

PODS Championship
Innisbrook Golf Resort
Copperhead Course
Tampa Bay, Fl

March 9, 2007

Second-round leader quotes

AN INTERVIEW WITH CHRIS DIMARCO

JOE CHEMYCZ: We welcome Chris DiMarco. Chris, another 2-under-par 69 today. 4-under par total. Just talk about the first two days and we'll open it up.

CHRIS DIMARCO: Yes, the course is in obviously very good shape. It's starting to get firmer which is good. The ball is starting to roll. The greens are getting a little tougher to hit. I've just been real precise with my irons this week. They're going where I am aiming them. I've actually just started putting better, feeling better at least, so to speak, on the backside so I'm really looking forward to the to the weekend.

Q. There was actually concern at Inverness that the course might play too easy in the Spring compared to the Fall. I know you haven't been here for a couple of years, but it really doesn't look that way?

CHRIS DIMARCO: No, if you look at the scores it's not looking that way.

Q. Do you have any thoughts on that? Maybe why, perfect weather, no wind?

CHRIS DIMARCO: Yes, but the greens are as fast as we've putted on all year, and they are very undulated. If you saw some of the pins out there, they are really tough to get close. For example, for me, on 17, I hit a pretty good shot in there and it just trickled over the back of the green and went in the heavy rough, and I had almost nothing back there. If I hit it two feet too hard, it goes 10 feet passed. And I hit it just a little short and it stopped 10 feet short. So it's just tough. And it's just a good hard golf course. You know, you just have to hit it in play, and really work yourself around this course. I think the people that stay patient, and really pay attention to where you want to hit, where you want to come in from, if you do miss an iron shot, where you want to leave yourself. I think guys that obviously shortsided themselves this week are probably not playing the weekend?

Q. Is it easy to spring a leak out there? One shot compounds another one?

CHRIS DIMARCO: If you stay patient it's not. If you get frustrated, absolutely. It's kind of got a Major type feel to it in the toughness of the course because it's just going to get only tougher on the weekend. As long as the rain stays away, and it keeps getting

firm, a lot of these fairways are angled. So it's hard to hit it in the fairways. I know the sixth hole is almost impossible now, you almost got to cut it back against. It's kind of going to be like last week which is great. You seen 4, t 6-under par win it. That's the way golf is should be, I like it. You shoot a 69 or something and you pick up spots, that's the way it should be.

Q. (Inaudible)?

CHRIS DIMARCO: The difference between this week and last week is last week was 7500 par 70. This week this course is very playable, it's not ridiculously long. You are still hitting a lot of 8-irons, a lot of 7-iron, it's just a good hard golf course. There is a lot of blind shots to pins. On the 9th hole, you don't know where the pin is, and you are hitting straight up hill. And the 18th hole the same thing. So there is just a lot of indecision going on out there and you just really have to be precise.

Q. Is it harder to make a birdie, or harder to avoid bogey?

CHRIS DIMARCO: It's harder to make birdie. I think you are seeing that by the scores. I tried to play the first two days kind of the same mentality when I play Augusta where I just kind of hit it to spots on the greens, where I know if it gets the right kick, it can end up there pretty close; take my chances when I can. There is some holes out here that you can definitely pounce on.

But the fifth hole today, that hole was ridiculous, Trevor hit one of the best shots I've seen, and it bounced over the green. So you just have to really stay patient and really think about the shots you're hitting and sometimes 20 feet left is better than trying to hit right at it.

Q. Chris, compared to where you were early last season with your game before you got hurt, how do you feel about where it is now and when did you first start feeling that maybe it was kind of back to that?

CHRIS DIMARCO: You know, I think it's been since -- I think the last cut I missed was International. So since that time, played a lot of tournaments and played a lot of weekends. So that's when I know I'm back to being healthy because that's what I've done the last eight or nine years, is really played real consistent. That was my goal this year. My main goal was to be real consistent and play as many weekends as I can. After I got hurt, I went 10 or 11 weeks out of 14 or 15 where I missed cuts. I never done that before. Confidence was an all-time low.

So I just really want to make myself get comfortable again and get confidence and play consistent golf. If I give myself enough weekends, I'm going to contend in quite a few.

Q. I know you won Abu Dhabi last year. But on TOUR, it's still been a while, a lot of close calls, we talked to some other golfers this year similar situations, does it get frustrating after a while?

CHRIS DIMARCO: You know it would get frustrating. I know a couple of years ago at New Orleans is one I should have won and threw away. Those are frustrating. If I go and Tiger and I beat the field at the '05 Masters by seven shots, I can't play much better than what. NEC a couple of years ago I played post good numbers, and he made a birdie. Seems like when I played good, he just plays a little better. The three or four chances I had to win the last two years, I have had three or four or 5 seconds, and he has been the one to beat me. I don't know what to say about that. I've played well enough to win and just didn't win. It just hasn't bounced my way.

Q. Are you glad that he is not here this week?

CHRIS DIMARCO: Yes. Yes, I am.

Q. In retrospect did you push it too much after the injury last year and tried to come back too soon?

CHRIS DIMARCO: I learned one thing I will never play with an injury again. It was definitely in my back swing. I don't have the biggest shoulder turn as it is. It didn't let me turn as much as I like. I will just take off. The main thing was my confidence, how much my confidence got down. That was the main thing. Hitting shots, shooting numbers, I went through a period that I was averaging 75 or 76 there for three or four weeks. So I will definitely, if I do hurt myself again, or I am injured, I will not play because it's just not worth it without a doubt.

Q. Will you ever ski again?

CHRIS DIMARCO: I've already been back. I went back in September. A little more careful, just took the backpack off. And waited until afterwards to drink a few beers.

Q. Chris, I know you grew up playing all kind of sports, and you are also competitive. The guy last week wins the tournament after calling a 2-shot penalty on himself. What does that say about golf. How do you rationalize that?

CHRIS DIMARCO: I think that's where you just get the separation between us and other sports, because that's just the way it is. The No. 1 key, and the one word that you can say out here is integrity. I think integrity is what it's all about on the PGA TOUR. I think you could call a foul on every play in basketball, I think you can call holding on every play in the NFL. It's just the way it is. This is what is different about this sport and makes it so appealing to the public too, we're honest. And we are certainly not taking steroids, we're not doing all of this other junk that's going on.

If something happens, he calls it on himself. It just goes to show you that I think that helped him in the long run calling it on himself. It shows that good guys come out on top.

Q. What rule would you change if you could?

CHRIS DIMARCO: I would change that rule, because I don't see the difference of me being able to walk over to the golf bag of my playing partner look in there and say okay, he's got the 6-iron. And yet his caddy can't just put the one up or something. Because it's the same thing when TV is on. They want us to flash numbers. They want the caddies to flash the TV, so the TV knows what to hit, so what's the difference? I don't get it.

And the other one I would change is mud, I think mud on the golf ball is terrible in the fairway. If you hit it in the fairway you shouldn't have mud on your ball.

Q. Any interest at all what's going on in the ACC basketball tournament?

CHRIS DIMARCO: Did Florida State lose?

Q. Yes.

(Scorecard.)

Q. When people ask you about the color of this golf course, because of the over seeding, is the first thing comes to mind green because of the over seeding?

CHRIS DIMARCO: Too green.

Q. Or brown?

CHRIS DIMARCO: I wish a long time ago instead of calling them greens, they would

have called them browns because they play a lot better when they are brown. I wish we were playing on browns instead of greens every week. Because they get a lot faster, firmer like they should play. That was the thing last week, even par might have won last week if the greens were firm. That was the only saving grace that the greens were soft last week.

Q. What's the better course?

CHRIS DIMARCO: I think there easily as difficult. I like this course better because it's a little shorter. I don't like the tenth hole and sixth hole last week. I don't think those should be par-5s. This course, the par-5s are par-5s. I laid up on all of them. So there is nothing wrong with that, too. Guys that can bomb it, it's a good test to make birdie on those holes, even if you can go for the greens. That, to me, is a good thing. There is no really huge advantage for a bomber here. That's what I look at is a good course.

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