

Crowne Plaza Invitational at Colonial
Colonial Country Club
Ft. Worth, Tx

May 22, 2008

First-round Interviews

AN INTERVIEW WITH DUDLEY HART

CHRIS REIMER: Dudley, a good round today, 3-under-par. Just talk about the day and the conditions and how it felt out there.

DUDLEY HART: Yes, it was a nice solid start. It was a windy day, obviously, outside. But the golf course is a tricky hole golf course without wind, and when the wind gets blowing and swirling it makes it even trickier. I am happy to get in at 3-under. You always like to if, woulda coulda shoulda. It could have been better. It could have been worse. I'm happy with 3-under to start and hopefully can continue things the rest of the week.

CHRIS REIMER: A lot of good saves out there, 3 sand saves. You didn't hit a lot of fairways; what was the key to the round, I guess?

DUDLEY HART: You know, just kind of hanging in there. I took advantage of some of my opportunities early.

It's a type of golf course where you get a lot of crosswinds and a lot of fairways angling on you.

And I would guess if you look at the stats that this would probably be one of the lower driver accuracy golf courses for the whole year, because when it's firm and fast, and the combination of wind and not making excuses, I didn't drive it great any way, but there is a lot of tricky fairways to hit. You end up playing out of the rough and, you know, it's not the longest rough in the world, but to me I think it's more difficult because you've got that added factor where you are not sure if it's going to fly, or come out dead or whatever. Sometimes, like on 9 I caught a flier that flew 15 or 20 yards further than I was planning on it, I ended up in a really bad spot and lucky to get bogey.

That's what makes this golf course so great. Some of the places we play, you have that 4, 5, 6 inch rough where you hit it in the rough, you take your wedge

out and you just hack it out. There is almost no thinking involved. Here, there is a lot more room for danger when you hit it in that Bermuda, and the greens are pretty small any way, and you start flying over greens, and all of the greens are kind of crowned and the ball starts just running in some pretty tough spots.

I think that's why you always see the scores not as low as you would think on the golf course that's not super long or a ton of rough or anything like that.

CHRIS REIMER: You have had some good finishes and Top-10's recently. You are on the better side of the whole medical exemption and injury, is it nice just focussing on golf now, and playing well and being on the other side?

DUDLEY HART: To be honest with you that's all I was doing from the get-go this year. A lot of people asked me, are you worrying about that medical? To be honest with you, I didn't worry about it a lot. I had 15 events, the way I looked at it. And if I played the way like I felt I was capable of playing, I should be able to make that money and then some.

I knew the more I worried on that it would takeaway from what I should be thinking about, which is golf, and try to get my game ready and play as well as I can every week.

I've been out here long enough to know that sometimes stressing about things you can't control as much doesn't do you a lot of good.

CHRIS REIMER: Questions?

Q. On 9 you say you caught a flier there?

DUDLEY HART: Yes.

Q. You weren't trying to go there intentionally?

DUDLEY HART: No, I wasn't trying to hit it 40 yards over the green.

I was trying to hit it over the water.

What I had, I had 170 into the hole in a pretty stiff breeze. I was underneath the tree, the trunk was just a little left of the pin.

To be honest with you, what I was trying to do was start it just right of the pin and hit a low hook and try to hit it in the middle of the green over there, into that up slope.

And I figured, well, if it comes out and rolls a little too much, and I'm over the back edge there I can play from there. If I'm in the bank bunker, it's not that bad for that pin. It just came out squirting.

When it comes out flying, it doesn't curve, it was going right at the pin. But it flew five yards over the back of the green and, you know, I wasn't playing with Tiger, so it didn't hit anybody and stop right there. It got by them. Once it gets 8 yards over the green, it's like a parking lot, there is cart paths everywhere. It just kind of ran down the path. It was not in a pretty spot.

Q. It's a tough shot from there, isn't it?

DUDLEY HART: If it had any speed going passed the hole, it was going to go in the water. Grant it, I was hitting it 10, 12 feet right of the hole where I hoped if it did go a little too far, it might go to the front of the green. That

But was a shot that could easily end up in the water, and then I would be dropping on the other side.

Trust me, I'm like, okay, let's not get too crazy here and try to pull off a miracle

shot. Just try to get it on the green somewhere, get a putt at it, make 4 and 5 and get out of there.

Q. What was your yardage coming back?

DUDLEY HART: I don't even know. I had about 30 yards, 35 yards to the front edge. My front edge where I was trying to land. That was the only number I thought of. Try to land it at the most on the front edge there and go from there.

Q. It seems like today you can actually score on the horrible horseshoe, I guess, because of the wind?

DUDLEY HART: I don't know about that. No. 3 isn't playing real hard. It's a tricky tee shot. That's one of those holes I was talking about. It's kind of blows in right-to-left, and the fairway goes like this. You can hit a pretty good shot line-wise, but it might go a little further. It's not an easy fairway to hit. I don't know what everyone is doing out there score-wise that would give you that impression.

But the next hole, I would be interested to see how many people hit it on the putting green, on the putting surface on 4, because it's just blowing so hard straight downwind. I think I had 225 to the front.

It was one of those, I looked at my caddy, and I said, well, do I want it just short of the green or over the green? I don't know if I could stop it. I'm hitting a 3-iron trying to hit it as high as I can hit it. I hit it in the left bunker. I wasn't very confident. If it landed more than five yards on the green, there was no way it was going to stay on the green.

Q. I know Lindy Ruff caddied for you, what was that like?

DUDLEY HART: It was fun. I had to kind of guide him around a little bit. He's used to casual golf with his buddies, making noise. Stop moving. He did a good job.

Q. He said he walked a little bit?

DUDLEY HART: He started to walk. Bill Haas is a pretty fast player. It makes it hard on somebody that doesn't really know. He knows golf, and he knows all of that. But he doesn't know how to caddy and how to make sure you stay out of the way.

I'm not saying this about Ian, but guys out here see everything and see everybody moving. I've been out here so long. It's old hat. He doesn't really know. He will walk around in his buddy's line when they're playing at home. Out here, you got to pay a little more attention.

Q. Tell me how it worked out that he did caddy for you.

DUDLEY HART: Well, he and I have been good friends for a long time and he actually called me. They didn't make the playoffs. He had some time off. In the past I always said, hey, if you ever want to come out, hang out, or whatever. I didn't talk to him too much about caddying but just come out when the season is over. He called and said, hey, do you think can I caddy for you some week? I'm like sure. So I picked Colonial because it is as easy as a walking golf course as we have on TOUR. Nothing against him. Not that I'm in great shape either. But I said, carrying that bag around, you finish one hole, and you walk over to the next tee. It's not spread out. It's a fun tournament, a great week. So he came here and we are having a good time.

Q. Are you the type of guy that uses their caddy a lot?

DUDLEY HART: I do and I don't. It depends. I had a guy Craig Simeroli (phonetic). He worked for me for 12 years. He decided not to come back. He probably had enough of me. I've been using a couple of different guys. My neighbor from home has worked for me more than anybody this year, to be honest with you. I have used some regular TOUR caddies, too. I think for me, sometimes when I have to really pay more attention to the books and the yardages. When I had Woody, Craig, everybody called him Woody. When he worked for me all I did was look at the green. I always carried a book, but I would look at the green to try to get a visual where the pin is. Now, I'm walking yardage. Maybe my concentration level goes up a little bit more because I know I can't fully rely on them. It's pretty complicated looking at the books and there is a lot of numbers that can be confusing if you are not used to it. Not being able to totally 100 percent trust a number that my buddy or Lindy gives me, makes me think about what is going on a little bit more.

Q. He stated that he pretty much stayed out of way?

DUDLEY HART: He tried to stay out of the way.

Q. Does he still think that was a goal?

DUDLEY HART: You have to ask him. I can tell you what I think.

Q. What do you think?

DUDLEY HART: A rules is a rule. It wasn't a goal. He still might have won the Stanley Cup, but bad rules. It was kind of ironic like two or three days later that rule was changed.

Q. Dudley you talked about concentrating on your golf game. What about the state of your game? You look at the last 6 events; you made 3 cuts, you missed 3 cuts, and the 3 you made you were Top-12, is it up and down?

DUDLEY HART: Yes, that's basically how I've always been. I don't want to say feast or famine. But, you know, I would like to be more consistent obviously. I feel like a couple of cuts that I missed, sometimes -- I don't know, I can't explain it. I would rather play real well when I make the cut. And if I'm on the edge, and miss a cut, you got to live with that.

I would like to be more consistent. I think my ball striking could be more consistent. That's part of why I get a little up and down. I put a lot of pressure on my short game sometimes. But at least I'm having some good weeks is the way I'm trying to look at it.

Q. You've had a lot of good finishes at the Nelson, and a couple of good ones here, too, is it something about this area that you really like?

DUDLEY HART: Yes, I've played well at both tournaments a few times, and I think, you know, I grew up in Buffalo, New York. But we moved to South Florida, and I finished high school up down there, and I lived all through college, until about two years ago I lived down there. I think really learning how to play, I really learned how to play golf on Bermuda grass, and I think that maybe that has something to do with it.

I am pretty comfortable usually playing in the wind. Living in Florida, it blows a

lot there, too. You learn how to hit different shots and try to play a certain way. You know, I mean that's got to explain some of it, I think.

Q. I notice the media guide has you living back in Buffalo. That is kind of an interesting directional move for a professional golfer?

DUDLEY HART: Yes. Not many people move from Jupiter, Florida, to Buffalo, New York, willingly. Before I had kids, I always had this idea when I did have kids that I wanted to move back to Buffalo. It's a great place to raise a family. They have a great school system. My kids go to an elementary school that is up for some Blue Ribbon Award. It's one of the best elementary schools in the whole country.

You know, that alone -- nothing against South Florida, I love the weather. Everybody was great about it. I just didn't want to raise my kids down there. I have 6-year-old triplets, and they are in getting ready to finish kindergarten, so we decided -- it's been almost two years now we've been up there. My wife is a native Floridian. Two days ago again it wasn't easy. I took about two years of lobbying to try to get her to go up there. I had to promise to let her build the house of her dreams and she did.

Q. She dreams big?

DUDLEY HART: Yes. Maybe that's why I am playing better; necessity. And she has told me two or three times in the last couple of weeks how much she loves it. Now that the weather is better, a little bit better. It's cool now. We live in a great neighborhood with kids. There is kids. She called me every other day and she said there is 25 kids in our backyard. We built a crazy backyard for kids. We have a sport court, and all kinds of junk, a playground, so kids end up flocking to our house.

She has made good friends in the neighborhood up there. She has more good friends in Buffalo in two years than she had in all of the time I've know her in Florida. It's just different. It's hard to explain. It's a very family oriented city, very good people, a great school system. It has just really bad weather sometimes.

Q. As a father of Twins, I'm just wondering how you find time to practice?

DUDLEY HART: That's my saving grace, when I go home, it's my job. Honey, I got to go work. Occasionally, I will go out to the course, just sit in the locker room and read the paper. I'm practicing. Don't print that please. That will be my quiet time going out there. I come home, splash some water on myself, it was hot out there.

CHRIS REIMER: Anything else guys? Best of luck.

- - - - -

