

**60th Annual Bank of America Colonial
Colonial Country Club
Forth Worth, Texas
May 18, 2006**

First-round Quotes

AN INTERVIEW WITH BILL HAAS

THE MODERATOR: Bill Haas, thanks for joining us after a 4-under-par 66. This is your first appearance of the Bank of America Colonial, but you did win the Ben Hogan award back in 2004. And you were a past champion sponsor selection this week. Maybe just talk about your round today.

BILL HAAS: Today was good. Today it started off pretty solid. I'm missing some fairways. I did not drive the ball particularly great today. I took advantage, my misses were in the middle of bunkers which were no big deal and one hole, 15 a tough driving hole. I pulled it and it went straight through the tree limbs, and it ended up being fine in the rough. So I got some good breaks. It could have been a lot worst. My two bogeys on the front 4 and 5 were pretty stupid. So I could have saved those maybe.

THE MODERATOR: Questions?

Q Not to belabor that, but what do you mean by 'stupid', what happened?

BILL HAAS: Well 4 is a 250 yard par 3 and I had a 2-iron in the middle of the green. One of the better shots, and I 3 putted. And then the next hole it's probably the hardest driving hole on tour, No. 5. And I hit a 3-wood in the first cut of rough right kind of where I'm looking. And missed the green short right, and still a simple chip, and hit a terrible kind of chunk to my chip, came up 15 feet short and missed that. If you hit a good iron shot there and not 3-put the hole before, then it's easy to make pars on those two holes.

Q I'm curious we have a wave of guys parading in here who are playing here for the first time and can obviously find their way around. Is there something about the design of this place that kind of maybe there isn't a steep learning curve or, you know, that you can come out here the first time?

BILL HAAS: I don't know. I know there haven't been too many young winners. Sergio won here young. But there haven't been that many young guys win here, I don't think, I could be wrong. I don't know. I don't know how I can explain that. I was fortunate enough to shoot 66. I could have saved a couple and could have been lower, but it easily could have been higher. If you drive the ball well here you can score. And today the greens are softer, and so you can go at some pins from the fairway. As the week goes on the greens firm up and you will have to drive it onto the fairway. So I'm gonna have to improve on that.

Q Could you expound a little bit on the circumstances of getting into the tournament. Was that something you were hoping for or was that out in left field?

BILL HAAS: This is a tournament that everybody wants to play. You hear everybody talk about how great the golf course is. There is a few of 'em guys talk about Riviera, Westchester maybe, and here. A lot of old style golf courses that everybody loves to play. And in New Orleans three weeks ago I got a letter in my locker saying I got the past champions' sponsor exemption and that was neat. I played last week and took this week off. It worked out nice that I could take last week off and play here. This is pretty cool.

Q What is kind of your assessment of the season at this point and what your point of emphasis is from here on?

BILL HAAS: You know up until three weeks ago it would be easy for me to say I was disappointed, but then at Charlotte or at New Orleans actually I had top 20 there. And then top 5 in Charlotte. And now all of a sudden I'm feeling I'm having a good year. It shows you one or two weeks can make or break your year, and change your mind-set, and it kind of adds a little bit. It did today. I felt positive and aggressive out there. And I hope that I can continue going that way.

Q To follow up what is different about your game?

BILL HAAS: I would say in Atlanta I changed caddies and we talked a little bit. I got Henry Diana and we have worked on my grip strength a little bit, and narrowed my stance. I have done a little bit of minor swing changes, not swing exactly, but grip and stance. Pretty fundamental stuff, but it seems to have really helped me out a lot.

Q Bill, I know your dad played here. Did you get any scouting report from him coming in here or whatever you know you learned this week.

BILL HAAS: You know a little bit. I was washing my car at home last week and he was kind of helping me. He was going through it hole by hole. I remember him saying 4 is a 250 par 3, and 5 is the hardest tee shot, and the hardest hole on tour. And 14 is 470 and all of these holes. And man this place is going to be pretty tough. But he said, it's doable. You have to drive it in the fairway and make a few putts. The greens are beautiful. If you hit a good putt they seem to be going in.

Q As far as the champion's choice situation. It's early but Stockton won here the first time, and he is the only guy that did that. Did you give that any thought at all when you got the exemption as far as you could succeed to the level.

BILL HAAS: I didn't know that until last night at dinner, I sat with, Dave, Mr. Stockton, and he was talking about that. And you think about that. Sure in your head you dream about it. I would love to win and it would be neat to say that you are the past champion. I am thinking day-to-day. I don't think I have established myself, you sit here saying I want to win, I'm gonna win. To me I think those things and I try not to vocalize them.

Q Did you learn anything in particular about yourself being in contention on Sunday a few weeks ago?

BILL HAAS: A little bit. It was nice. You know 16, 17, and 18 at Charlotte are difficult holes. And I was telling myself play them even par, and you will finish well here. And I did that. That made me feel pretty good. But, you know, it's all experience. That is what I lack is experience. All young players lack that. And every round, and every week I feel like I'm learning something. You have to put yourself in those situations and hopefully one time they'll come out your way.

Q Just to follow up on something you said in a minute ago. Talking about Mr. Stockton. What percentage of guys out here are mister to you?

BILL HAAS: I think the guys that are playing out here would consider that rude because we're peers now. You know, I was calling Fulton, Fulty out there. And if I said Mr. Allen, he would curse at me. They definitely were three years ago when I was still in college and I would come out here and watch my dad play. I was seeing the guys older, and call them "Mister", and they would probably correct me and tell me to call them by their first name. I was brought up that way to call an elder of mine Mister, and southern I guess.

Q Because it's the background that you have and the exposure that you had along the way, do you feel like you are a rookie or do you feel like you have been around?

BILL HAAS: I feel like a rookie at times, and other times I feel comfortable. In the locker room I seem to be pretty comfortable with the guys, they are the guys before I got out of here that I saw and met and all of that stuff. Off the golf course I'm more comfortable than maybe other rookies. I'm seeing all of these courses for the first time. I'm playing on the Monday Pro Ams. I'm laughed off it seems like every week, and the worst tee times, I guess you could say. But if you play better, you work yourself into better tee times, and you work yourself into the Wednesday Pro Ams instead of Monday Pro Ams, so it's all motivational.

Q Have they sent you on the rookie snipe hunt yet?

BILL HAAS: No, I haven't heard of that.

THE MODERATOR: Anymore questions? Okay. Bill, thanks.