

**2006 Wegmans LPGA
Locust Hill Country Club
Pittsford, NY
June 24, 2006**

Third-round leader quotes

AN INTERVIEW WITH HILARY LUNKE

(Interview by tape.)

Q. Congratulations, what went right out there today?

HILARY LUNKE: Definitely my putting, been talking about just waiting for my putter to get hot again. On the front 9 I just got a roll, I wasn't really hitting it too great, just kind of average. And once we start seeing the ball go in the hole, the pins look a lot bigger, and you get a lot more confidence and I'm just trying to keep it going out there.

Q. When is the last time you had a round like this, can you recall?

HILARY LUNKE: This is the lowest round that I ever shot 65. My low round prior to this is a 66, which was at the Betsy King tournament in Pennsylvania. And it was a similar round to this, I just kept hitting it decent and rolling the putts in, and like I said, it's really nice to gain confidence with the putter.

Q. What's been going on? You felt like you were on a verge of a break out today, you really felt that, didn't you?

HILARY LUNKE: Yes, I did. I'm just trying to stay patient, and I had a lot of questioning, left and right, what's going on with your golf game? And I knew I had it in me. And like I said, I'm hitting the ball way, waiting for my putter to get hot, and hopefully if I can improve my ball striking a little bit, and keep that putter going and try to ride the wave as long as I can.

Q. You had five straight birdies, have you ever had a birdie round like that before?

HILARY LUNKE: No, I haven't. I kind of realized it when I was about to make bogey on 12. I thought, it doesn't look like I'm going to make my sixth birdie in a row here. But I didn't realize I had quite that many in a row.

No, I don't think I've had more than three in a row before as far as I recall.

Q. What is the explanation for your year so far to this point, why?

HILARY LUNKE: I think it's just a matter, I'm not a long hitter. If I'm not doing everything right in my golf game, I'm going to miss the cut. I've only missed the cut -- I think I missed all of

them by just two shots, which a shot a day, a 3-putt here or a 4-putt there. Really my putting is what held me back this year. Like I said, my ball striking has been great.

It's funny I've learned -- I used to always complain about bad ball striking than putting, but I learned its way better to have it that way.

I went through a couple months of hitting the ball great, hitting 14, 15 greens and putting bad, and you just can't score like that.

If I can just keep my putter rolling like this, and if I can get my ball striking going the way I was a couple of months ago, I'd be very happy.

Q. What keeps you going mentally? What keeps you going through that? You know you are that close, you're that close, after a while that's got to get demoralizing?

HILARY LUNKE: I think just knowing that I'm on the right path.

There is a couple of times that I had to kind of turn around, turn to my coach, and turn to my husband and say am I going nuts here? Am I not about to play really good?

And they would say, you are. Just keep fighting, keep fighting.

I think if they would have said, no, you're really not hitting it as good as you think, or something like that, it would have probably taken away my confidence.

But just the fact that they were supporting me saying, you're about to breakthrough. And my dad said to me last night, go out and shoot 64 tomorrow. I tried to roll that last putt in to make it true. But just knowing that I've done it in the past. When I won the U.S. Open it kind of came out of nowhere. I had a good week here in Rochester and had missed a bunch of cuts prior to that.

So I just know with golf, what keeps me going, I know if you can keep fighting and keep patient, it's going to happen eventually.

Q. This is quite a battle going on right at the top, quite a struggle, what does it look like?

HILARY LUNKE: I haven't really thought about where I am in position to the rest of the field. I was just trying to play my game out there. I'm trying to make sure that I had my lowest round ever and try to take it one shot at a time. Obviously, I'm glad to have a later tee time tomorrow and hopefully be in the mix, and hopefully go out and shoot that 64 tomorrow.

Q. Not to get greedy, but you had nine birdies and two bogeys, just think if you had pars?

HILARY LUNKE: Yes, absolutely. Those two holes I feel like I should have made par, and a couple of the birdies that I had were some pretty long putts today. I probably shouldn't have made, so it always evens out in the end.

Q. What was your longest putt?

HILARY LUNKE: I made a pretty long putt off the green on No. 9, from the fringe that had to be a good 30, 35 feet.

Q. How do you keep the momentum going tomorrow?

HILARY LUNKE: Yes, I'm going to go out and hit a couple of balls right now, try to keep rolling the putter the way that I've. I've kind of had good putting thoughts this week, so I'm going to try to keep it rolling towards the hole, go get a good night's rest, have dinner with a couple of my friends. I'm really glad that I put my old trusty Ping putter back in my bag. It's the one that I won the U.S. Open with. I've been putting with another putter for most of the last year, and it just feels good to have my old baby back in my hands.

As I said, it feels comfortable, and I'm just going to try to keep that going and going into tomorrow.

Q. When did you put it back in your bag?

HILARY LUNKE: Three tournaments ago.

Q. And when you say you're not a long hitter, what do you average off the tee?

HILARY LUNKE: I have been hitting it -- obviously the ground is harder this week. I've been hitting it a little bit further. But you'd have to look on-line. But I feel like, I probably only fly my driver 210 comfortably. And then if it's rolling out, I'm probably averaging 240, but a little longer this week.

Q. Does that put a little bit of pressure on your putter and short game because you're not as long as you see people?

HILARY LUNKE: Absolutely, without a doubt. My game is dependent on my putting. I lived it the last six months. If I'm not putting well, I don't have a chance.

I was hitting it basically as good as I can, and I missed the putts. So I've got to be rolling my putter well to cover the distance.

Q. It's not a case of you making any major changes in your swing over the last year?

HILARY LUNKE: I have. I started seeing a new instructor. I started working with Chuck Cook last May, and I have tried to work on some things to help me hit the ball a little bit further. (Inaudible.) More than anything, it's a matter of hitting the ball solid, consistently.

When I hit it solid, it's shorter than average still, but nothing that's going to hurt me too bad. Just working on trying to hit my ball solid. And after I get that putter rolling, I know I can compete.

Q. Tell us more about that conversation that you had with your dad last night. Can you just expand on that a little bit?

HILARY LUNKE: Yes. I called him, he said, well, I saw that you had four birdies on your first nine, three bogeys, great going.

I said, yes, I drove it in the rough on those holes. I actually made nine pars on my second 9, dad, but I could have made four or five birdies. I'm hitting it close, just missed.

He said, that's okay, you're just saving them up, why don't you go out and shoot 64 tomorrow.

So I was thinking about that while I was out there today and, sorry, I left that last putt a little bit short, dad.

Q. Do you feel like you are in a similar way from three years ago?

HILARY LUNKE: Yes, I do. In a lot of ways it's funny. I should know, as well as anybody, that it can just come out of nowhere. There is no reason why I should be upset, spinning my wheels and stop being patient.

I think I missed 6 or 7 cuts in a row the year I won The Open. I had a good week in Rochester and went on to win my next tournament after that.

So it does in a lot of ways, it feels similar, especially with the putter rolling as well as it is. Just hopefully if I can hit the ball a little bit better, that's really what's held me back this week.

If I can keep that putter rolling, I know I can go low.

Q. How many birdies more than ten feet did you have, were there a bunch of them?

HILARY LUNKE: You said I had nine birdies total, is that right? I would say probably five of them were over. I would say. I can't really think right now.

Q. Can you talk a little bit, I saw in your bio about with Betsy King to the Honduras, and helping build homes for churches for children, can you talk a little bit about that?

HILARY LUNKE: Yes, absolutely. It comes from my faith. World Vision is a Christian organization. It was an awesome trip. A trip of a lifetime. I just really took a lot of perspective from that trip, and realize that golf is not that big of a deal. We were building homes that 6 or 8 people were going to live in that is smaller than my bathroom at home. It really just gave a lot of perspective. And they are falling over themselves, they are so happy and so thankful. Yes, my faith is something that's really helped me through tough times like this as well. That's something that I've really drawn on. Even out there today, trying to stay calm and asking God to just keep me patient and not get too far ahead of myself and just think of the shot at hand.

It's really what's gotten me through these lows in my career and help me keep perservering.

Q. Do you keep in touch with the people that you helped build the homes for, do you correspond with them?

HILARY LUNKE: No, we haven't yet. My husband and I sponsor a child down in Honduras, and we didn't get a chance to meet her when we were there. Her family couldn't bring her over. She lives about an hour and a half where we were. We keep in touch with her. We write letters back and forth with her. I haven't gotten to hear from the family that we've laid the foundation for their home. I think World Vision eventually, when the home is finished, they will send pictures to us, and we will write a letter and welcome them into their home.

Q. The girl's name is?

HILARY LUNKE: Suany, S U A N Y Carolina.

Q. How do you spell Carolina?

HILARY LUNKE: C A R O L I N A.

Q. Do you plan on going back down there?

HILARY LUNKE: I don't know. When we got back from the first time we said this is something that we should try to do every couple of years, just because, you know, I know how quickly you can forget the impacts that it had going down there and the perspectives that it gave us.

We didn't have time to go this off season, but I think it is something that we would like to try to do the rest of our lives. Essentially, when we have children, we are saying that every American teenager should be required to go down there. It just makes you so much more thankful for what you have. Not only that, you think you feel sorry for them that they don't have enough, but what you realize is they have enough, and we have too much and that's what's distracting. Hopefully, we'll go back to Honduras some day and get to go back to that village. But just going on mission trips in general is something that we plan to do every couple of years.

Q. Do you remember the name of the village by chance?

HILARY LUNKE: Yes, I think it was Yamaranguila,

Y A M A R A N G U I L A.

Q. On the golf course, how hard has it gotten for you compared to the height a few years ago?

HILARY LUNKE: You know, in a lot of ways I've hit -- I was low before winning The Open, and I was low right after winning The Open, so it's sort of just kind of happens. I had a couple of good weeks ahead of The Open. I think I raised my expectations too much, and thought that I should be hitting the Top-10 every week. Once I realize, and say, hey, accept the position you're in, go out and work on your game, go out and play golf as hard as you can, that's all you can do.

I've relaxed a little bit. You know, I haven't had the results that I've wanted, and obviously it's frustrating.

But like I said, I know that I was working on the right things, and I could tell that if I get my putter going, I know that I can shoot rounds like I can do.

Q. When did you stop using the Ping putter?

HILARY LUNKE: I stopped right before Tournament of Champions last year. So the end of the regular season last year.

Q. You only stopped using it for the first half of this year really?

HILARY LUNKE: Right. Well, I've gone back and forth a couple of times, but I think I'm pretty committed this time sticking to old faithful.

Q. The putter was the key to your round, it's an old putter?

HILARY LUNKE: Yes.

Q. Is there anything different in your head with the putter?

HILARY LUNKE: You know, I didn't really have the same cutting shot like I did when I won The Open. I'm trying to be a little bit more free flowing. I was a little more mechanical a couple of years ago. Just sort of see the line and roll the ball right down that line and that's all I'm thinking about.

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