

Chrysler Championship
The Westin Innisbrook Golf Resort
Copperhead Course
Tampa Bay, Fl

October 26, 2006

First-round tournament quotes

AN INTERVIEW WITH HEATH SLOCUM

TODD BUDNICK: We welcome Heath Slocum, the current clubhouse leader, a 4-under 67 today.

Heath, a nice round, just that one bogey on the third hole and then five birdies the rest of the way. Talk about today.

HEATH SLOCUM: I didn't get off to a very good start. I kind of struggled with my game. But I just survived. I just made the one bogey and backed that up with a birdie. When I made the turn, I drove it a little, I hit it in the rough on 10. After that I drove it better and gave myself better opportunities, and I just converted and made a couple of putts. Basically, I birdied both the par-3s on the back 9 which were playing pretty hard today with 3-irons for me. So I feel like I kind of stole a couple shots there.

TODD BUDNICK: You're having a pretty decent year. 86th on the Money List, kind of give us an assessment with the last tournament of the year, how your season went?

HEATH SLOCUM: Yes, I kind of expected a little more. I finished 50th on the Money List last year, really ended the year on a very high note.

So I was kind of expecting a little more. I have had some good finishes, kind of missed a few more cuts than I like.

But overall it's been a pretty good year. It's been productive. I feel like I've gotten better. Last week with a good finish, and going into this week playing well, I'm looking forward to the rest of the week.

TODD BUDNICK: Questions?

Q. How is the golf course playing?

HEATH SLOCUM: Hard as always. It's just a difficult golf course. Add a little bit of wind, you just have to hit the fairways out here. The greens are tough. From the fairway you can actually control it, obviously they spin a little better and try to stay below the hole most of the day.

Q. Is it a huge change from last week where you feel like you had to make a lot of

birdies there, where here that's not so much the case?

HEATH SLOCUM: It is different the way you play. I would say that maybe there are times that par is a good score. Last week you pretty much teed it up and tried to almost birdie every hole. I think the guys, we get that enough. We get enough mix in that you just have to, I'll say automatically, but you play to your spots, I mean, if you play here before. This is my sixth year here. Well, fifth. '01 we didn't play. I have seen the course enough. I know how I want to play it and how to attack it. It's just a matter of executing.

Q. Both par-3s you birdied you hit 3-iron?

HEATH SLOCUM: Yes.

Q. How much of a factor is the wind playing today?

HEATH SLOCUM: Actually it was starting to pick up a little bit. It would die a bit, pick up, blow a little harder. Those two holes, I just had perfect yardages with the wind. I made a good 20-footer on one and hit it in there six feet or so on 17.

And again, you just feel like you kind of steal a couple of shots there. Par is a good score on those holes. Two 2's, that helps out a lot.

Q. Where does this course rank in terms of the emphasis on length?

HEATH SLOCUM: On length?

Q. Is it throughout the course or just certain holes?

HEATH SLOCUM: Just certain holes I would imagine. I played with Trevor Immelman and Brent Geiberger, who both hit the ball pretty long. They hit quite a few 3-woods off some tees. I still hit a couple of drivers, more drivers than they do. There are a few holes too that you are just playing for position on most of this golf course. Length, I wouldn't say versus some other golf courses, it isn't a huge, huge advantage. But there are some holes with length you can take advantage of. Like 1, everybody hitting in the same collection area, you know, whereas I still can't get a 3-wood there. Some of the guys can get it there very easily. But from there, again, I have to play my game and just try to make birdies a different way.

Q. Any others besides 1 that you were hitting driver, and they weren't?

HEATH SLOCUM: Well, they actually hit driver there. But I think there were a few holes like maybe 7, I hit driver, they were both hitting 3-woods. Trevor hit a 3-wood off the last. It just tightens up a little bit, so 3-wood is a good play. Holes like 9 today, with a little bit of downwind, I might have been able to only hit driver there. I can't remember. I think you just basically hit to a lot of spots here. It's a harder golf course. Length isn't a huge, huge deal here.

Q. For a lot of the field there is something at stake whether it's the Top-30, Top-40 for The Masters, keeping their card. You are sort of in that area where you don't have to obviously worry about your card by any means, but you are a long way away from THE TOUR Championship. I wonder how you approach it, hey, I'm trying to win it?

HEATH SLOCUM: Just like I go to any other tournament. I'm actually trying to win the golf tournament. Obviously, the goal is to win and get in the Top-30. But Top-40 gets you in the Masters.

I don't know how the schedule works for invitationals, but Top-70, there are a lot of goals, just pride, I just want to play as well as I can and finish as high as I can every year. Like I said, I played well last week. I would like to end the year like I did last year on a

very high note and maybe just try to use that momentum and just get better. We have to worry about World Ranking points. There are a lot of things that go into everything every single week no matter what week it is that if you are trying to improve, you know, good golf takes care of it. Like I said, just going into this week, trying to win, build some momentum.

Q. Now that you shot 67, how does your mindset change going into tomorrow?

HEATH SLOCUM: It really doesn't honestly. Tomorrow is Friday. It's a day you are playing for position every single day. So I'm just going to go out and just try to continue what I've been doing. It's very important for me to hit fairways, hit some good shots, some good irons. I need to make some putts out here along with everyone else. Nothing changes tomorrow by any means. I just go play golf. I try to do the same thing every single round no matter what place or what position I'm in. I just try to go out and play my game and concentrate on that.

When I did that well, I generally play pretty well. You know, sometimes I don't do it so well and seem to get in my own way. If I just concentrate on that, I feel I will be all right.

TODD BUDNICK: Bogeys and birdies?

HEATH SLOCUM: On 3, I hit a rescue off the tee in the rough, chipped it short, or hit a 6-iron short of the green. Chipped it to about 15 feet and missed it.

On 4, I hit a 5-iron to probably 12 feet, 15 feet made that.

12, I hit a 3-iron off that tee. 8-iron in there about 15 feet and made it.

15, driver, laid up with a 4-iron.

TODD BUDNICK: 14.

HEATH SLOCUM: Yes 14, I laid up with a 4-iron, hit a good sand wedge in there about 12, 15 feet short of the hole and made that. 3-iron into 15, made a 20-footer there. 17, hit another 3-iron to about six feet and made that.

TODD BUDNICK: Thank you.
