. I just need that chance.

Charlie - If anyone who's listening to this wants to place a bet with me on whether this will happen, I'm gonna be easy cause I know it will happen. Not only because of her ability, but because of the passion that she brings. Not only to the job itself, but to her aspirations for the future.

Charlie - The next anecdote comes under the head of "Rigidity" in the book. There's a wonderful book, I don't know how, it was a best seller I believe, but a lot of people probably didn't read it called, *The Lovely Bones*, by Alice Sebold. And she says, "In my junior high yearbook, I had a quote from a Spanish poet that my sister had turned me onto, it went like this, 'If they give you ruled paper, write the other way.' I love that line, write across the lines, don't feel compelled to write within them." What's your reaction to that?

Dottie - I'm going to share a story at this point that, when I started with CBS in 2016, I spent time each of the first five or six weeks of the schedule, even though I wasn't doing any cable shows, I went in so I could learn the operations of the truck. And the people that pressed the buttons and the voices that really mattered most when you were in the heat and all of that stuff. I came out after those six weeks and I said to my husband I said, "I don't know about this." I said, "This is all completely different." And I said, you know, "The tape is different, audio's different." I just, I've been with a lot of, you know I'd already been with Golf Channel, ESPN and NBC, and the methods of how they get golf out over there was completely different.

Dottie - And he said, "I'm gonna give you two words and they are: 'Flexible confidence.' And to be confident with what you know, but flexible enough to take that to a different platform versus having rigid certainty that this is the only way to do it, and that's the only way I know, so that's the only way I'm going to do it."

Charlie - Good.

Dottie - And that really paid off.

Charlie - It certainly has and will pay off even more as we just said. The next anecdote is really a limerick not so much an anecdote, but it comes under the heading of "Sense of Humor" in the book. It's a limerick I've always loved and it has to do with the importance of a sense of humor in ones life. It goes like this: "He was a very cautious lad who never romped or played. He never smoked, he never drank or even kissed a maid. And when he upped and passed away, insurance was denied, for since he had never lived they claimed he never died." You know me Dottie well enough to know how important I think sense of humor is, but I'd like your thoughts on that.

Dottie - Who's the easiest person to laugh at? Yourself.

Charlie - Good point. Very good point.

Dottie - And you're never far from that person. So laugh at yourself.

Charlie - That's a very good point.

Dottie - I do that a lot. I laughed at myself on the air yesterday. I almost cracked myself up and then everybody else started laughing too. And sometimes you'll catch something that came out of your mouth, it came out completely opposite the words got flipped around so laugh at yourself. I think if you take yourself too seriously, you take the world too seriously. Yeah this time it's not gonna be a very good place to live.

Charlie - That's such a good point because to me the ultimate in sense of humor is to always pick on yourself as you've indicated. Laugh at yourself. Too often if you direct your barbs at others, they come off not very funny and come off as sort of petty. But if you're kidding about yourself, you can't go wrong.

Dottie - Self deprecation is a beautiful thing.

Charlie - Amen. Next anecdote comes out of the heading of "Taking Responsibility," and this is something that happened to my wife and I a few years ago that really has never left me. When my granddaughter graduated from high school, the program included a talk from a faculty member who had been nominated by the senior class to share thoughts for the day. He said that he had decided he wanted to talk about, he thought he would consult with his ten year old son and his six year old daughter. He said that his son offered some very helpful advice, but it was the advice from his younger daughter that he found so powerful.

Charlie - Now remember this is a six year old who's just starting school and learning so many new things. When her dad asked her, what she thought he should tell the graduating class she thought a moment and then said, "Daddy, tell them to be sure and put their name on their paper." And I

thought what a beautiful way to illustrate a simple, but extremely important quality. Take responsibility, put your name on your paper.

Dottie - The nature of today's society is to pass the buck.

Charlie - Exactly.

Dottie - And look for somebody else to blame if you didn't deliver. And I think it's a short and cheap kind of way to live.

Charlie - Yes it is. Yes it is.

Dottie - Yeah and I think, I don't think it leaves the next generation in a great spot either if that's the message we send. I just think, so here's something my dad used to make me do when I was a junior golfer. I couldn't go to the golf course without polishing my golf shoes. And he said, "You take responsibility for how you look because that is your uniform and people will judge you by that. If you look like you're prepared to play, you will be prepared to play." And he said "It's your responsibility to do that yourself it's not to leave it up for your mother to do or this that and the other." So that was one of my first lessons of take responsibility for getting out the door like a professional, and to always be five minutes early.

Charlie - Yeah exactly. You know how I am on that one.

Dottie - Yes I do.

Charlie - Okay. The last one Dottie, is a quote that I'd just like your reaction to, goes like this: "In life you will realize there's a role for everyone you meet. Some will test you, some will use you, some will love you and some will teach you. But the ones who are truly important, are the ones who bring out the best in you. They are the rare and amazing people, who remind you why it's worth it." Your thoughts on that.

Dottie - No doubt. I think you can put little silos for all of those categories and then you have that category of people that make you better or want to be better. And I've worked with, I've had a couple of producers that definitely made me that way. I've had a couple of people that I've worked with on a daily basis that make me that way. And those are the people you wanna

surround yourself with. My husband's the same way, he challenges me in ways to just be better and those are the people you wanna surround yourself with because they're also the people that if you didn't get it right they'll tell you, in the most constructive way and then you want to not disappoint them. So I think it makes you better every way possible.

Charlie - Very well said and I think a fitting way for us to end this podcast. Dottie, really thank you, all of these comments help flesh out the book of, *Total Anecdotal*, which will be published here soon and I can't thank you for your help.

Dottie - Well that book will be in my week to week briefcase because it was, I spoke to at Judy Rankins fundraiser on Tuesday in Midland, Texas, and I used so much of it already. It was fantastic, just fantastic.

Charlie - Well you've made me feel very good at this early hour, so thanks again. Good luck this week, we'll be watching.

Dottie - Thank you.

Charlie - Thanks for joining me for today's conversation. If you'd like to listen to more episodes, please visit totalanecdotal.co or search for "15 Minutes With Charlie" in your podcasting app. If you are enjoying the show you should check out my book, "*Total Anecdotal: A Fun Guide to Help You Become a Better Speaker and Writer.*" Learn more at totalanecdotal.co/book, that's totalanecdotal.co/book, or it's available through Amazon or Barnes & Noble, and perhaps your local bookstore.