
**LPGA Takefuji Classic
Las Vegas Country Club
Las Vegas, Nevada
April 16, 2004**

Second-round leader quotes

AN INTERVIEW WITH HEATHER DALY-DONOFRIO

Q. Very good playing, 4-under total, 4-under today. I'm sure it's windy out there still.Error! Bookmark not defined.

HEATHER DALY-DONOFRIO: Yes.

Q. Tough conditions?

HEATHER DALY-DONOFRIO: Yes, it played a little bit easier this morning than it did yesterday afternoon. I was the last group off yesterday and it was much windier yesterday afternoon than it was this morning. Plus finishing when it was getting dark last night, I caught a lot of holes, you know, where it was dead into the sun and had to fight the shadows like the last four or five holes. It was an easier round today as far as that goes. It's still very gusty and you still have to pay attention to it, but it wasn't as bad as yesterday.

Q. You had 7 birdies?

A. Yes, I had 7 birdies which was nice. I got the putter going today. I switched to a new putter this week, a heavier putter, which has helped, and I went back to my old putting style which I had somewhat gotten away from.

Q. What kind of putter?

HEATHER DALY-DONOFRIO: An Ever Compromise, I'm not sure of the model. The heavier putter seems to help, and back to my old methods.

Q. What does the extra weight do for you?

HEATHER DALY-DONOFRIO: You just don't have to swing it as hard, especially on the longer putts. I was putting with a very light putter. It's not only light, but it's very short. My putter is only about 30 and a half inches long. So I

catch a long putt, and I really have to hit it hard to the point where I have to over hit it.

So, you know, I can make a little bit smooth stroke with a heavier putter because it helps with the acceleration, the added weight.

Q. Well, you didn't make it any longer?

HEATHER DALY-DONOFRIO: No, it's still very short. But I'm short, so that's okay.

Q. What was the key to your round, Heather, you seem to be able to get it going quickly?

HEATHER DALY-DONOFRIO: Yeah, I got it going quickly. My ball striking was much better today, and even yesterday than it has been. It's probably the best it's been in the last year and a half, two years almost.

So I hit the first eleven greens, and I drove the ball well enough where I was having short irons into the green, so I was able to hit it close to the hole. Once I do that -- I feel like when I have good control over my long game, my putting falls in step. And I have been putting so much pressure on my putting, really for the last year and a half, that it eventually deteriorates.

So just for the fact that I have more control of my golf swing this week, it has been helping me make putts.

For me the key is hitting a lot of greens, which I did. I hit about 14 today, but I hit the first eleven which got me off to a good start.

Q. What's happened to your long game then if you have been struggling for that long?

HEATHER DALY-DONOFRIO: Well, I well went back to an old teacher last week, John Gentile. He is in Connecticut. I had taken lessons from him at the end of 2000, when I was really struggling, I was about to lose my card. I started taking lessons from him, and I had a Top-10. I kept my card. And then had my best year the following year. He ended up moving, so I never saw him again. He is back in town, my home town, so I took another lesson from him last week and work on a bunch of things. You know, it hit fast enough that I was able to apply it, put it right on the golf course this week.

There are some shots, you know, I don't trust it fully, but I know I'm definitely on the right track.

We changed a lot of fundamental things in my set up and just trying to flatten my swing playing. He is a great player, so he gave me a lot of other insights, not just as far as golf swing goes. We talked about how to play golf and what it takes to play good golf. I'm going to continue taking lessons from him, and I am excited about it.

Q. What do you think it is about an instructor and a player, this bonding, in other words, there is a lot of people that can look at your swing, and maybe know what problems you're having, and weren't able to communicate that the way this fellow is?

HEATHER DALY-DONOFRIO: Well, one I have a lot of respect for him. He is a great player. He won a national club pro. He is probably in his mid 50's now, but he has won a ton of tournaments. He has a great golf swing himself. He is a smaller man. He can show me something, because of his build, because I'm small, I can see it better. I just have a lot of respect for him because he is a great player and he is a great ball striker. You know, he just tells me how it is, too. He doesn't sugar coat anything for me.

I told him, I can't hit a draw. He said to me that's unacceptable. You have to learn how to hit the ball both ways. So that's primarily what I have been working on. This golf course, you need to hit a lot of draws especially. So that's helped a lot. But communication with a teacher is important. For me, it's important to have a good player teaching me, and he is.

Q. Given the fact that it got a little windier later in your round, do you anticipate your score standing up where you will be at the end of the day at the top of the leaderboard?

A. I think so. I didn't really look at the scores yesterday. I think most of the low scores came in the morning. I don't know what the forecast is, if the wind is supposed to pick up or not. I know it got windier as the day went on yesterday, so I'm assuming the same will happen. The greens will get a little firmer, if the wind picks up. If it stays like it is now there is some players who shot 2 or 3-under yesterday morning, who will probably do the same this afternoon unless the wind picks up.

Q. Does the poa annua on the greens bother you?

HEATHER DALY-DONOFRIO: One putt on 8 I hit a putt, and I said I think the poa got me. Because I felt like I hit a good putt and it just jumped off line right off the bat. You sort of just take that in stride. It's not a big deal. The greens are rolling pretty well, especially this morning. There is a big difference, they were rolling a lot better this morning than late yesterday after because the poa came up a little bit in the afternoon.

Q. Can we do your scorecard, first birdie on 10?

HEATHER DALY-DONOFRIO: Yes, I got my cheat sheet. Yes, I hit a little lob wedge in about 12 feet.

11, I hit just a little grip 9-iron in about 15 feet.

14, I never can remember, especially under pressure.

Q. Sorry.

HEATHER DALY-DONOFRIO: No, that's okay. 14, is that the par-3? Yes, I actually birdied that hole two straight days. I hit a nice 5-iron into there about 15 feet today. I was good on the par-3s. I birdied 3 of them today.

17, the other par 3, I hit a nice 7-iron there. Actually just a hard hop, hit the flag stick and just stopped, so I made like a 3-footer there.

And 18, I got a little lucky. I sort of chunked my sand wedge a little bit but it still cleared the water, and I made about -- I don't know how long that putt was, maybe 15, 18 feet.

Q. One?

HEATHER DALY-DONOFRIO: One, I actually hit two pretty good shots. I misjudged the wind going into the green. I had about a 50-foot putt, and I 3-putted it, which was a mental error because I was trying to lag that putt -- my mindset was, my new mindset in putting this week was to try to make everything, regardless of where you are on the green. It was the first one putt that I had today, instead I was just trying to two putt it, and I ended up three putting it. That was a bad bogey there. I shouldn't have made that one.

Q. What club did you hit in?

HEATHER DALY-DONOFRIO: I hit a 6-iron in.

4, I hit a nice little 8-iron in about 25 feet. Got a good read off my playing partner there and made that putt. Where is my bogey?

Q. 5.

HEATHER DALY-DONOFRIO: I bogeyed it yesterday the same way. I hit a rescue club into the green. I had about 195 in, hit it a little bit right in the bunker and didn't get it up-and-down. So I did the same thing there yesterday.

Q. 7.

HEATHER DALY-DONOFRIO: 7, I hit a nice little 9-iron and used the back stop because I was in between clubs and pulled down off the back stop off about five feet and made that.

8, I was a victim of the wind. I hit a perfect shot and the wind died down and the ball just went right over the green. I hit a good chip shot, but it didn't roll out. I think that's the one putt that the poa annua probably got me on.

Q. What did you hit in?

HEATHER DALY-DONOFRIO: I felt like I hit three really good shots on that hole and came up with a bogey so that was a little disappointing.

Q. Talk about the save on 9.

HEATHER DALY-DONOFRIO: 9 was a good save. I hit a rescue in on my second shot, and I thought I hit it pretty good and it just drifted a little bit with the wind, caught the tree, caught a bad break, just nicked the tree and then hopped into the water. I had to go back on the other side of the water. I was lucky because I

could pick my yardage. I could go back as far as I wanted. So I got right in sand wedge range, and knocked a sand wedge in about three feet and saved the par.

Q. Were you in the zone? Did you realize where you were in relation to the scoreboard?

HEATHER DALY-DONOFRIO: Yes, I'm a scoreboard watcher especially because I haven't seen my name on the scoreboard in a long time, you like to see your name up there. And today I felt like I had good control of my game, so I wanted to know where I stood, and if I see other people making a lot of birdies, it will spur me on to make more birdies. So I figured, I wanted to get to six. While I was out there I figured if I could get to 6 or 7 that might put me into one of the final groups going into tomorrow. I just wasn't able to get there.

Q. Very good. Thank you.