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**84 LUMBER CLASSIC**  
**Nemacolin Woodlands Resort**  
**Mystic Rock Golf Course**  
**Farmington, Pa**

**September 23, 2004**  
**First-round leader quotes**

**AN INTERVIEW WITH BILLY ANDRADE**

THE MODERATOR: Thank for you joining us.

BILLY ANDRADE: Thank you.

Q. A nice round today. You start out the week here at The 84 Lumber Classic.

BILLY ANDRADE: Yes.

Q. Why don't you just make a couple of comments about the time that you had to wait and then your round today.

BILLY ANDRADE: I think the first thing I have to say is that our field staff which usually is always under fire by the players should be praised the way they set the golf course up. We all know the golf course is new. The greens are all new. They haven't gone through that year of plugging, and, you know, draining and everything, so they are real firm. And with the way that the pins were set up, I think a couple of tees they used, a couple of up tees which made it, I think, playable. And I think very easily you could get this golf course playing almost impossible the way as firm as they are. So I would have to first commend the field staff for doing a hell of a job getting the golf course in a position where we can shoot some good scores.

Now, in that case I hope they read tomorrow's papers because I hope tomorrow and the next couple of days it is not ridiculously harder.

I think once this first year, when we get through this, this golf course is going to be absolutely perfect. It's really amazing. I grew up in Rhode Island so I know what harsh winters are like, and to see where we were a year ago this time, to where we are now, is pretty spectacular, pretty amazing, that you could get this done.

My first thought was there is no way in hell they are going to be able to get this done, when we are playing on a hole like the 18th hole and new greens like these, new greens, and it's pretty amazing that we are able to actually play.

Like I said, the golf course is fantastic, and I think everybody that is here, I've never been spoiled like this in my life. I have a butler. Most of us have butlers. A couple of things the butler asked me if he wanted me to unpack my clothes, and I told

him no. I don't want anybody touching my clothes. Then he came up, I asked for an iron and an ironing board. He said, what's up with you golfers, you don't like to get your clothes ironed?

I said, sir, you have to understand this is not reality. I said we stay at Courtyard Marriotts and Residence Inns, and we do our own laundry, and we iron our own clothes.

It's maybe a little therapeutic, we don't have you at our disposal. I wish my wife was here.

But today was a great day for me. I made only one bogey. I started out with 3 pars, and I birdied the fourth hole hitting a sand wedge about three feet.

The eighth hole, the par-5, I put it in the left bunker, and I hit a sand wedge to about eight feet there.

The 11th hole, I hit two nice shots in front of the green and hit a sand wedge to ten feet and made a nice putt there.

My only pickup was 12. I didn't catch the slope on my shot into the green. It was up on top. The pin was in the middle swale, and I was absolutely dead as a door nail if I went actually to try to make the putt. It would have gone down the next swale. So I just kind of had to play it out to the right and then try to make a 40-footer for my second putt which I didn't. So I'm not calling that a 3-putt, but it was a 3-putt. When you 3-putt from three feet, that's a 3-putt. When you 3-putt when you have to play defensively it's not. So I bogeyed that hole and then I made a nice birdie at 17. I hit a 6-iron about five feet there and all of the rest were pars.

Q. What club did you use on No. 12?

BILLY ANDRADE: The 12th hole I tried to hit a little cut 7-iron.

Q. What tees did they have up that you mentioned?

BILLY ANDRADE: Today they had it on the back tee on two. But on the front of the back tee which was nice. Especially, you know, between a lot of delays and being the first group, it's nice to know that if you catch it, you don't have to worry about hitting the rocks.

Let's see, seven, the par-3 was that back tee but it was up a little bit. It was nicer there. Nine we played the up tee there. We didn't play that back tee on nine.

It makes a world of difference on that hole from hitting a 5-iron versus hitting an 8-iron into that hole is a lot easier.

We played the up tee on 12 on par-3. We didn't play the back tee there. And other than that, I think that was it.

Q. You talk about the course being a fair set up, to the non-golfers this will strike people as it's irrelevant because if everybody is over par, and you are par, you still win. If everyone is 30-under, and you are 29-under, you still don't win. So what parameters do you use when deciding the course is fair for you or just for the field in general?

BILLY ANDRADE: Well, if you go into it knowing that the history, what's going on here, and that the greens have not been plugged once, so they are very, very firm. If you get them up to speed, where it's standard speed for us, they are too firm. They are too hard. So in that sense you don't want to hit a good golf shot, a perfect golf shot and not hold the green. That's when it becomes a little crazy. That's the problems

that I think they had at Shinnecock at the U.S. Open and that's where you your borderline is.

So if even par wins this tournament you take your hat off and you shake the guy's hand. If it's over par, or way under par like last year, you shake the guy's hand, but you want quality golf shots to be rewarded versus a quality shot being under rewarded.

Q. You didn't need a quality last year to be rewarded?

BILLY ANDRADE: Well, you know, we had so much rain from the hurricane last year, and the greens were very, very soft. You are throwing darts at it. The softer the greens are, with the quality of these great pros that are here, it's a putting contest and it's a shootout. There is nothing wrong with that. We don't do that every week. But I think the bottom line is we had that brochure that says 144 pros gave us their input, and we made the golf course challenging, and they did.

The 16th hole has bunkers down the right side. You kind of have to squeeze a drive in there to be able to go for that green in two. Some greens are smaller. Some greens are maybe not as much undulation. It's much more challenging a golf course, a much better test. I think if you polled everybody, that's exactly what the players want to see.

Q. Did you get bit by any of the hard greens today?

BILLY ANDRADE: No. But I did get bit by a bee on the sixth hole on my neck and I had to go to the medic.

Q. You didn't get stung by hitting a good shot and having it bounce over the green?

BILLY ANDRADE: No, no. I think every shot pretty much -- the one on 12, it could have kicked a little right, and it kicked left. You know that. You know going in it's going to be interesting to see some of the pins that we are going to use the rest of the week. There is some holes you are not going to hit it close. You have to play safe. That's just the challenge of it.

Q. Do the golfers in the field look at the scoreboard and look at Vijay where you guys might have looked at Tiger a while back? Has he reached that status that you have to see what he is doing?

BILLY ANDRADE: It sure looks that way, doesn't it? When you see his name right up there every week contending, he sure looks like he is on a roll like Tiger was a few years back. I think if you polled all of the players and say would anyone get to the level that Tiger Woods was back at a couple of years ago probably, everybody would have said back then, how can you get better than this? I don't know the statistics, you guys know better than I, if you did a whole year long, you know, everything, including wins, you know, I still think he is not there because Tiger has won a few more Majors in this run. But it's pretty impressive what he has done. It's very impressive to see any players dominate at this stage.

You know, I remember when I first came out in the late '80's or early 90's, that was the big stink that nobody was dominating anymore. We were too soft. I heard some of that.

But the logical explanation then was, well, the players, there is too much depth. And then Tiger blew that out of the water. And now Vijay seems to be on a run like that.

So to answer your question in a nutshell, you know you have to play pretty damn well for four days because he doesn't have a care in the world. He has won seven times, and he is playing really well right now. I would assume that the hole looks like a basketball hole right now for him. And you get on rolls like that. Some bigger than others for people. But we all get on these little mini rolls and that's where you have to try to seize the moment.

Q. You contended a little bit in this tournament when it was in Philly?

BILLY ANDRADE: I did, yes. I led for 71 holes but they only give you a win after 72.

Q. On an eagle?

BILLY ANDRADE: On an eagle, yes.

Q. Is there anything to that, you are from Rhode Island?

BILLY ANDRADE: Yes, I agree with that. I think guys from California seem to do well out there. Guys from Florida seem to do well in Florida. I think guys from the Northeast play well where they kind of grew up playing. I have won in D.C. I won in New York. I won in Canada. Those are the northern kind of styles. I could have won in Philly. So I think if it fits your eye, and you like the way the golf courses are set up that way, I don't disagree with that. I think that some times that happens.

THE MODERATOR: Everybody all set? Thank you, Billy.