

The Mitchell Company Tour of Champions
Magnolia Grove Golf Course
Mobile, Alabama
November 11, 2005

Second-Round Interviews

Interview of Rachel Heatherington

THE MODERATOR: Rachel, thanks for coming in.

RACHEL HETHERINGTON: All right.

THE MODERATOR: We were just talking about this being your season low, 65 today. It surged you right to the top of the leaderboard, tied with Christina Kim halfway through. Your thoughts on that.

RACHEL HETHERINGTON: It's a great position to be in. It's nice to have a season low as well. Being a little bit kind of disappointed, I guess, with the season, so it's nice to be playing well this time of year. And I played some great golf in Korea a couple of weeks ago, and I got a couple tees in that week. And it's nice to continue it this week.

THE MODERATOR: Okay.

Q Rachel, you started off with two bogeys off the bat. How did you turn it around and you obviously you had an eagle at 4. Let's talk about how you went from a 2 birdie start to shooting 6 or 7-under?

RACHEL HETHERINGTON: Well, I actually have done it a couple of times this year. At the British Open I kind of did the same thing, I think I was 4 over after the first few holes, and made 7 or 8 birdies coming in.

It felt quite comfortable doing that out there today. The first two bogeys, I didn't hit overly poor shots, I just hit them a little short of the green and didn't get up-and-down, which can happen really easily out here. You can leave yourself with some tough positions with chipping and putting. And I wasn't all that disappointed with the start. I felt like I had hit some good shots. and then No. 4, I hit a really good drive. And a really good 7-wood onto the green. And made the putt for 20 feet for eagle. And it was nice to make those couple of shots in one hole. And I kind of thought okay, we'll start again. And I was hitting the ball well and timing the ball well. I felt fairly confident that I could make some more birdies.

Q At what point did you notice that you were getting back into the tournament?

RACHEL HETHERINGTON: I think I saw a leaderboard just short, just around the 9th hole, or somewhere just after that. I saw someone, I think, at 9-under. And then, you know, I thought, okay, I thought, keep playing hard. And I actually didn't see a leaderboard until I walked up 18, because I was looking, but every time I looked at the leaderboard there was an advertisement on. So I had no idea where I was. But, you know, I was happy with the way I was playing. It didn't matter where I was. It was a nice surprise at 18 to see me up there at 10.

Q Not only at 10, but you and Christina kind of separated yourselves from the pack. Is it too early to call it a two woman race?

RACHEL HETHERINGTON: It's the Tournament of Champions. We have all of the champions on tour here for the last few years, and a lot of great players that have played great golf over the last few years. I think on this golf course it could be anyone's. But I'm very happy with where I am. And it's a good place to be.

Q I missed the first bit, but did he ask what you felt that your season is? Just a general summing up of your season? I was a little disappointed with the way I have been playing, or I guess, my season as a whole. I played well in Korea and Japan. And I knew I had to play well in these three weeks to make the tour championship. And then I found early in the week that even if I won this week, it wasn't enough to get into a two- championship. So I'm pretty disappointed in that because, you know, it's a very special event. And I played in it for quite a few years. I am disappointed about that. But all you can do is do my best. And I actually learned a lot in Korea and Japan about the way I have been playing all year. A couple of things showed up, mostly my mental game. Playing well in Korea I realized how negative I played throughout the year, and I kind of let that creep in and affect my confidence. And I saw that in myself a little bit in Korea, and I have done a much better job in the last couple of weeks.

Q Are you going to Carrie's induction on Monday?

RACHEL HETHERINGTON: No, I'm unable to make it, which is a shame. It's fabulous. It's exciting. It will be great.

Q Knowing that you weren't going to have a chance to play next week, did that put extra focus on this event knowing it's going to be your last tournament of the year?

RACHEL HETHERINGTON: Yeah, I guess my pride is hurt a little bit because I'm not in the top 30. I have a little bit extra, I think, to kind of play for and finish on a high note this year.

Q It's been a couple of years since you have won. What's it like to be back in this position and to have a chance to end that spell?

RACHEL HETHERINGTON: Yeah, it's great. I guess I miss it. As I said before, I was playing well in Korea. I enjoy playing so much, and that is what you love, playing well, hitting the shots and enjoying that part of the game. And it's obviously something I've missed the last couple of years, and especially this year. It's so much more fun when you are doing what you want to over the golf ball, and doing a good job behind the golf ball. I'm just, you know, wanting to finish the year on a good note, and do some good work.

THE MODERATOR: We'll go over the scorecard.

(Scorecard)