

**Zurich Classic of New Orleans
English Turn Golf Course
New Orleans, LA
April 27, 2006**

First-round tournament quotes:

AN INTERVIEW WITH CHRIS DIMARCO

THE MODERATOR: Thank you, Chris, for joining us for a few minutes here in the media center at the Zurich Classic of New Orleans. A great start to the week, 5-under-par today. Just talk a little bit about the weather. I think it was a little windy out there, how did you play?

CHRIS DIMARCO: It was windy and chilly, and I got off to a slow start and was able to birdie 18, to go to the front side on a good note, and then kind of did what Jeff Sluman did. I had a good stretch between holes. I birdied 2, 5, 6, 7 and 8 to get to 5-under. So it was good.

THE MODERATOR: Questions, please.

Q. Chris, keeping with the them, the last couple of guys, how is your injury?

CHRIS DIMARCO: Goal-wise it's 100%. Sleeping-wise it still bothers me a little bit. Other than that, it's fine.

Q. Has it affected your game?

CHRIS DIMARCO: Yes, absolutely. I think more than anything, just kept me out of getting in a rhythm, you know. I'm one of those guys that plays real well when I'm playing each week, and I am making cuts. I'm kind of just going and going and going. I was getting in that rhythm. I played well on the West Coast and played okay at Doral. I took a couple of weeks off, then got hurt. I had to take another week off, tried to play injured two weeks. So I'm just trying to get my rhythm back. Today was a good day. It was fun out there to get going.

Q. Did you actually get hurt skiing or did you just aggravate it?

CHRIS DIMARCO: No, I hurt it skiing. I fell on my backpack, and there was either my phone, or a water bottle, or something in there, and gave me a punch and bruised my ribs.

Q. Where were you skiing?

CHRIS DIMARCO: Snowmass.

Q. A mid-level?

CHRIS DIMARCO: It was a blue slope. It was a good blue slope. The last run of the day, last run of the week, unfortunate. We got to live our lives out here. I'm sure I will be back in

December skiing again. Maybe a little more tentative, no backpack for sure. Because if I didn't have a backpack on, I would have been fine.

Q. Sluman said he's better in skiing than you.

CHRIS DIMARCO: Well, he stinks. He shouldn't have been skiing anyway. You don't start skiing at 48-years old. You don't start skiing. I've been doing it since I'm 5. Yes, that's one sport I would not pick up at age 48.

Q. Did it take you a little longer to get warmed up in the morning?

CHRIS DIMARCO: No, no.

Q. Because of chilliness?

CHRIS DIMARCO: The only thing it is, the intercostal muscles are just a little bit, to the touch, are just a little bruised. Other than that, it's fine. It doesn't affect turning. It doesn't affect anything. Sleeping is the only bad thing.

Q. Are you able to work out?

CHRIS DIMARCO: It wasn't like that. Three weeks ago, it hurt doing everything. But it's just getting better and better. If I probably didn't touch a club from TPC, Atlanta, Augusta, it probably would have gone away quicker. I would say I'm 90 percent, which is a lot better than I was at Augusta, which I probably was only about 50 percent unfortunately.

Q. There is no good time to have anything like that. It seemed like it came at a bad time with THE PLAYERS?

CHRIS DIMARCO: That's my eighth week in a row going in the same week. It's always a good fit. I always play a couple of weeks, take two weeks going into TPC, get my head fresh. We always come back on Saturday, which gives me a couple of extra days to get ready for TPC and stretch it to Atlanta and Augusta. It's a nice stretch. Unfortunately hurting yourself was not in the mix. It certainly was not supposed to happen. It happens. It's the first injury I ever had in my career. I know one thing, it's no fun trying to play with one.

Q. You said it was hard to get in a rhythm, on 5, did you have a good shot there?

CHRIS DIMARCO: I had a great putt on four for birdie and somehow missed. That would have got me to 2-under. Then I missed the fairway right, hit a great 6-iron in there about 16, 17 feet short and made a really good putt. I hit a great shot into 7, I hit a 5-iron in there and got to 2 feet. I hit an 8-iron to about five feet on the next hole.

I was almost kind of wishing that we weren't running out of holes. That was one of those times you wished you were going to the back 9. Hopefully, it will carry over to tomorrow. With the way the wind is blowing right now, I feel like that's the easiest wind on the golf course. You got 18 down. 14 kind of gets down. 13, the second shot is down. Everything just kind of plays easier that way. When it blows the other way, I feel like it's a lot harder golf course.

Q. Did you see today coming?

CHRIS DIMARCO: I certainly heard the weather forecast last night. It said it's going to blow in the morning, calm down, then calm in the morning and blow in the afternoon. So I got the good part of the wave again. That's really good.

THE MODERATOR: Everybody all set?

Q. Does New Orleans appear normal to you?

CHRIS DIMARCO: I'm going to go check out the really rough spots today. I'm going to go look at them. We went through some hurricanes in Orlando. Last year one, but the year before two, three. We didn't go through any hurricanes, not like here, I can promise you that. Actually, the hurricane isn't what did all of the devastation. It was the levy breaking. It's amazing what they've gone through. A couple of people had to go five, six, seven days without electricity. These people went for eight months without electricity.

So, it certainly never crossed my mind not to play here. I have had some great times. This City had done a lot for me with my game and coming here, so the least we can do is come back and play a tournament here.

Q. And the course is perfectly normal?

CHRIS DIMARCO: The greens were getting faster at the end. I know the rain really slowed them up yesterday. They were drying out and getting back to speed which is good. Courses, for what this place went through, the course is fine.

Q. Are you amazed that you are here playing?

CHRIS DIMARCO: Yes, with the pictures that we saw. Even the pictures we saw in the transportation office, they showed us some pictures that they took. You are talking 12 feet of water in some of these houses all over the place. It's amazing. It's amazing that there is life back here. It's good to see. It's a great city. I'm glad that it's going to rebound and get back to normal.

Q. Chris, did you feel like maybe you hurried back after the injury? I know it's a tournament that you want to be at.

CHRIS DIMARCO: Absolutely. I had to. I wasn't going to miss The Masters. Unfortunately, I had to go in there not 100%. Any time you get a chance to play Augusta whether it's 10%, 20%, 100%, you got to go play it. I was a little disappointed.

Q. Is your injury described as bruised ribs?

CHRIS DIMARCO: No broken, no fracture, or anything, which is good. I was very lucky that I didn't have any of that.

Q. What rib was it?

CHRIS DIMARCO: The bottom one and kind of more towards the back.

Q. On the left side?

CHRIS DIMARCO: Yes, left side.

Q. What does it do for your swing?

CHRIS DIMARCO: It just wasn't letting me release the club early. If I kind of went really to hard at it, I was aggravating it. So other than that, now it's fine, now it doesn't affect me at all.

THE MODERATOR: Everybody all set?

CHRIS DIMARCO: Thank you.
