

Crowne Plaza Invitational  
Colonial Country Club  
Fort Worth, Texas

May 25, 2007

Second Round Quotes

### AN INTERVIEW WITH BEN CURTIS

**MODERATOR:** We would like to welcome Ben Curtis to the interview here at the Crowne Plaza International at Colonial. Ben, great second round 67. Got off to a little bit of a slow start with 6 pars, but then 4 birdies to finish off your last 12 holes. Talk about your round a little bit

**BEN CURTIS:** Yeah. I played well. I didn't get off to the start I wanted in the second round. It's one of those things you have to be patient. The birdies will be out there if you keep your head in it and not focus on how many pars or bogeys you made. I'm happy with the way I played and hit the ball well, and rolled it nicely.

**THE MODERATOR:** Great. Turn it over to some questions.

**Q** It's nice to be in and done and not knowing what everything is going to do this afternoon.

**BEN CURTIS:** Yeah. Exactly. I mean we had to wait around a little bit yesterday. And now the other guys, hopefully won't do anything, but if it does we can relax and not have to worry about it. It's always good to get out and, you know, play later. But for the fact you get done and today and get some rest, and get ready for the weekend.

**Q** Ben, considering how wet it is out there and what we have heard about the rough, are you surprised with the scores out there? It seems there are a lot of low scores out there?

**BEN CURTIS:** The greens are the reason why. The greens are running. They are consistent and running good and there is not a spike mark out there, no bumps. They are the perfect speed. A little bit slower than they normally are. A little bit softer and they're receptive. And the guys are able to take it right at it with mid to short irons. And that is the reason why the scores are the way they are. You know, this place usually is rock hard and firm. And so that is when it becomes the toughest.

**Q** Any difficulty with pulling clubs out there with the fairways or anything?  
**BEN CURTIS:** Not really. The air is a little bit heavier. It was not going quite as far as it was yesterday when we first started. Yesterday the ball had some carry to it. But today the ball seemed to be normal yardage. And you just add the yardage and hit at the greens, they are receptive. There is a little more room short and long. So if you are, say, in between clubs you go ahead and hit a normal club and the worst case you are 5 to 7 yards short of the pin. It makes it a little easier out there for us.

**Q** Ben, did you see this coming, two nice rounds and one bogey in, I think, 36 holes, is this on your radar?

**BEN CURTIS:** Yeah. I mean I've been making some cuts, and I had one 4th at Bay Hill. so you just know if you are making cuts it's not too far off. And then you know this week, it's obviously being soft and receptive it's helped. It gives you a little more confidence. If you -- short sight yourself you have a good chance, whereas in the past this place, you kind of hit for the middle of the green and try to take your luck with the putter.

**Q** On 18 you had a ball in the rough?

**BEN CURTIS:** Yeah.

**Q** Chipping towards the water is that something you were talking about in the past might have rolled in or been harder to stop?

**BEN CURTIS:** I think it probably would have been in about the same spot. It's just there trying to get a little more aggressive with it and trying to get out of the rough. Whereas a couple of years ago you would probably have tried to get as close as you could. It probably would have rolled out to where it was. Overall the whole game gets a little easier when it's like this.

**Q** Last year it was such a great year for you. I'm wondering how that made you feel coming into this year was there any carry over at least in feeling?

**BEN CURTIS:** I mean obviously when you come off two wins in a year you are obviously feeling pretty good about yourself and your game. You know, I got off to a slow start this year and it's slowly seems to be getting better each week. So hopefully this week I can play, I have a good weekend, and I play like I did at Bay Hill I will be fine.

**Q** Has there been one thing that held you back more than another, swing problems or anything, or just everything?

**BEN CURTIS:** Just a little bit of everything. I was looking at my stats the other day, I was in the top 15 or 20 in fairways hit. And all of a sudden I'm like in the mid 40's or something. That is two weeks or three weeks of playing, just a big drop. I know at Wachovia I only hit 30 or 40% of the fairways and the same thing at the Players. It's hard to play golf when you do that. Especially with the rough the way it is. That is frustrating. I was not hitting as many greens, but if you are not hitting the fairways it's hard to hit the greens as well. I didn't focus too much on that. Just trying to keep the ball in play.

**Q** How big of a key is that with the way the course is, hitting in the fairway?

**BEN CURTIS:** It makes a huge difference. Especially for me. I don't hit it a super long way with some of those guys. They can get away with it with short irons. Like this week it's somewhat that way for me. It's not a super long golf course. It seems like if you do miss a fairway a 6 or 7 or 8-iron. And the rough today it's a little bit tougher than it was yesterday. Just makes it a whole lot easier if you hit the fairway. Just you know makes this game easy and fun.

**THE MODERATOR:** And to know you hit 23 of 28 through two rounds.

**BEN CURTIS:** Yeah, I am driving it well. And, you know, obviously with it being soft has helped as well.

There is a couple of drives I have hit that probably shouldn't have been in the fairway that stayed in it.

**THE MODERATOR:** Ben, it's been great playing, thanks very much for coming in.

**BEN CURTIS:** Thank you.

**Q** Are we going to see the Cowboys on Sunday?

**BEN CURTIS:** No, sorry.

**Q** Don't care for the Cowboys?

**BEN CURTIS:** No, because I wear Reebok stuff and I the Cowboys, I guess, they print their own stuff. I haven't heard the full story, but I guess Jerry buys his shirts and then he prints them all out.

**Q** So the Cowboys are not that big?

**BEN CURTIS:** No. So I will get boo'd all weekend. So put it in there that I have no other option. So everybody knows when they come tomorrow.

**Q** Just don't wear the Red Skins?

**BEN CURTIS:** Exactly. Or Giants.

**Q** Or Giants, yeah.

**THE MODERATOR:** Thanks, Ben. Good luck.