
HP CLASSIC OF NEW ORLEANS
English Turn Golf and Country Club
New Orleans, Louisiana
April 29, 2004

First-round leader quotes

AN INTERVIEW WITH KELLY GIBSON

(Quick-quotes.)

KELLY GIBSON: It was good. I obviously got off to a very good start and I thought the course was playing pretty easy, so I want to make sure that I put up a round in the 60's to be comfortable.

I managed to make a couple of bad swings and got away with it. I did make one bogey on 9. But overall I'm pretty happy with it.

Q. Was the mission accomplished today for you?

KELLY GIBSON: This is always a tough tournament. I was nervous starting out. I didn't play very good the last couple of days and that didn't make me feel too good. But, you know, any time I shoot in the 60's around here I think it's a pretty good day for me.

Q. How important was it to get into those red numbers early, did it kind of make you feel more comfortable?

KELLY GIBSON: I thought it was very important. The course is playing extremely easy early on. The holes coming in 15 through 18 are playing tougher. But all of the holes prior to that were playing pretty easy.

So I anticipate the scores being a little bit lower than what they were.

Q. With the scoring, what's made the scoring so optimal today? What's it about the conditions of the course?

KELLY GIBSON: Well, it's just enough of a breeze to enable to you get home on No. 6 and a couple of the par-5s. Number 11 played fairly easy. The rain we had on Monday, the greens are fairly receptive right now. They're not as firm as they will be this Sunday. So they are rolling perfect. The golf course is in good shape. There wasn't enough of a wind to really be a factor.

Q. How special would it be to turn in a great performance on your home course the last time the tourney is played here?

KELLY GIBSON: Well, this has obviously been a great place for me. I love representing the City of New Orleans and *English* Turn as well. I look forward doing the

same over at *TPC*. It would be quite a present. My birthday is on Sunday. So maybe the stars are lining up for me.

Q. Can you talk about your fondest memory here?

KELLY GIBSON: The year one of my friends passed away, Tommy Moore, I shot 67 the first round. I dedicated that round to him. I was thinking about that while I was out there playing today. So even though it's been a while since that happened, those memories of he and I just coming out here and practicing, and trying to compete against the best players in the world. So when you get here, you know, when you play at home, it's difficult because you want to do so well, so you put added pressure on yourself.

Then I get out there, and it doesn't play like this any other time except for this week. The greens are so fast. I am hitting spots where I don't normally hit into. So it's a little bit of a challenge from that respect. But just thinking about that 67 a few years ago was bringing back good memories.

Q. What year?

KELLY GIBSON: I believe '98. I have to check. I'm getting too old for the memory.

(End of tape.)

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