

**Zurich Classic of New Orleans  
English Turn Golf Course  
New Orleans, LA  
April 27, 2006**

**First-round tournament quotes:**

**AN INTERVIEW WITH JEFF SLUMAN**

THE MODERATOR: Thank you, Jeff, for joining us for a few minutes here in the media center at the Zurich Classic of New Orleans.

You and I were out on the range talking early in the week; you were telling me about your little injury.

It looked like it only took you about 12 or 13 holes to get warmed up with those six birdies there to finish up.

JEFF SLUMAN: I was shocked as anybody that I'm up here. I played nine holes Friday in Chicago last week, and I played 18 holes in the commissioner's cup on Monday. Nothing Tuesday, because it was a little sore. And then we got washed out yesterday.

I'm starting here thinking, you know, just see if you can make 18 holes and maybe make 36 holes. I hit a lot of good shots. I don't know what happened, but pleased to be here obviously.

THE MODERATOR: Questions?

Q. Jeff, is it medial?

JEFF SLUMAN: They said it was a partial of the MCL left.

Q. Can you give us any detail on exactly how it happened?

JEFF SLUMAN: I was going about negative one mile an hour, because I was going so slow on my very first and very last run in skiing history for me. I fell down and the left leg went out. The binding didn't release, and I heard this big pop in my knee. That's when I knew I probably made a mistake.

Q. Jeff, where was it?

JEFF SLUMAN: Sun Valley.

Q. What kind of slope were you?

JEFF SLUMAN: It was the bunny slope, extra level bunny slope.

Q. What convinced you you should try this at this particular point?

JEFF SLUMAN: I just said I've been very cautious my whole life. My daughter skis and my wife, going out with friends. I said really what could happen? Come on. I got a good rate on the \$25 dollars rental. It saves a little cash that way.

Q. Have you skied before?

JEFF SLUMAN: Never. That was the first and I can absolutely say last time.

Q. When you were laid up immediately, did you consult with anyone?

JEFF SLUMAN: I tried to call you, but you were too busy. Who were you chasing down in Atlanta? Phil, probably.

Q. I wasn't in Atlanta. Did you call any other players or anything?

JEFF SLUMAN: No. I called Fax because he's got experience with knee injuries, doing them in a nonconforming way, you know. His is still worse. His knee injury was worse than mine. I was doing something legitimate. I wasn't trying to, you know, have a medicine ball between my legs and jump up and catch it and fall on the ball. He still has got me beat in dummy moves for injuries.

Q. When did it happen?

JEFF SLUMAN: It happened four weeks ago yesterday.

Q. What was the reaction when you called him?

JEFF SLUMAN: Noooooo, that was it. It was just like that.  
(Laughter.)

Q. Do you wear a brace or anything?

JEFF SLUMAN: I have a brace on, yes.

Q. Does it restrict a lot of movement for you?

JEFF SLUMAN: A little bit right now. It's real comfortable in the heat though.

THE MODERATOR: It's a little cooler today.

Q. Jeff, you are really surprised that you are up here?

JEFF SLUMAN: Shocked, absolutely shocked. But you got to come out and try to compete some time.

Q. I was going to say, has Katrina and all of this stuff, is that one reason why you are here?

JEFF SLUMAN: You know really, absolutely, I ran into Emmeril, got to be decent friends with him, and he said you just have to come. It's important. And then Commissioner Finchem, at the Commissioner's Cup on Sunday. So I felt it was imperative to come down here. When Tim asks you to come down here, you like to try and do that.

Q. (Inaudible)?

JEFF SLUMAN: Well, I'm hoping I can get out of here soon enough to ice it. I'm hoping everything is going to be all right. It didn't feel real bad. I hit a few balls afterwards. I will go and grab something quick to eat and go get it iced.

Q. Were you pretty concerned when it happened?

JEFF SLUMAN: Well, I wasn't overly concerned after they said it wasn't an ACL. First they said MCL, four to six weeks to heal, and you got to go through some stuff. It wasn't so bad. It's kind of nice to be home actually for a month.

Q. You didn't play at all during that month?

JEFF SLUMAN: No, no, definitely not.

Q. Don't you have a history of putting off surgery or aches and pains and still play, or am I making this up; be it a shoulder or a back?

JEFF SLUMAN: Well, I think surgery should always be your last option.

Q. Aren't you married to a doctor?

JEFF SLUMAN: Yes, I am. I had a few things, maybe I could have had surgery on that I didn't. I'm obviously glad I didn't because I healed. Are we going to talk golf?

THE MODERATOR: Let's talk about the holes you played. Starting at the 11th one.

JEFF SLUMAN: Birdie 11, I hit it, it was playing different into the wind and laid it up about 80 yards and hit it about 10, 12 feet. Nothing special there.

12 and 13, you know, kind of got me thinking, geez, it was a pretty easy shot on 12 and pulled it way left in the bunker, and blasted ed out about six feet and missed that.

13, I missed the fairway to the right with one of those rescue clubs.

I came up just short of the green and had a bad chip to about eight feet and missed that, and you are kind of like, oh, boy I hope I don't shoot 90 today and embarrass myself.

I made a couple of nice par saves on say 16 and 17 and then hit a beautiful shot on 18. A little under three feet. I saw the ShotLink, that's why I know it was a little under three feet.

Q. What was the choice of club?

JEFF SLUMAN: 7-iron. And then 3 pars. But I started hitting solid shots. I was keeping it in play and everything. I felt like I was controlling the golf ball pretty well.

4, I hit a gap wedge to about eight feet. Make that.

5, I hit a nice second shot right down the pin. That was probably the long putt I made. It was maybe 15, 18 feet. 19 feet, how about that?

6, I laid it up. I just didn't quite have enough to get there. The pin was in a funny position, so I laid it up. Lucas said it should have gone in, it didn't. It got right to the front edge and spun back to one foot eight inches.

7, Woody Austin had a little unfortunate break, so I was kind of laughing at that to myself.

Q. Would you like to share that with us?

JEFF SLUMAN: No, we don't need to share that one with anybody.

Q. Is his head okay?

JEFF SLUMAN: Yes, his head is just fine. I hit a 7-iron from 170 yards to just past the hole, 11 feet, 5 inches, made that.

8, was kind of straight downwind, which I hit an 8-iron to four feet.

9 is wrong. ShotLink is wrong. Oh, my God? I hit a 3-wood off the tee and hit a wedge in there about six feet. It says one foot.

THE MODERATOR: We will get it fixed.

JEFF SLUMAN: Stick with the one foot, it makes me look better.

Q. Woody was the only guy that was healthy in your group today?

THE MODERATOR: No, Glover.

JEFF SLUMAN: Lucas Glover.

THE MODERATOR: DiMarco is coming in next, you can pick on him.

JEFF SLUMAN: He is a better skier than me, so he shouldn't fall.

Q. When you are swinging, that's kind of an impact, isn't it?

JEFF SLUMAN: No, it's actually on the back swing is where the knee wants to kind of -- your lateral sport, that's what that MCL is for. It kind of wants to open up. It is kind of a strange feeling to tell you the truth.

Q. If it was your right knee?

JEFF SLUMAN: I think the right knee would be worse than the left knee, probably drive off of it.

You know, I feel really lucky because it could have been a lot worse. I'm here after four weeks. So my skiing career is officially over.

Q. Have your peers been fairly sympathetic to you, fellow players?

JEFF SLUMAN: They are calling me Bode Miller and all of that stuff. They are very sympathetic to me. They are almost all crying in the locker room. They are going to feel really bad for me after today's round.

Q. If you have not been here under these circumstances, would you have probably played here?

JEFF SLUMAN: Oh, yes, I was going to play anyway, talking with Emmeril and that.

Q. Were you here because of Emmeril and the circumstance?

JEFF SLUMAN: Yes, I wanted to try it out a little bit. That pushed me over the top to make sure I was going to come. He told me it was very important to come.

THE MODERATOR: Thank you, Jeff.

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