

---

**84 LUMBER CLASSIC**  
**Nemacolin Woodlands Resort**  
**Mystic Rock Golf Course**  
**Farmington, Pa**

**September 24, 2004**  
**Second-round leader quotes**

**AN INTERVIEW WITH BEN CURTIS**

**THE MODERATOR:** We have Ben Curtis, your clubhouse leader at 10-under par here at the 84 Lumber Classic.

Ben, another good round, just the one bogey today, but off to a great start. Five birdies in your first eight holes, talk a little about that.

**BEN CURTIS:** Well, yes, the first hole, just, you know, just really was a relatively simple hole. I hit a sand wedge in there to about ten feet and made that.

My second hole, I hit it in the fairway bunker on the right and hit a 6-iron up to the right of the green and chipped that one in. I had a good lie. It was just off the green. It was not in the primary rough, but in the intermediate rough, a relatively simple chip. I was thinking about making it, but, obviously it's early in the round, you just want to get your par and get out of there. It trickled over the edge and fell in.

5, I hit it just short of the green in two, and the I had a relatively simple chip and chipped it up there to four or five feet, tapped that in.

7, I hit it to back edge of the green, just off the green. I putted that, it was only 15 feet or so. I hit a 6-iron.

8, I hit a 3-wood to the right of the green and chipped it up to about five feet passed the hole and made that.

**THE MODERATOR:** Talk about how important it was to get off to a good start like that.

**BEN CURTIS:** Well, I think it was key. I have n't played a weekend the last seven events. I always knew that was kind of a little bit in the back of my mind. I just wanted to go out there and get off to a good start and not put any pressure on myself by making a couple of bogeys and then start thinking about that.

So, obviously, the birdie on one helped. 2, was icing on the cake. After that, I felt really comfortable, and I was just trying to make more birdies. Taking the time off the last few weeks has been good, even though I didn't practice a lot. It just got me rejuvenated and ready to play, and I am excited to be out there.

Q. You have your five-year exemption, so you are not worried about playing privileges next year, but you are 136th on the money list, is there that goal to finish inside the 125?

BEN CURTIS: Yes, I got this week and two other events over here, and hopefully next week I can get in. My goal, obviously, I want to try to finish in the top 125, and even the Top-30. You never know, you can get on a hot streak real quick, and the next thing you know you are 20th on the money list. So it's one of those things. I'm a long ways from that. I still got 36 more holes this weekend. It's going to be a long weekend. I haven't played 72 holes in a long time. So I'm just going to go out there and try to do the best, relax and have some fun.

Q. Did they ship you the wrong clothes this week?

BEN CURTIS: Well, this is the right stuff.

Q. For you.

BEN CURTIS: Hopefully, by this weekend I will have some of the Steeler's stuff for you guys.

Q. So do the fans probably.

BEN CURTIS: Yes. I didn't hear anything yesterday with the Patriots. Today, I didn't hear anything until the 14th hole, then I heard something every hole from then on. It took them a little while to wake up and realize that I had Browns stuff on.

Q. Ben, because of the way you played, you are not sitting out there thinking, you know, you're going to have to get close to Vijay, the way he is playing, or you figure you wanted to hit some good shots and post the best round you can?

BEN CURTIS: Exactly. I mean I just want to go out there and do the best I could, just take it one shot at a time. Just try to make sure you get right club. Obviously, with the greens as firm as they are, you are basically playing to the front edge. I think that plays to my advantage a little bit because, you know, you are not trying to fire just right at the time pin, or adjust with the slope and the back spin. So, I'm just trying to hit it to the front edge, and let it release and get back to the hole, because too far, too short -- I try to keep the golf course in front of me, especially hitting it into the greens and stuff.

It's a very simple game plan, and a lot of guys are trying to do that. It's obviously very difficult to do. I have had four or five shots this week that were two or three feet short of the green and stopped short. 17, is a prime example. It probably would land another five yards within 10 feet of the hole. Instead I got a 60-footer. Luckily, I 2-putted it. But it's just one of those things. It's a great golf course and it tests your patience a lot. You just got to be very patient and just go out there and try to hit quality shots.

Q. How long was your putt on 18?

BEN CURTIS: Probably 15 feet or so.

Q. Ben, how far to the chip-in on two?

BEN CURTIS: I was pin-high. I was just on the right. I was probably --

Q. ShotLink had 42?

BEN CURTIS: 42 feet. I was going to say 42 feet.

Q. Is the way the wind was blowing, is it helpful on this course having the last three downwind? Joey says it makes it harder because the greens are hard playing downwind.

BEN CURTIS: Well, the one things for the guys this afternoon, all of the par-5s are downwind. Those holes are going to play a lot easier. Even with the front pin, it doesn't really matter. Most of the guys will be able to get there in two anyway. So, I think, you know, you got 14 playing pretty tough. Coming back you have 15, it's going to have a good balance back and forth. So, obviously, yesterday the wind was coming from the other direction, the par-5s were playing a little bit longer. But today, other than 16 yesterday. Today, they played relatively easy.

Q. Explain why you are sitting at 136th on the money list?

BEN CURTIS: I think, you know, my putting hasn't been very good this year. I have been working hard on it all year and it just doesn't seem to improve. The hitting has always been pretty consistent. I hit the ball fairly well. But more than anything, I'm from up north like here, I'm used to three months off during the winter. And since I got my TOUR card last year I have had more than three weeks off. And I think that's been the case more than anything. I think, you know, I played pretty well up to the U.S. Open. I had a good stretch there for six or seven events, and I made a lot of money and had some good finishes.

Now the last seven tournaments I played, I haven't done much since The Western. I missed the cut every week. I think that is the big thing, if I just make a few of those cuts and have a decent finish I could be 100th on the list rather than 136th. But, you know, it's a long year. There is 48 events. You know, I was playing overseas a little bit and obviously it's hard to get into a rhythm. I think next year, setting the schedule before the year starts, and having it, you know, knowing that you play three or four weeks in a row, and you get a good rhythm going, it's only going to help.

Q. You learned a little something?

BEN CURTIS: Yes, I mean you learn a lot. This year hasn't been a bad year, even though I haven't played good. It hasn't been a bad year I learned a lot and got to see a lot of the world. I think it's only going to help in the future.

Q. What are some of the good comments that you heard?

BEN CURTIS: The Browns suck is probably the worst I heard.

Q. Is the kind of year that you had, not having any time off, is that still a spin-off of winning last year?

BEN CURTIS: Well, I think so, obviously, after I won, there are other obligations you have to do. And even off the course, just a lot of traveling, just flying across the country, across the world. It just wears on you in the end. I think it caught on to me this summer. Where if I would have had that break, and maybe a break in the

spring where I taken some time off and got rejuvenated. I had two weeks off, played Boston, and had another two weeks off. So I think those four weeks of just being away from golf completely almost has been great, just kind of got me rejuvenated, and now I am just going to finish out the year and take some more time off. And I think next year coming out, it should be a better year, hopefully. You never know. Hopefully, it will be a good year.

Q. The bogey on 14 and birdie on 18?

BEN CURTIS: 14, I hit a 6-iron. I hit it right at the pin. I was trying to hit it just to the right, it caught the hill, wend down and I chipped up to four feet. I had a pretty good chip and missed that.

And 18, I hit a 9-iron into there 15 feet.

THE MODERATOR: Thank you.