

The Mitchell Company Tour of Champions  
Magnolia Grove Golf Course  
Mobile, Alabama  
November 12, 2005

### Third-round Interviews

#### Interview of Heather Daly-Donofrio

**THE MODERATOR:** Heather, great playing again today. Defending champion, you are not ready to let go of this crown, are you?

**HEATHER DALY-DONOFRIO:** No, I do not want to give up the trophy. My goal coming in was to give myself a chance at the end of the week. It's only the second time I have defended a tournament. I have been pretty nervous all week and I am happy that I have an opportunity to keep the trophy.

**THE MODERATOR:** Okay. Let's take questions.

**Q** Heather, talk about how things kind bunched up today. A bunch of you all started 4 behind, and the lead didn't really go anywhere today. And talk about how things have bunched up and what a shoot-out it's going to be tomorrow?

**HEATHER DALY-DONOFRIO:** I think the golf course played tougher today. The wind was much stronger today than it was the previous two days. We played the ball down which does make a difference. And the greens were much firmer and much faster than they were the previous two days. It was more difficult to hit the ball close to the hole. And I think that is probably why the score was bunched up. I think if you were further back in the pack it was easier to shoot better scores. This is the type of golf course when you are leading it becomes more difficult. It's a good golf course if you are coming from behind to shoot a low number I think, because the pressure is not quite the same. Once the pressure hits on this golf course it is very difficult and it's hard to make birdies. And Rachel had a phenomenal round yesterday it's hard to back that up. She was 9-under through 15 holes yesterday, which is remarkable. And I think that is sometimes hard to back that up. I mean there are some great players at the top of the leaderboard. I think tomorrow is going to be an exciting day. I think it's going to be very close. And I just hope I can get off to a good start. I think that will be the key.

**Q** The key for you today, I know you made good putts coming out of the stretch to hang in there or whatever?

**HEATHER DALY-DONOFRIO:** Yeah, the front 9 I hit the ball beautifully. I hit 8 out of 9 greens on the front 9 and it was an easy 9 holes. My back 9 I did not strike the ball as well. I had a lot of gut check times with the putter today. I made many putts 3 to 5 feet to save par on the backside or to make birdie. My putter really was the key to the round on the backside today.

**Q** Was there anything special about this course that you do like?

**HEATHER DALY-DONOFRIO:** Oh, I love the golf course tee to green. I think it's a great layout. I think the greens are extremely difficult. Because if you are not hitting your irons well you are on the opposite here than what you should be. It's very difficult to 2-putt. I had some just horrendous putts today to try to 2-putt, and I 2-putted most of them except for one. Until last year I never played this golf course good. I think it always intimidated me. But I hit the ball a little longer than the first year that I came here, and I strike my irons a little bit better. And I kept telling myself this week I shoot 19 under on this course, not 10-over like I have the previous three years before last year. I keep reminding myself that I can shoot good scores, and I can make a lot of birdies and that mind set does help.

**Q** I know you have had a lot of things going on this year. How proud are you that you have given yourself a chance to go in tomorrow to defend your title?

**HEATHER DALY-DONOFRIO:** I couldn't be happier as far as the position I'm in going into tomorrow. It's a little different than last year, and now I'm one behind. The mind set is a little different. I have to be a little more aggressive, I'm sure. But I have not had a great year playing. It's been a stressful year as far as my responsibilities off the golf course. So it's nice for my last tournament of the year to be in the final group trying to defend my title.

**Q** I was going to ask, does it make a difference being in the final group?

**HEATHER DALY-DONOFRIO:** It doesn't really. I like to be in the final group. You know, when you are a kid you always dream about sinking a putt on the final hole of a final group to win the tournament. You can't do that unless you are in the last group. I like being in the last group.

**Q** How did your last title defence go? Do you have any experience to draw from there?

**HEATHER DALY-DONOFRIO:** I barely made the cut. The previous one I made the cut on the number the last time. So I didn't play particularly well. This is a better defense effort.

**THE MODERATOR:** Scorecard?

(Scorecard)