

Justin Timberlake Shriners
Hospitals for Children Open
TPC Summerlin
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INTERVIEW OF BOB HEINTZ

THE MODERATOR: I would like to welcome Bob Heintz into the interview room not room. Bob shot a bogey free round today and is currently one stroke off the lead after the morning wave.

Bob, if you start of with some general comments about your round and we will take some questions.

BOB HEINTZ: Comments. First of all, I was a 20-foot putt on the last hole away from my best round ever. I really wanted to make that putt. That didn't go. But that is just a side note. I drove the ball down the fairway. I hit the ball more solidly with my driver, but it was really straight. With the absence of any measurable wind, and I believe they putt moisture on the greens last night from all of the wind yesterday, it became a very generous setup overnight and several of us took advantage of it.

THE MODERATOR: Questions?

Q. When did you learn yesterday that you were actually going to get to play today

BOB HEINTZ: About 2 o'clock in the afternoon local time. James Nitties had some treatment done to his neck and I believe he may have tried to hit balls and he decided it was not a good idea for him to try and play.

Q. I think you were the third alternate if I'm not mistaken.

BOB HEINTZ: Starting the week I was, yes.

Q. Did you see that as a good omen? Obviously you never had any idea how you are going to play when you tee off, did you see that as a good omen?

BOB HEINTZ: What you try to do, believe me I've been in that situation a lot because of where I stand in my career, you try to treat it as an opportunity. Obviously you don't want to put

pressure on yourself. It's like a gift. You would like to, you know, almost earn it by playing freely and relaxed and see if you can make a good score. Hopefully James is at home and realizes that whoever took his spot actually is trying to do something good with it.

Q. When did you know early in your round that you had it going?

BOB HEINTZ: I would say that I made a really nice 16 or 17-footer on No. 7 to get to 3-under I believe. And then I made about a 10-footer for par on 8. I thought that was a huge momentum thing to finish that, to have an opportunity to go 4-under coming down to the 9th hole, that was a big momentum swing for me. And then the back 9, I hit a really good iron shot. I was kicking it in. It was kind of one of those where you shake your head and say thanks a lot. It doesn't always happen that way. It was pleasant.

Q. Could you even describe how good you are feeling at the moment? When you look back with the way you struggled, throughout your entire pro career, it's been a grind for you, hasn't it?

BOB HEINTZ: It's a grind. But it's always a treat for me to come in here and talk to you because I really haven't earned my way through these doors very often. I don't view my career as a failure at this point. The things that I'm trying to accomplish now aren't really like so that I don't feel like I failed. I feel like I've earned these chances, and I am the only one who really come this far from the Ivy league, from Yale University except for Peter Tourving (phn). So I'm kind of playing with the casino's money at the moment, as far as time spent. Do I feel like I've succeeded for me? No. I still have a lot to do. For example, I wouldn't feel really good about my career until I have at least kept my card for the Top 125 a few times. I would love to make a million dollars in a year. I know those don't sound like lofty goals, but that's where you start I guess.

Q. The most you made is 636,000?

BOB HEINTZ: I think that was my biggest year was 650 or so.

Q. Those are reasonable goals I would think?

BOB HEINTZ: Yes, I think if you going to start small, obviously, winning a golf tournament, I think that's kind of an obvious goal. I don't even state that. Obviously I'm here to try to beat the rest of the guys.

Q. Growing up on Long Island you obviously had great courses to play, Bethpage, and some of the others, how much did that chance to play these kind of courses, and then of course get that education at Yale, give you that foundation for coming on TOUR?

BOB HEINTZ: I think the exposure to places like Bethpage Black, I didn't really live there beyond when I was five or six years old, but we did go back every summer. I was in Florida by the time I

was 6. The exposure to the Black course, and then actually the Yale golf course when I was there, really the Yale golf course had more influence than the Black. Although we did play the Black course for the Ivy league championship, which I won three in a row, and no one else has ever done that by the way.

Q. Would Columbia go there?

BOB HEINTZ: At the time that's where we played every year.

Q. They sent the ferry over?

BOB HEINTZ: Yes, we all converged there. It was a different team that supposedly hosted it every year. That was a benefit for me because it was so long, it was always bad weather. I got off track. The question was, did those influence me?

Q. If you left Long Island when you were six years old, it's not pertinent.

BOB HEINTZ: When I was in school Dave Patterson was the Coach at Yale. We would do weekenders. We would go to Marion Pine Valley for a weekend. We would go to Shinnecock Maidstone, Winged Foot Westchester. So I got to see all of those places. So after going back there was not a real shock to my system. I was at Pebble before I had to play there is a professional. It was a benefit being at Yale for those things.

Q. I saw where chess is a hobby of yours, a passion of yours, is that accurate?

BOB HEINTZ: What's happened there, collecting chess sets has become more of the idea. Like nobody in my family will play chess with me. I don't really play that much. What it is, I can open a game of chess, but I've played so infrequently that I can't finish a game. I'm good at getting everything in position.

Q. The patience one needs to play chess at a decent level translates to golf?

BOB HEINTZ: I can't tell you. I'm purely in it for aesthetics.

Q. That's fine. Do you find yourself as a marked man on this TOUR being an Ivy leaguer. There is two of you maybe.

BOB HEINTZ: There are not two. There have been several guys who have come out. The most successful was 1978 Peter Tourving (phn) who has won two or three times in Europe. And Heather Daly-Donofrio has won twice on the lady's Tour. The guys find it unique. They enjoy asking me about Yale. Perhaps when I first came out in the mid 90's, there were guys like, what the hell is he doing there? Now I carry the bag because I didn't have a corporate deal. I went to Yale and asked them if they would mind. Why would they mind? It's free publicity. I think the guys out here kind of appreciate it. I think they think it's pretty cool. Leif Olson went to Duke. It's not like there is a lot of difference there.

Q. Tiger went to Stanford too?

BOB HEINTZ: Tiger didn't finish too. Tiger was plenty smart enough to finish at Stanford. I would never rag on Tiger.

Q. When you are teeing it up every week knowing that, I guess I'm wondering how you deal with the pressure of trying to avoid Q-School and reach those goals that you are able to challenge it in a positive way?

BOB HEINTZ: Like in this situation, the concern is that I could lose status and have to play the Nationwide Tour. I have a family with 4 children now. I have a house, you know what I mean? What you try to do is just fight all the way down to the last event. I have 4 chances to play well in PGA TOUR events. And then I have a chance at Q-School, so that's 5. I got 5 chances to go out and play really good golf, or I can do it in all 5. I don't have to win here. I don't have to finish second. I could have a really good week. If I have a really good week then I go to Phoenix and try again. So there is pressure definitely. For me to try to support my family on the Nationwide Tour, that's tough. There is no way around it.

Q. What about sponsorships for you?

BOB HEINTZ: I'm not supposed to talk about sponsorships. However, almost across the board guys have taken cuts this year in their endorsement money. I will probably make 40 percent less, 50 percent, of what I made last year in endorsement money. My only sponsor is Titleist, and they've always stuck by me, and I would never criticize because they paid me good money last year. But with the downturn, and the fact that I'm not a premier player, I was one of the guys that was bought down. They still do like the weekly bonuses for drivers and putters and stuff. But my initial salary was cut to like a third of what it was a year before. That's just so every one else knows business is tough for us, too. At least off the course. The purses, thank God, are still where they were. It's incredible.

Q. It's hard for a guy to make a go of it in your position?

BOB HEINTZ: Yes, the hard part, there is a lot of guys playing golf. For me to get in event, years ago, with the two golf courses, the bigger field, the whole world got in here. Now, if I didn't make a big check in Michigan I wouldn't be here. I wouldn't be in Phoenix and I won't be in Disney. I might play 16 tournaments this year if I hadn't made that money. So the doors are closing, and you really got to step it up if you want to get your status.

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