

**PODS Championship
Innisbrook Golf Resort
Copperhead Course
Tampa Bay, Fl**

March 7, 2007

Pre-tournament quotes

AN INTERVIEW WITH COREY PAVIN

JOE CHEMYCZ: We welcome Corey Pavin. Thanks for joining us a couple of minutes. You had a chance to look at the golf course. People before you have talked about the differences from the fall until this time of year. Maybe comment a little bit about the golf course.

COREY PAVIN: The course is in great shape. The fairways are nice, but the rough is up, I think this time of year. You get that rye growing and it's pretty thick. Especially in the morning when it's a little dewey. That's very tough. The greens are beautiful, fast, firm, it's going to be a tough week as far as I can tell. Of course, it's hard.

Q. Does it surprise you that they were able to turn things around so quickly because most tournaments have a year to prepare?

COREY PAVIN: You know, not really, this is a good time of the year to play here. You can over seed and grow a lot of nice grass. Of course the grass is in great shape then. I think this time of year is probably a better time of year to play out here. You can do more with the golf course. And certainly, like I said, the rough is very long and tough. It's harder to do that in October out here.

Q. Corey, you remember all of the nicknames that you picked up throughout the years, the greedy and the bulldog?

COREY PAVIN: Those are the good ones.

Q. Even in your prime, winning the U.S. Open, you were credited as an over achiever, getting most out of your game, not the longest hitting, have we reached a point in golf we might not ever see a guy like you ever again?

COREY PAVIN: I'm here right now.

Q. As they build 8,000 yard golf course.

COREY PAVIN: It's tougher, it's tougher definitely. The athletes are bigger and stronger and hitting it further. It's just like all of the other sports, athletes are getting

bigger and they are doing things better. They are faster and stronger. Golf is no different. You are seeing an evolution in that.

But, you know, when we play certain courses, we play courses that are 6700, 6,800 yards, 6900 yards that guys are shooting 6, 7, 8-under winning tournaments. You don't have to have the courses long, but that's the trend and that's the way it's going. And when the courses are that long, it's harder for me to play those courses. I have to be right on my game to be able to compete.

Q. As this progression has taken place though, you sort of had a little dip, and you've come back to being a weekly competitor. I'm impressed by that. How have you been able to stretch that longevity? Are you playing a different game now? Do you have to?

COREY PAVIN: Yes, I think a lot of it is just perseverance, I just keep at it. You know, I'm going with the equipment, I'm changing my swing, I'm working on that. I'm trying to get every inch I can out of hitting it. You know, it's harder to curve the ball now than it used to be. So I have to play differently than I used to. I just have to keep evolving.

As I said, the big chill. I just have to keep adapting as much as I can and do what I can do. You know, I still have my own parameters that I have to stay in. I can't do things that I can't do. So I just try to do what I can do as best as I can and see where I end up.

Q. Now, some of the young guys, the big hitters, how far are you behind them off the tee, how do you compensate, stick a 3-wood?

COREY PAVIN: There is nothing to do but just hit shots from further out, try to think my way around the golf courses. And when I get on hard golf courses I think it's good for me. Some of the courses are a little more wide open and easier in that regard. It's tough for me to compete on those courses. I can. But like I said, I have to be right in my game.

The big thing for me is just to stay within my own abilities, don't try to do things I'm not capable of and take what I can get. That's all I can do.

If I start doing things that I'm not capable of, I'm going to shoot bad scores. That's what everybody does no matter how they hit it when they start doing things they are not comfortable with or capable of, they play poorly.

Q. Do you ever feel like the last of the dying breed?

COREY PAVIN: You know, there is a few guys out here that -- some of the younger guys, that do shape shots and hit shots. Granted, they are probably bigger and stronger than me. There are some guys that do that. But it's quietly becoming fewer and fewer for sure.

Q. You made a little joke there about being greedy and the bulldog and everything, was that okay, was that a good fine to be recognized like that?

COREY PAVIN: Yes, that's fine, I don't have any problem with that.

Q. Did it wear you out?

COREY PAVIN: No, no, I can see how people could say that. I'm always working hard and trying hard and never giving up and things like that. You know, I'm not big and strong. There's got to be some way I'm competing. Those are all compliments to me, they're fine.

Q. Corey, would you welcome playing a course such as a Copperhead on a pretty steady week in week out basis?

COREY PAVIN: I think this is an excellent golf course for sure. It's tough. It's not short, that's for sure. It's playing pretty long right now. But I like course like this. But, you know, it's good to mix it up. It's good to play courses that are wide open and long. It's good to play short courses that are tight. It's nice to have a big mix of tournaments, or types of golf courses. So if we can keep a nice balanced mix, that's the best thing, I think, because I can sit here and say we should play short, tight golf courses with long rough and trees every week, and that wouldn't be fair to other guys. It would be great for me. There should be some balance of golf courses that we play, different types. It's not bad, the balance is fairly decent I think.

Q. And why specifically do you enjoy playing this course?

COREY PAVIN: Well, it's a premium, you have to drive the ball well here. You have to drive the ball straight out here. If you don't do that you're in trouble, especially this year with the rough being long. It's good go to be tough to shoot low scores. 3 or 4-under is going to be a good score out here. I like that, because it requires par as being a good score. So you can miss greens, if you can get it up and down, you're still fine with par. So I like courses like that. Does that answer your question?

Q. What did last year's win do to you as far as just keeping you focused and knowing that your game is still good enough?

COREY PAVIN: Well, you know, I always thought I was good enough to win. It was whether I was going to win or not. It was satisfying obviously to win. And everything that, the 10 years before that win, it was just a hard 10 years. You know, a lot of hard work, a lot of self belief. Some down times, obviously. But it was nice to succeed and get a win under my belt. Obviously it gives me confidence that you always think you can, but until you do, you're not sure.

So, obviously, I know I can win. I feel like I can win on golf courses different than that as well. I feel like I can win on a golf course like this or even at Bay Hill. Those types of courses. I feel like I can win on. So it gave me a little bit more confidence in what I'm doing, and what I'm working on. Obviously, I'm on the right track and just keep at it.

Q. Not to belabor this, was there ever a thought, geez, it's passing me by? The game is changing too fast for me, for my skills to keep up?

COREY PAVIN: Well, no, I never felt like it had passed me by. I think passing me by might be too strong, too. It's definitely a different game than when I came out for sure. But having said all of that, I still believe that I can win, and I have. But I still believe in myself, and what I can do out here, and compete against the best players out here. It's harder definitely. Not only is my game, I'm not necessarily a long hitter, but I'm getting older too, so that's a difference as well too. I figure if Fred Funk can win and he is 50, I can still win too, so it's all right.

Q. Given all of that, do you think there should be a greater appreciation for the way you are playing the game?

COREY PAVIN: I don't know what other people think. I just know what I think. I just do the best I can out there and hopefully come out okay. What other people think I can't help. So that's up to them to decide what their opinions are.

Q. Just for all observation, what's the difference in clubs that you typically hit, approach shot as opposed to somebody that you play with; one or two clubs?

COREY PAVIN: Well it depends on who it is. You play with someone who is really long, I might be hitting a 5-iron in, and they might be hitting a 9-iron in even. Something

like that. Sometimes it's four or five clubs difference.

Q. Does that wear you down?

COREY PAVIN: Hopefully I'm wearing them down. If I hit my long shots in there close, it works both ways. I know Hogan, when he played Match Play, he always loved hitting first to hit a good shot in there and get it close, to put the pressure on the other guy.

To me, I look at it that way because I have to. I have no other choice.

If I can hit my 5-woods and rescue clubs and long irons, and they are tight, or get it reasonably close, it makes the other people think a little bit. Like, wow, that's good. So I try to think of it that way.

Q. Now, are you hitting the same clubs that you hit 10, 15 years ago, have you gotten a little longer?

COREY PAVIN: I definitely hit it further than I used to, no doubt, with the equipment. My swing is better, I'm stronger. I'm a stronger person than I was physically than 20 years ago for sure. You know, I hit it further, no doubt. They keep moving those tees back though, that's the problem. I keep hitting the same clubs into the greens but the holes are 20, 30 yards longer.

Q. This is a little off the beat and track, Corey, how badly would you like to see that 26 stay in the record books for years and years?

COREY PAVIN: Well, I think it's going to be a tough one for someone to knock out. I can see someone tying it, but 27 was up there forever. And, you know, it was a combination of things. I played a par-34 as well and to shoot that 8-under. Guys have shot 9-under. Someone may come along one of these days on a par-34 and shoot 9-under. It's probably going to happen eventually. Records are made to be broken and all of that stuff. It will probably get broken eventually at some point in time. That's going to be a tough one, I think.

JOE CHEMYCZ: Thank you.
