

**Nissan Open  
Riviera Country Club  
Pacific Palisades, CA  
February 16, 2006**

**First-round tournament quotes**

**AN INTERVIEW WITH DEAN WILSON**

DAVE LANCER: All right, we have Dean Wilson with us after a 7-under par 64 today, seven birdies, no bogeys. A very solid round. Give us just a couple general thoughts about the play today and we will open it up for questions.

DEAN WILSON: I started on the back 9, and I played really nice, started off hitting a driver on the first hole, the tenth hole and got on it the green and just two putted there. So that got me off to a good start. My first nine holes, which is the back, I just played really nice. I don't think I missed a fairway or a green. I had some good momentum to build on.

Q. Can you say that all over again?  
(Laughter).

DAVE LANCER: Questions?

Q. You seem to be playing pretty nicely most of the year, I don't want to say it's unusual, you don't usually get off to this good of a start in terms of posting a round under par and giving yourself chances, what's the difference?

DEAN WILSON: Well, I played everything so far. This is my fourth year and two of those years I didn't get in a lot of events. So it's hard to get some momentum. So two years ago I was fully exempted and this year I'm fully exempted, so maybe just being more comfortable and getting to know the courses and being able to know that I'm in tournaments rather than looking and seeing if my number gets in.

Q. Like Sony?

DEAN WILSON: Like the Sony, yes. You can write the story, you don't need to ask me any questions anyway.

Q. Dean, you obviously like the tempo of the day, but in general what are your thoughts on No. 10, the short par-4 and the strategy there?

DEAN WILSON: I think it's a great hole. It's a risk reward hole and you know that you're standing on that tee and it's so tempting to hit driver. But you know that, depending on where the

pin is, and it usually doesn't matter where it is, you just can't miss the green right because you just leave yourself in a position where it's tough to even get it on the green. But if you do hit a good shot, get it on the green, or on that left side, it makes a relatively easy birdie hole. So I think it's great hole.

Q. Do you like the old school courses like this versus say the TPC style wide open, bash it and go get it, more of a premium on accuracy in theory?

DEAN WILSON: Yes, I do. I seem to prefer courses where there is a little more shot making involved just because I'm not one of the long hitters that can just bomb it 340 yards down there. We have courses like that. Maybe like a course in Houston. It's tough to compete against the long hitters because they hit it off there, and if they're in the rough they are just hitting wedge out. That's tough over 72 holes. You may be able to get them over 18 but 72 it's pretty tough.

Q. How often have you played here?

DEAN WILSON: This is my second time. Two years ago I missed the cut.

Q. It seems like they've had a pretty healthy mix of guys who have won this thing from little guys like Corey Pavin, it doesn't seemingly exclude anybody?

DEAN WILSON: Yes, I think that's one of the great things of a style course like this. I like to see where guys can mix it up, where you might have a guy that's not so long going against a guy that hits it a long way versus some courses, like said, it's so long, it's tougher for the short hitter to compete because these guys are just getting up there and blasting it so far and the penalty for being a little off line doesn't really matter.

Q. A couple of years ago somebody could have made the exact same comments, saying it's tough to compete against a guy that's out there blasting 300. When did 340 become part of the equation?

DEAN WILSON: I guess when Bubba Watson joined the TOUR. I played in the second last group in Phoenix and watching where John Holmes hitting it. It's incredible just watching those guys hit the ball and how farther's getting out there. It's a different ball game.

Q. Hitting into you?

DEAN WILSON: He was in the group behind us, yes.

Q. Dean, you talked about these guys hitting it far, but it seems also to be hitting it straight more often than not too, which is a little bit scary, isn't it?

DEAN WILSON: Yes, exactly. Bubba hit 11 of 14 fairways in the final round of Sony. That's why he had a great round. When you hit it that far -- some of these courses, what they're doing to me, it seems like every time they make a change to a course, they're just adding new tees, making it longer and longer and longer and it's taking some guys out of the game.

And I kind of find it funny, saying they're Tiger proofing it. They are just putting it right into his hands where it's tougher for a guy like me to compete against them.

I haven't played this course a lot but coming out and playing practice rounds and seeing where some of the tees are, and hearing what -- I played a practice round with Steve Elkington in that par-3, on the front, 6. The first thing he said, we went on the practice rounds, we always go to

the back tees, we got to the back tees, and he said well this tee ruins the hole. He said it used to be a great hole before.

Now we are sitting back there hitting 3 and 4-irons just trying to get it in the safe part of the green rather than trying to take a chance at something.

So just stretching those courses out, just makes it -- I don't think it makes it any better is what I'm saying.

Q. Have you found search of length at all?

DEAN WILSON: Oh, every day. I'm trying to. I'm trying to hit it a little further. It's just not as easy as it seems.

Q. What are you doing to find it?

DEAN WILSON: A couple of things with my swing, I'm trying to change a little bit so that I can feel comfortable, increasing the swing, or the speed of my swing, without feeling out of control.

But I think it's just like anybody. You swing harder, you lose your balance, you start hitting it everywhere. And usually out here I can't afford to hit a lot of shots in the rough. So it seems like my brain just kind of gets back to trying to keep it in play.

Q. That's what I was going to ask you. Is your wrist screwing up the rest of your swing, at the sake of trying to find an extra few extra yards?

DEAN WILSON: Yes, that's the part you got to figure out, on how to hit the ball a little further without losing a lot of accuracy and feeling uncomfortable. I don't get up to a hole and just tee it up and try to hit it as far as I can.

I'm trying to position it the best that I can at the proper distance. I'm not saying you can't play out here and be a great player. Guys out here like Chris DiMarco, David Toms, Fred Funk, Jim Furyk, I would say they are on the low end of the distance factor. But they're obviously great players and win their tournaments and are in contention all the time, so you don't have to hit it long.

Q. Dean, what do you do to increase your bat speed because that seems like something that kind of maxes out at a certain point. Is there weightlifting or resistance training?

DEAN WILSON: It's kind of like a mystery. I think you need to get a little stronger. But I know for me my brain needs to just work faster and changes the tempo of my swing, whereas I think I've always had it in my mind that a professional golfer was able to sit there and hit a whole bunch of 8-irons right at the 150 yard marker. Whereas I think now these kids that are coming up, they start playing, they never hit a Persimmon wood in their life. They've had 45-inch drivers that are half the weight with what I grew up with, they hit it as hard as they can. So from when they are kids swinging as hard as they can, was just natural for people then. Whereas my brain was trying to be consistent.

So I think that the problem is, like that rhythm that I have in my mind. When I go and I try to hit it a lot harder, like on launch monitors and testing centers, I can increase my speed a little bit, not to obviously what some of these guys are doing, but it just feels really uncomfortable.

So I don't know if you just slowly do it where you increase a couple miles an hour every few months, or something. I don't know.

Q. Along those lines, Mickelson was saying last week, Dean, that he thinks it's more physical specimens coming on the TOUR rather than the equipment that's making the difference

because obviously everybody is getting the new equipment. Is that kind of a long the lines what you think, these guys are just completely differently wired?

DEAN WILSON: I think there is a whole host of things. Golf is a lot more popular. As a kid growing up, where as when I played, golf wasn't that cool growing up in high school. But now it's kind of cool. Tiger made it cool. So I think now you have better athletes playing and then a little bit of -- it blows my mind to think that there is professional golfers walking the earth now that have never hit a Persimmon wood. So from day one they've got these graphite shafts, and they are just hitting them as hard as they can. That's just the way they grew up. Guys are bigger and stronger. We are getting smarter with fitness and things like that. All of that stuff helps. Where you get a guy like Bubba that just rips it.

Q. Dean, Tiger, was among the early starters today, he was talking about how bumpy the greens were, the ball hopping around a bit. Having shot 64, you must have been pretty comfortable with your putting?

DEAN WILSON: Yes, they are still bumping around. I got a few to drop in. But I just come to the conclusion that these courses, this time of year, like San Diego, ATT, where we are near the ocean, there is so much moisture in the air, the greens are going to be holding moisture and there is footprints everywhere. We got 144 players plus caddies and everybody walking around. The putting green, you can't make a putt from three feet consistently. It's so bumpy. That's just the way it's going to be out there. Hopefully the greens just hold up towards the end of the week. But it always seems like they always want to make the greens harder and faster, so it gets a little scary out there for sure.

Q. Did you make any long putts?

DEAN WILSON: I think I made -- the longest putt I made was for a par, on one of the par-3s, 14. Other than that, I just played nice. I made a couple of 15-footers and that's about it.

DAVE LANCER: Why don't you give us your card.  
(Scorecard.)

DAVE LANCER: Anything else?

Q. Going back to Q-School at times, last year you made a late push to keep your card, is there parts of you in the off season that said let's not mess around, let's get started off strong, what's funny about that?

DEAN WILSON: I do that every year.

Q. It just worked this time?

DEAN WILSON: You think I like being in that position?  
(Laughter).

DEAN WILSON: No, there is always some things I'm doing in the off season to try to get better. This off season, as soon as I got done, I had a couple of things that I wanted to work on my swing, so I worked hard on that.

I was in Hawaii for a month with the family and played a lot, at Waialae, trying to get ready for that, but then missed the cut. In the off season I'm working as hard as I can because I would like to -- I don't want to be in that position talking about the 125 towards the end of the year.

Q. You didn't work any harder than usual?

DEAN WILSON: No, the same. I didn't play as much poker, so I guess I worked a little bit harder.

DAVE LANCER: Dean, thank you very much.

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