

Justin Timberlake Shriners
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INTERVIEW OF CHARLEY HOFFMAN

Third-round quotes

THE MODERATOR: I would like to welcome UNLV alum, Charley Hoffman, to the media center. Charley had a good round today with a 64 and is one shot off the lead.

Will you talk about your round and then we'll take some questions.

CHARLEY HOFFMAN: I got off to a good start. I hit it close on 1, didn't make it. Back-to-back birdies on the and 3, which you are stealing birdies there. So then parred 4 and made a great birdie on 5.

Parred 6.

Birdied 7, slowed down a little bit and had a chance of birdie on 9. Didn't get up and down from the green side bunker.

Then I birdied 10. Then also let another one slide on 13.

I made a good eagle on 14.

3-putted 16 for par which you are hoping always to get one there. Probably the last two holes which wasn't too bad.

All in all, a pretty good round. I let a few slip out there, but 64 is always pretty good.

THE MODERATOR: Thank you.

Q. Obviously this is your best round today. Did you feel better out there? Did you feel any different, or was it more a matter of you felt pretty confident about your round the first two days and you knew chances would come today?

CHARLEY HOFFMAN: I am real familiar with this golf course. I made birdies out here. 64 out here day in and day out when a bunch of guys are playing, as you see, it's a great round, but I left a few out there. So 64 obviously is a great round. But definitely here at TPC Summerlin it's gettable.

Q. It sounds like you played the front 9 really well, you had a bunch of birdies. It seems like a lot of guys are taking advantage of the back 9. Was it important to start off your round well?

CHARLEY HOFFMAN: Yes, I played the front 9 better this week which is quite rare. And I played the back 9 actually very average. 37 on the back 9. Today I didn't birdie any of the par-5s also. I definitely let some shots out there, and I am sure I will be a few shots behind coming into the end of the day. But if I take advantage of the par-4's and par-3s, and capitalize on the par-5s like I usually do, hopefully I will be there at the end tomorrow.

Q. Charley, your eagle on 15, where on the fringe were you?

CHARLEY HOFFMAN: I putted. I was 18 feet, 6 paces. It was just pin-high. It was a fairly easy putt. George was right next to me, pretty much gave me the line. I made 2 which was nice.

Q. The whole thing played 50 yards short?

CHARLEY HOFFMAN: The pin was back, the tees were up. Probably 30 yards shorter.

Q. How big of a difference is that?

CHARLEY HOFFMAN: For me it's pretty big a difference. I go from driver to 3-wood. A 3-wood is a lot easier to keep on that green than the driver is.

Q. You hit 3-wood off the tee?

CHARLEY HOFFMAN: Yes.

Q. How comfortable are you to being if you are three or four shots back and somebody makes a run? Do you still feel you can close the gap tomorrow?

CHARLEY HOFFMAN: There is no question. It's hard for anybody to play for the lead with the lead, so it's hard to make birdies when you are in the lead. So when you are behind, and get off to a good start, you also have holes in the middle, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, you can play those 6-under par if you play them halfway decent.

I don't think this tournament is over until it's over. 17 and 18 you can make bogeys.

A few years back I was in contention. I bogeyed 16 in the water. I fell out of contention. You can make bogeys, but also you can make eagles and birdies. The TOUR sometimes loses this. I think it's a great golf course and a great finish. I think it's fun to watch and, the funny part, because you never know what's going to happen. Someone can go out and shoot 61 early and no one might ever catch them.

Q. We don't see that too often. It hard to run away from the field?

CHARLEY HOFFMAN: That's because everybody is making birdies.

Q. You have had an up-and-down year. You have had some good moments and you struggled a bit July and August, and you came on again a little bit. Can you just talk about the year in general for you? Why it hasn't been as consistent as you wanted?

CHARLEY HOFFMAN: I started off the year real consistent. I don't know what the cut streak came up to, it was a number probably high 20's. I didn't miss a cut for over a full year. I missed the British Open cut by a shot. And then I went to the PGA and struggled. Missed that by two shots. I felt short. The Majors, I wasn't hitting as many fairways, as I had in the beginning of the year. The Majors you start missing fairways, you get penalized. The last few weeks the putter hadn't been working as well as I liked. It was nice to be back home with Coach Knight helping me out with my putting, and another buddy of mine John Mallinger, he played well yesterday. He has been helping me out with a few things that I was doing that I wasn't aware I was doing. I ironed it out and the putts started going in the hole.

Q. I saw you Tuesday, you spent a lot of time working on your putting. Were you able to rediscover through yourself, or Coach Knight?

CHARLEY HOFFMAN: A little both. John earlier in the week said I was sort of coming up and out of the putt. I was hitting it thin which in turned end up short of the hole. Coach Knight said my posture was a little low. I was probably coming up to get in the right posture. Those combined together turned into crummy putting, and I felt better the first couple of rounds. I felt all right. Today I felt a lot better with it.

Q. You are getting that rhythm back?

CHARLEY HOFFMAN: Yes, I consider myself a fairly good putter. It doesn't matter where you are on the PGA TOUR, if you don't putt good, you will not play good especially on a week like this week where close to 20-under par will win the golf tournament.

Q. A lot of people are excited UNLV alum making a good run. You and I talked about this before in the past, all of you guys give credit to Coach Knight. To do it here back in Vegas, does it make it special for guys like yourself to see the former UNLV guys doing so well this week?

CHARLEY HOFFMAN: We always tend to play good here. I don't know if it's an advantage because we played here a lot in college. Unfortunately no UNLV guys have ever won the tournament either. Hopefully we can break that streak and give Night, a former rebel, a winner.

THE MODERATOR: Thanks a lot.