

CHRYSLER CHAMPIONSHIP
The Westin Innisbrook Golf Resort
Copperhead Course
Tampa Bay, Fla

October 27, 2005

First-round quotes

AN INTERVIEW WITH JEFF BREHAUT

TODD BUDNICK: We welcome Jeff Brehaut after a 6-under 65 in the first round of The Chrysler Championship. Jeff, some might trace your good play this year back to the 72nd hole here last year when you made that knee-knocking 5 foot curling putt to jump inside the 150 mark and thereby skipping second stage and going to finals and having a great success this year.

JEFF BREHAUT: Yes, that was a big round for me. I knew it starting that day and starting this week last year that if I played really well I could get in 125, but realistically if I played okay I was going to be in the 150.

It came all down to the last putt. I had probably about a 4, four-and-a-half-footer, but it was probably the fastest putt on the course downhill left to right. I made it. It felt pretty good. I got my card back and the summer has been great, so I don't have to worry about Q-School this year.

TODD BUDNICK: Talk about this year, you had 5 Top-10's in your first five years on TOUR, you've had four this year, you are having the best year of your career.

JEFF BREHAUT: Yes, I putted better. I got on a little roll. I felt a little more confident. A little more comfortable being in the Top-10, that position, trying to play to win. I just made a few more putts really. That was about it.

TODD BUDNICK: Let's jump today, just the one bogey on 13, surrounded by five birdies and an eagle. Talk about it.

JEFF BREHAUT: Today I drove it in the fairway, which you really got to do out here, this rough is really nasty. I made a bunch of putts today. Today was the best putting day I've had in a couple of months.

TODD BUDNICK: Questions?

Q. Do players think of something like that, looking back going, that putt affects my entire career?

JEFF BREHAUT: Well, yes, it did. You know if you are lucky enough to make it, you try to kind of embrace that memory. The next time you have a putt like that to make the cut, or to finish Top-10, or whatever, you kind of say, it's like that one I had last year at Innisbrook.

So you definitely, you're trying to have as many as the good memories as can you store in your brain as possible and spit out the bad ones. But sometimes the bad ones are hard to get rid of too.

Q. Did that at all spur you on at the Q-School, or would it have not mattered?

JEFF BREHAUT: It would have mattered because what end up happening was I didn't have to go to the second stage. By not having to do that, I was able to play in the Callaway Invitational, which was at Pebble Beach. I won that. That gave me a lot of confidence going that into the Q-School. My last tournament was a win. I shot 61 at the Q-School last year and that gave me enough cushion where I got through. Yes, I think that was important for sure.

Q. You will always think of this fondly, this golf course?

JEFF BREHAUT: Yes, I really like this course. I mean I think the TOUR should play so many more courses like this. I mean you got to put your ball in the fairway. I'm tired of seeing the guy that wins the tournament driving it in the fairway 40 percent of the time. That, to me, ticks me off. I think the guy should have to put it in the fairway more often than 40 percent to win the tournament. Grant it, the guys that are winning have unbelievable short games. If do you that 40 percent here, you're not going to win, plain and simple.

Q. Are you able to enjoy this weekend a little bit more, obviously last year was so stressful?

JEFF BREHAUT: Yes.

Q. Is there any sense of relaxing? Does that help today?

JEFF BREHAUT: Yes, there is definitely -- I'm just playing right now. But I'm still -- yesterday, I haven't been really hitting the ball very well the last month. And yesterday I thought I had it figured out on the range in the morning. Then I had lunch, and I came back out to hit some more balls, and I completely lost it. I was hitting it terrible on the range. Finally, I said okay that's enough. I putted a little bit. I went back and I did my laundry. As I'm waiting for my drying load to get done I'm stewing over it, and I'm thinking, I got to get back out there before the sun goes down and get something. So at 5:30 I put my clothes back on, ran out to the range and hit two buckets of balls and I started to get the feel for it again. Then I came back out this morning early before I played much, hit a couple of bucket of balls and I went and did my regular hour warm-up routine after that.

Between last night at 6:45 and this morning I felt like, okay, I got something I can play with. A lot of times you are bouncing around from one thought to the next. You are in the search mode. I was telling my caddy earlier, I played for six months this year not having to do that. I just played for six months. I had the same key. That was it. It was easy. Then I kind of lost it. So the last month and a half I've been in this search mode. It's tough to play good golf when you are searching.

Q. After Boston, how far did you go on the money list?

TODD BUDNICK: 61.

JEFF BREHAUT: I have slipped, I think I had it as low as maybe 51, 52.

TODD BUDNICK: 52 after Deutsche Bank.

Q. Did your goals change at all after Deutsche Bank?

JEFF BREHAUT: Yes, at that point I was coming off a real nice streak there. I thought, shoot, if I can keep going on this pace, I could get TOUR Championship or Masters, whatever. I kind of backed off. For whatever reason my swing got a little bit out of sync. I missed a couple of cuts and I didn't make much money. But this is an important week to move back up.

Q. At this time last year did you have the same belief in your abilities that you have now?

JEFF BREHAUT: Probably not. You know you always kind of say what comes first, good shots or confidence? If you hit a lot of good shots you get more confident.

When you finish in the Top-10 a few times you feel you can do that more often and you start believing you've got a chance to win. You can luck into those things some times, but if you look at guys that win it's usually something that leads up to that, they had a couple of Top-10's or a couple of good tournaments, or good round, okay, now I can do it.

Q. Didn't you come in here last year playing like a ton of weeks in a row?

JEFF BREHAUT: I played 34 tournaments last year on the PGA Tour and three other tournaments. I was out of my house a lot. I had to do some sweet talking to my wife when the season was over.

Q. Any fatigue at that point?

JEFF BREHAUT: Yes, mental for sure. But your body gets kind of worn out. I've done it so many times where I played the last 10, 11, 12 tournaments that I pretty much had to. Some guys, you talk to them, and they'd say what are you doing? Why are you playing so many in a row? Why don't you just trust your game and take a week off every three or four. I said, I just can't. I just got to keep trying. It's difficult for me when I get home. I look at the guys that are passing me, and if I take a week off, I'm thinking shoot I should have been out there. Then if you are out there, and you miss the cut, you are thinking I should have been home getting a week off. So it's a real kind of juggling act, catch-22. You are just trying to figure out what's best for you.

Q. Was there ever a point that you almost quit?

JEFF BREHAUT: Yes. Yes, pretty much the year that I finally ended up getting my card. I've been to the school so many times and played the Nike and -- Nationwide Tour six full years. I was in THE TOUR Championship every year. But I couldn't get out here.

So kind of at that point I was thinking if I don't get my card this year, it wasn't 100% but I was definitely going to start considering some other things. I have had to go back to the school a few times but I've stayed out here since then.

Q. What else were you considering?

JEFF BREHAUT: God, I don't know. I don't know what I would have done. I don't know. I'd like to think that all of the people that I met in the pro-ams and the business people that I've met, that if I had to go down that route I could have somebody offer me something. But hopefully I won't have to find out.

TODD BUDNICK: We'll go through the card. Birdie on No. 11, par-5.

JEFF BREHAUT: I hit a good drive and I hit a 3-wood just over the green and I hit a really good chip shot out in knee-high rough and trickled it down there a couple of inches and tapped it in. I 3-putted it, hit it 45 feet away. I misread it, and missed a five-footer.

I went for 14, a par-5, which I think I've only done a couple of times. I got a drive out there pretty far where I could go for the green in two, and I hit it a little bit left of the green. I hit a pretty good pitch shot up there maybe 9 or ten feet and got that one in.

I made a couple of good par saves today. One on 16 I drove it in the right rough. Just a miserable lie. And we were debating whether or not to even try to hit across the pond. The pond is only 80 yards to the flag across. I was thinking if I could get an 8-iron to come out decent I might be able to chase it up there around the green and it only cleared the lake by six feet.

So then I wedged it on, hit a good wedge shot. It rolled out about 18, 20 feet passed on the fringe, and I made that for par.

I did it again on No. 6. I made a really good par save.

On 1, I hit a good drive. I hit a 3-wood. I thought the ball was going to go in the front right bunker but it flew the bunker and ended up on the green about 30 feet. I had to play -- I guess I played 15 feet of break and it was fast. It just trickled right in the front door. It was a great putt.

3, I hit a nice 7-iron in there about 15, 18 feet underneath the hole and made the putt.

4, I hit a great 5-iron about the same distance, maybe 15, 18 feet, made that one. So I'm making some putts.

And then 6 I drove it in the trees, and had to chip it sideways, and I had 208 yards to the hole for my third shot into the wind. I hit a great 4-iron in there about seven or eight feet and made that for par.

That's the difference. If you get putting good, and you have a couple of these par saves, that keeps your momentum going. That makes all of the difference.

I made another 25-footer on seven. I made a lot of putts today.

TODD BUDNICK: Anything else, guys? Thank you Jeff.

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