

**Nissan Open
Riviera Country Club
Pacific Palisades, CA
February 17, 2005**

First-Round quotes

AN INTERVIEW WITH BRIAN DAVIS

DAVE LANCER: We have Brian Davis with us. Obviously you got off to a wonderful start today, made an eagle on the first hole out of the blocks.

Why don't you tell us a little bit about the round today and how the conditions changed when you were out there?

BRIAN DAVIS: Today was completely different than last week. Last week I thought somebody closed the hole up. But today the putts went in. I hit a driver, 4-iron on the first four feet and made it. I got the ball rolling straight away. I made it close a few times. I made some good putts. I made a key par putt with about four holes to go to keep my momentum going. And then, you know, played solid coming in. It played really tough, the back nine. We played the front nine into the wind so we thought, that's handy, we would make the turn and play it downwind, and the wind switched and came straight back at us. It's a lot like playing links golf, back home.

It played tough coming in and the rain started that last couple of holes, so I was obviously pleased to get in at 6-under par.

Q. Brian, a lot of English golfers are doing well this year, any thoughts on why that's happening?

BRIAN DAVIS: It's funny because we were also asked that by the British press a few years ago. Apart from Faldo, there has been no one. You have trends like that. At the moment, we've got quite a few. Hopefully, you know, one of us, especially me, can win a Major or do something like that this year which would be great.

Q. Brian, I'm assuming this is the first time you've played this course?

BRIAN DAVIS: Yes, it is.

Q. Usually people have to come out here a couple of times to kind of master this course, what is it that catches your eye or that you like?

BRIAN DAVIS: Well, it's amazing, I only played 12 holes practice round on Tuesday, and then walked the last seven holes really, and I parred them. So maybe I should have played them. But, you know, it's hard coming out the first year, even though I'm not a rookie as such, trying to travel and play practice rounds for every course is pretty tiring. Especially when we got the Bob Hope and the AT&T.

So I have been tending to walk quite a few practice rounds, rather than play, because you can just overplay yourself. And I found when I got to Pebble, I was completely burned out. And I just took Sunday and Monday off and didn't go near the golf course. And I'm just trying to prepare each week as it comes. But it is tough not knowing any of the golf courses. This is more of a traditional golf course, what I would call it. I have seen it on TV and that helps a little bit as well.

Q. Brian, how many stages of Q-School did you have to get through? I know you won the last stage, did you have any access from Europe?

BRIAN DAVIS: I went to second stage, top hundred in the world, and also I think there was a cut in the Major, I got through two counts. But I went to second stage and finished, I think, second, which, you know, was the key. The second stage is probably harder, because there is nothing -- all you got to do is try to qualify rather than win it. But the second stage I played great and went to Q-School. I went back home, didn't really play that much, came out to Q-School, two practice rounds and win. A lot of guys made a mistake, and they did it in Europe, when you are playing six rounds, and practice rounds under that pressure, the last thing you need to do is be there like the week before.

Q. Had you always had designs on playing the PGA Tour?

BRIAN DAVIS: Yes, I went to the Q-School when I was 18 over here. I was playing mini tours over here for about a year and a half. Due to the fact that I had a Top-6 finish Europe, and one invite that I got, I then played the Challenge Tour and got my card in Europe, in the Q-School that year. Then obviously built myself up in Europe.

I was planning to, hopefully, to get into the Top-50, get in world events, earn enough money to do it that way.

I was going to Q-School last year but my wife was pregnant and we had a few problems. I missed last year, which is ashame because Orange County National is my home golf course. That's where I practice in Orlando at Orange County National.

Q. How long have you lived there?

BRIAN DAVIS: On and off for years. That's where I always go back, even if I come over for a month practicing, I always go back to Orlando.

Q. Most people wait until they get their card before they buy a house in Orlando?

BRIAN DAVIS: Yes, it's weird. I got friends there. I love it in Orlando and I love playing over here. I'm still going to go back and play in Europe this year. I just felt the timing was right. I thought the timing was right last year, maybe it wasn't. Obviously it paid off this year going to the Q-School, to win it. I didn't realize it at the time, all of my friends over here were telling me how important that was versus finishing 10th. That's the amount of starts you get. It's made a lot of advances so far.

Obviously, it is only the first round, but to get in this event, I don't have to try to pre-Q for it or Top-10.

Q. You wouldn't have gotten in this event you don't think without winning?

BRIAN DAVIS: Yes, I would. I don't know. I don't know what it went down to. I know a lot of the guys at the Q-School, you know, because it goes in with the Nationwide as well, don't get in this week. That's a big boost for me because obviously coming up the re-rank I know that I'm

going to play so I can mentally prepare. I have had a couple of bad weeks or miss a cut, but it's a long season. I'm probably going to have to play about 35 events this year which is not ideal. So, hopefully, I'm going to get my card up early enough that I can take a few weeks off, play a bit in Europe.

My family has moved over here with me, and hopefully we can base next year on what we are going to do, and where we are going to play because this year I can't play in anything. It's a tough year. But it's something that I'm prepared to do.

Q. Brian, what about this year, the timing made you decide since you did it at age 18 and presumably not inbetween, why here, why now, why do it last December?

And secondarily, I heard you were looking out like at Keene's Point in that area, maybe at a house, is there any movement on that front.

BRIAN DAVIS: Yes, it was my goal when I was younger, I was fortunate enough to get a sponsorship to come over here and try out for Q-School, I didn't make it. I won first stage by eight shots. I missed second stage. Things happen for a reason. I wasn't ready. I've always been one of those people that made a slow progression. I never made a dramatic jump.

So, you know, as I said I was set to go to Orange County for Q-School but, you know, my wife was pregnant with a child, and we had a few complications, so timing wasn't right. I had a great year in Europe. The world events and the majors the following year. And last year was a big disappointment for me, not making the Ryder Cup team. I make no secret of it, I wanted to make the team. We had a child. I tried to play a bit too much and tried to force myself into the team, because I was already on the team, and I paid the price for that, and I took a bit time off towards the end of the year, so obviously I started playing well.

We are looking forward to this year, but it is going to be a tough year because I'm going to have to play a lot. Keene's Pointe, we are still looking around the area, that's where we want to be, right near Disney.

Q. Brian, not all of the Europeans are going to play the European TOUR and how tough a decision was that for you to keep membership and commit yourself?

BRIAN DAVIS: It's very tough this year. If I was exempt then I could plan my schedule where I played say 11 in Europe and I played 20 over here. I can plan that.

This year, I don't know what I'm going to get in. If I don't re-rank after a couple of re-ranks. I've got to play harder the start of the year. I still want to go back to play Europe. I think it's been a great experience to play all over the world, Asia, Australia. I played in Japan on some invites. I think it's good to play all over the world, you get to play different types of golf and it's a great experience. But I do like it over here. I think it just suits me better with the greens. If you can putt on this sort of green regularly, it definitely will help my stroke.

My main goal was to play the weeks before the Majors. Obviously, my bad play last year I've slipped outside the Top-50. I'm in the U.S. PGA this year, but I'm not in the others. So the goal is to get back inside the Top-50, then I can play the week before a Major.

I've only ever done that once over here, which was the International, last year, I missed the cut. Then I finished 12th at the PGA. I've always said I felt like I needed a week before, rather than just flying over and playing, I just found it too tough. If we can get back inside the Top-50, I can play the week before the Majors.

Q. How much pressure did you feel in the two stages of qualifying school and how has coming through that so well helped already?

BRIAN DAVIS: A lot of people said, I was the highest ranked player, you are expected to get through. I knew that with my position in Europe as well, with the 35th card, I probably wouldn't be able to do the two. It would have been too tough filing for releases and stuff like that.

It was important that I finish very high, and obviously to get the win was a huge bonus, obviously.

The one event I do want to get into is Bay Hill. I know winning the Q-School adds to that advantage to try and get an invite.

But obviously being from Orlando, and a lot of friends there. It's the one tournament I used to go and watch when I was over here. It is the one tournament I would like to get into, so I just got to play my way in.

Q. Could you talk about how important it was to get a good score today before the rain hit?

BRIAN DAVIS: We looked to the weather, and I knew it was going to come in this afternoon. As I said, we started off and we played the front nine into the wind, so we were thinking the back nine we could pick up some shots in the wind and the wind switched. I was very happy to hang on the back nine. There was a lot of long irons into par 4's. You know, overall, I'm very happy, we played the last couple of holes in the rain, but as you can hear now it's going to be pretty tough out there this afternoon.

Hopefully, we don't have any weather delays this week.

(Scorecard.)

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