

Zurich Classic of New Orleans
English Turn Golf Course
New Orleans, LA
April 30, 2006

Final-round tournament quotes:

AN INTERVIEW WITH CHARLES HOWELL, III

THE MODERATOR: Thank you, Charles, for joining us for a few anyone minutes in the media center at the Zurich Classic. I know it's disappointing to be a runner-up.

You got to be pretty proud of how you played this week and it's probably a good step in the right direction for you?

CHARLES HOWELL, III: Well, thank you. Obviously, it's a bit mix feelings as you could well imagine.

You know, I always had am sneaking feeling that somehow I was going to pull it out today. I don't know what it was. I had a few putts that looked like they were going to sort of miss, and they kind of fell in. I got a nice break on my second shot on 15, not going in the water and staying dry. The lie down there was horrific, but it's still better than wet. I just had a funny feeling that somehow it was going to sort of turn and go my way.

The finish was unbelievable. More so than him holing for the par on the last was the bogey made on 17 from the skulled bunker shot.

But it's those things that it takes to win. Chris played great. I hope those two holes there don't take away from how well he played. Because for the first 16 holes, I don't think he missed a shot. He played great golf. For a long time there I was just trying to hang in there with him.

The birdies at 11, 12 and 13 were just good enough to stay within distance of him.

Q. They say you always should always expect your opponent to make?

CHARLES HOWELL, III: Sure. When he hit his second shot I knew he caught a flier. From where he drove the ball, he actually would have been either better in the bunker or better off in the fairway. Where he was that's such a tough green to hit. He obviously caught a jumper there. He got a really bad break in the back of the bunker. After his first bunker shot it wasn't that bad. That ball could go anywhere from there, and I am sure he will tell you that. I was expecting him to get the ball up and down for 5. He is a great chipper. He had some great chips today. Never once did I expect him not to. To hole it, I watched him hit the shot. It looked like it came off good. Then I didn't see the ball go in. I heard the roar.

Q. What were you doing?

CHARLES HOWELL, III: I was looking at my putt.

Q. Charles, you had a couple of times where you've been in position to win, one comes to mind is Buick, the one that hit the flag and bounced in the water. You had some bad breaks, is that part of the game?

CHARLES HOWELL, III: Yes, I've lost a couple of playoffs, and I had that ball hit the flag and kick back in the water. Yes, I've had some exciting moments. The 18th hole here has showed us some. David Frost holed a bunker shot to get Greg.

But, you know, to be there and to be in a position to win, you know if I look realistically at this, coming from shooting 20 over at The Masters a few weeks ago, to having a good chance to win a golf tournament, you know that kind of gives some proof to the fact where I said I was on the right track and people were looking at me like I was crazy.

But it also shows that even today, I still see a lot of room for improvement to get better.

And the things that Brian Mogg, and I are working on, we are getting there with him. I don't have them yet.

Q. Putting is one of things you want to work?

CHARLES HOWELL, III: Everything. The whole heart of my game. It is basically, amongst all of the things that we've done, I think the best thing he's done for me is get me going back to church to be honest. Brian is a good Christian man and I think the best lesson he's ever given me was to get me back in church. I think you know it changed my life in a positive way. Gotten a few of my priorities straight and in line. Out here in this lifestyle, it's really easy to get off track with things. But above any lesson he's ever given me that's the best one.

As far as the golf goes we are working on tightening my dispersion patterns of my iron shots. We are working on controlling the ball better, three-quarter type shots, shots with the cross winds. And then around the green just some creativity. Going from looking at old video of Seve Ballesteros, around the green, to just him, he has a great short game, trying some things, try this, hit this. It's a work in progress, but we're getting there.

Q. Charles, have you been paired up with Chris before?

CHARLES HOWELL, III: Funny enough there was a college tournament, the Augusta State University tournament at Forest Hills, and I actually caddied for him in it. There was a junior program there where the local area juniors can caddy for college players, and he played for the University of Florida, and it was down between, I could pick Justin Leonard or Chris Couch that week. I don't know how old I would have been. He's 32 now, I'm 26. I picked Chris Couch over Justin Leonard and we finished second. Justin Leonard got us by a shot. I can remember all of the shots he hit. It was great. I caddied for him. This is Chris Couch, I'm carrying a college bag. Chris even said on the first hole today that he talked to his dad last night. He said, yeah that's that skinny kid that caddied for you a few years ago. It's like going from college caddy to TOUR runner up.

Q. What was about his demeanor today?

CHARLES HOWELL, III: The first thing I remember back to when I caddied for him, I never seen a golf ball hit that hard with a driver. That really got my attention. But even today, he played aggressive, the whole way around. He didn't look like a guy out there trying to win his first TOUR event. He hit a aggressive drives off of 15. He didn't bat an eye and land that ball up. You know, he just played aggressive golf the whole way. Part of the reason he hit the bunker skulled on 17 because the bunkers hadn't been raked. They were like concrete down there. I can promise you the normal bunker, he's going to get that ball up and down and make 4 at the worse.

He just played aggressive the whole way. He never was playing conservative or protecting never.

Q. You were hitting passed him pretty good today, what does that say about your length now? I don't know if he is getting any shorter.

CHARLES HOWELL, III: My body weight is just picking up huge.

CHARLES HOWELL, III: You know, actually, from caddying from him at that age was a big wake-up call to get on a work out program and learn how to hit the ball farther. Now I'm hitting the ball a long way, which is another thing as a byproduct from working with Brian. I picked up a bit of distance. It hasn't been what we are after.

Q. Charles, have you tried chipping cross handed?

CHARLES HOWELL, III: No, I never tried that, no, no. It worked today, didn't it? But, no, I haven't tried that. I remember hearing a year or so ago when he chipped it that he was chipping great. I hadn't been paired, he missed the greens and chips it in for birdie. Then again on 18. I don't think he will be switching back from that.

Q. One off the lead and you shoot 65?

CHARLES HOWELL, III: Yes.

Q. Did you think that would be?

CHARLES HOWELL, III: Welcome to the TOUR, isn't it? I thought 65 today would have won. I didn't think that the wind was going to die down like it did. I thought we were going to have a bit of wind the whole day. When the wind died, and looking at the leaderboard, I saw Lucas Glover at 9-under. I saw Fred Funk 7, eight and nine finishing at 10. Seeing that, it was going to take, I thought then 19 to 20-under to win at the tournament.

Q. Does Brian also work with Kim?

CHARLES HOWELL, III: I have no idea. And I can't spell it.

Q. K I M. How old do you think you were when you caddied for him?

CHARLES HOWELL, III: He's six years older than me.

Q. He will be 33 tomorrow.

CHARLES HOWELL, III: So he's about seven years older than I am. I must have been 12.

Q. Was he a freshman?

CHARLES HOWELL, III: Freshman sophomore. I would have been 12 or 13 caddying for him.

Q. How much did you weigh?

A. U.S. junior I was 14 I weighed 95. I would say about 86. I way 153 now. I've gained 3 pounds.

Q. Charles, do you remember giving him advice when you caddied for him?

CHARLES HOWELL, III: No, I do remember one story though, and he doesn't know this one, the fifth hole is a dogleg right par-4. He drove it in the lip of the bunker. The ball buried in the bunker, and I can just remember this. I asked him, I said, do you want me to get the yardage. And he kind of snapped back. I don't think it matters now, does it? I don't know why I can't remember that. I can just remember it. I guarantee you he is going to think no, I didn't say that. Yes, it scarred me bad. I just remember that he was a great player then. And to be honest, I'm surprised this is his first victory out here. From seeing then how he played in college, and everybody knows how good Chris Couch is, I'm sure this is the first of many and more to come from him.

Q. Why did you pick Chris over Justin that day?

CHARLES HOWELL, III: I don't know.

Q. You wanted someone bigger than you?

CHARLES HOWELL, III: That's bad. That's coming from a Sooner right there.

THE MODERATOR: Everybody all set?

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