

**Viking Classic
Annandale Golf Club
Madison, MS**

September 29, 2007

Third-round leader quotes

AN INTERVIEW WITH DAVID BRANSHAW

THE MODERATOR: I would like to welcome our third round leader, David Branshaw to the interview room here at the Viking Classic. David 3 straight rounds in the 60⁺ ST, a round of 69 today. You are taking a two-shot lead into tomorrow, what's going through your head right now?

DAVID BRANSHAW: The confidence is getting there. Today's round was pretty solid round. I had the one bogey on 9, and I hit a lose tee shot. Other than that, a couple of putts on the greens. Late in the day the green was taking a little bit more, but overall it was a good solid round again.

THE MODERATOR: You struggled a little bit this year, but played well last week at Turning Stone, top 15 finish. Is there something that clicked last week that you carried over to this week?

DAVID BRANSHAW: Not really, no. Just trying to keep the tempo, the swing smooth, and luckily I've been able to do that for a few rounds now.

THE MODERATOR: Let's go briefly go through your four birdies out there today.

DAVID BRANSHAW: The 3rd third hole I hit it in maybe a 10-footer. A 10-footer for birdie, pretty straight putt.

THE MODERATOR: The club?

DAVID BRANSHAW: It was a -- I forget. I believe it was my 52° wedge, 52 or 56. Out of the 6th hole I made a long putt made 40 feet. I picked some mud up on that tee shot, so I couldn't control that wedge going in there. And it went left of the pin about 40-foot, and made a long one there. A birdie on 10 was a little 90 yard shot, I think. We were trying to play about 90, and I hit it in maybe 6 or 7 feet. And 13 was another long putt. I had mud on that ball too. I couldn't control that one. And that was a good 40 or 45 feet also.

THE MODERATOR: What did you hit in there?

DAVID BRANSHAW: It was a 56° wedge.

THE MODERATOR: Okay. Questions for David?

Q Have you been in this position before, and if not, what are your thoughts going into it?

DAVID BRANSHAW: I have been in the lead twice. Once in '02 and once in '05 on the Nationwide Tour. The PGA Tour is a little different, but it's still golf.

Q What is the closest you've been in a tour event on the last day?

DAVID BRANSHAW: A shot back last year in Syracuse.

Q Did you struggle at all when you -- I think you had no bogeys through 44 holes, and then you had one on 9?

DAVID BRANSHAW: Yeah, the tee shot, I got distracted on the tee shot and I hit a really poor tee shot I was behind a tree in the rough. I couldn't control that ball. The green-side bunker wasn't a bad play. I didn't have all of that great of stance in there. And it may have been a 15-footer for par that it just wasn't a good putt that I made.

Q How much did Steve help you today? You talked about him helping you. In what ways did he help you today?

DAVID BRANSHAW: I have been relying more and more on him. I don't believe a shot goes by other than a foot and a half tap in that I don't take his advice on, or I don't hit it until he says, "okay, that is good".

Q What kind of thoughts do you take in? You have got a two shot lead, you've got some guys who have won before behind you. Do you even think about that? Do you just think about yourself?

DAVID BRANSHAW: You do, you think about that. But you can't, I mean, what can you do? You can't control what they are doing out there. All you can do is do the best you can every shot you have tomorrow. That's, I guess, is as simple as I can make it. There is nothing you can do. I mean you can't play defense. You can't be too strong offense. You can't throw any curve balls, you know, like all the other sports. You can't block anybody.

Q Is there sort of an inherent need to go conservative when you have a lead like this?

DAVID BRANSHAW: No. No. I guess just keep playing golf. Where I put myself in the fairways where it's probably going to dictate if he gives me a green light at a pin tomorrow, or says, no, we gotta play it safe. We've gotta do this. You know, every hole is going to dictate that. You can't go out with a mind-set of, you know, I'm going to shoot 10-under, or I only need to shoot even, or I only need to shoot 10-over, I mean you can't play like that.

Q I know you blocked that one on 9?

DAVID BRANSHAW: Yeah.

Q But Bill was just in here, Bill Haas, and he said he thought you drove the ball real well today. Have you been driving it well all week.

Is that one of the things you are doing well?

DAVID BRANSHAW: The driving has not been too bad. I have missed, I hit 30 out of 42 fairways. I think that the 9th hole was the worse shape I have put myself in all week as far as not being able to play from there.

Q You never got a shot at the green. It looked like you were so far over there that that tree was in your way?

DAVID BRANSHAW: Yeah. Taking an angle safe enough on the left side of that tree put me in the middle of the far left bunkers. And I moved it five yards right of that line, but it was just a tough shot to control. It was a jump and lie too.

Q Obviously you haven't had a tour win, but if you win tomorrow you don't have to go to Q-school. Is there even more pressure, or how do you approach that?

DAVID BRANSHAW: No. That's something you can't control. If that happens then it's a reward. You are rewarded by winning. And if it doesn't happen, you know, off we go to San Antonio and try again next week.

THE MODERATOR: All right, David, great playing so far. Good luck tomorrow.

DAVID BRANSHAW: Thanks.
