

**PODS Championship
Innisbrook Golf Resort
Copperhead Course
Tampa Bay, Fl**

March 4, 2008

Pre-tournament quotes

AN INTERVIEW WITH J.B. HOLMES

JOHN BUSH: We would like to welcome J.B. Holmes into the interview room here at that the PODS Championship. J.B. thanks for coming by and spending a few minutes with us. Obviously a great start with your win at the FBR Open. If you will start about the state of your game heading into the week.

J.B. HOLMES: Yes, I'm playing good this year. Coming into the week I feel good. I took off last week but I got some good practice in and still hitting the ball really good, putting well, hitting it good off the tee. I feel like I'm going to play good this week.

JOHN BUSH: And a Top-10 finish here last year.

J.B. HOLMES: I really like this golf course. It's a hard golf course. They have a thick rough and the greens are fast and firm. So its always a pretty good feel. I enjoy coming down here and playing.

JOHN BUSH: Questions?

Q. What kind of golfers set up well, do you have to hit a big booming drive?

J.B. HOLMES: No. I don't even hit very many drivers out here. I hit a lot of 5-woods, 3-irons, stuff off the tees. I think anybody can win out here. It's a golf course where you got to place it off the tee in the right spot. You got to hit a good iron shot, the greens are back to front pretty steep, so you got to stay below the hole. It's a tough golf course. You got to putt well and do everything pretty good.

Q. Your swing coach, I'm forgetting hits name.

J.B. HOLMES: Matt Killen (sp).

Q. That's the guy that Kenny has been using for a while. How far are you guys apart in age?

J.B. HOLMES: I think I'm three years older than him.

Q. Does that seem odd to you at all?

J.B. HOLMES: Not really. I mean we have become good friends, too. But, you know, if you just give him a chance, if anybody at a young age, a lot of people write him off, off the bat. But if you give him a chance and just watch him, he knows just as much as anybody else, how it works. A lot of people say, how can you do that at a young age? That's his talents, his gift. He is really good at it. He has been teaching Kenny Perry since he was 18 years old. That's when Kenny won three out of four tournaments in a row, is when Matt was starting to work with him. He has been teaching elite players for four or five years. He is experienced, believe it or not.

Q. When did you guys start?

J.B. HOLMES: Probably towards the end of my first year on TOUR. I met him. I met him before. We talked then and worked a little bit with him. I probably started working with him probably the next year. Probably the mid beginning of my second year.

Q. You have always been self taught mostly?

J.B. HOLMES: Yes.

Q. Not a formal swing Coach?

J.B. HOLMES: In college, my coach a little bit. Never a swing lesson. Even with Killen we are working mostly on maintaining my full swing. I worked with him on wedges, and little things I need to do to get better and not really reconstructing my swing or anything like that.

Q. Do you have any kind of a fitness routine?

J.B. HOLMES: I'm starting to get into one.

Q. Reluctantly?

J.B. HOLMES: I don't really like to work out. But I'm starting to run a little bit, watch what I'm eating more. I was going to ride the, I'm young and I can do whatever I want to, as long as I could.

Q. Newlywed that helps too?

J.B. HOLMES: Yes. I can see where it's not going to work for a whole lot longer. I'm going to start working out. I'm not going to get ripped or anything. But stay in shape, good enough to play golf, prevent injuries if more than anything.

Q. Is the venue for the Ryder Cup this year make it more important for you, or give it anymore sense of trying to make the team?

Obviously you want to make it any way.

J.B. HOLMES: Well, it's always a big goal. But to have it. I don't know how many people that have the opportunity to play on the Ryder Cup team and play in their home state. That's a very big thing for me. It does give me more incentive. Any time you can play for the country, it's an unbelievable honor. That's my main goal this year. And hopefully, I'm off to a good start and continue to play well and hopefully get on that team.

Q. I don't know how much golf on T.V. you watch, but as you watched the end of that Match Play did you get sick of watching that finish?

J.B. HOLMES: I didn't even watch it afterwards. I saw it once. That was enough for me. He made the putts when he needed to. What can you do? I played well. I beat him all day. And he makes a lot of putts at the end. That's why he is best player in the world. Even when he doesn't have his best stuff, he comes back. When he has to do it, he does it.

Q. Is winning the second time around been more fun than the first time or has it been different?

J.B. HOLMES: It's different. You don't quite linger, hang on to it as much as the first one. It was more of a lifestyle change the first time from nobody knowing who you are to a lot of hype. And this time, I won before, I kind of knew what to expect after I won. I enjoy it, and go to the next tournament and play and keep playing and not hold on to it.

Q. It had to be worth some extra bonus goosebump's beating the guy you beat the second time around?

J.B. HOLMES: Yes, definitely. Any time you win in a playoff. It doesn't matter who it is. It's good to be able to come up in a clutch situation. But especially to do it to one of the best players in the world, and such a great player that Phil is, to do that, it's always an honor.

Q. Did winning so early in your first year give you any false sense of how hard or easy it might be? I was wondering.

J.B. HOLMES: Yes. I came out really my first year, came out of Q-School and it was cold in Kentucky, so I didn't get to play that much. I practiced a couple of days before I went to Hawaii. Then I played one round in Hawaii, and I pulled a muscle, so I didn't practice in Hawaii. I got 10th in Hawaii. Then the next week, my back flared up. I didn't play the next week. And I got 26th at San Diego.

So it was my third tournament, and I won and I hadn't really practiced that much. I thought this is easy. I should win every week. Obviously, that's not the case. I was just playing really good there. I was making putts. Like I said, I hadn't practiced a ton, but I had practiced. I was really high to be able to get on the TOUR, and prove I was focussed, and I won it.

Obviously, I figured, that statement was false really quick. I figured that out. You are playing against the best players in the world, every week, it's not easy out here. It's hard to Top-10 it. It's a great field.

You know, in the last year I kind of -- I don't know what was going on last year. It wasn't good. I didn't play well. I wasn't as focused as I needed to be.

This year, my life is a little bit more in order, and I am more focussed on what I need to be doing. I am practicing on what I need to be doing, and practicing the right way. It's improving and the results are showing.

Q. Apparently, the plan next year is to shake up the Florida Tour next year, the Florida swing. It will go Honda, Doral, here and then Bay Hill which means world golf championships, 2 within three weeks. Is a tournament just a tournament, and you just go play, does that get cluttered?

J.B. HOLMES: That will change some people on what they play. People really like Honda, they'll play Match Play Honda and that. That's three weeks in a row.

Some people might skip Bay Hill, or they might skip Tampa, not wanting to. They might really like the golf course, but want to play in the tournament, but you can't skip one of those. You go three or four or five weeks in a row, and you will wear yourself out. Sometimes you don't want to miss tournaments. You don't want to miss. It might close some people's schedules wanting to play something else. Not wanting to playing something else, but just having to.

Q. J.B., TV has made a minor issue out of your routine at Phoenix and a little bit in Match Play. Could you talk about when that started?

J.B. HOLMES: It's just kind of eeked in. I am working on that. A lot of old habits kick in when you are under pressure. You are playing for a million dollars. If somebody things I'm slow, or taking long, I don't really care. I'm doing what I need to do to hit the shot when I get ready. Personally, I don't want to take that long. I would rather be able to take 2 swings real quick and get up and hit it. I'm working on that.

If I got to take that long to make a birdie on a hole, or make an eagle, or make a putt to win a tournament fine, I'll do it. That's fine. I don't care. I would rather be slow and win than rush something, hit a bad shot and not win. I think anybody would say that.

Like I said, it's something I'm working on. I don't want to be that slow. It's just kind of something that's crept into my game. I am working on it.

Q. Has a player said anything to you?

J.B. HOLMES: No, it doesn't take much. You know they don't really like it. In Match Play I don't think it's bad. You might get

under somebody's skin in Match Play. Match Play might do that. If I do speed it up, maybe in Match Play, get real slow again. If it bothers people why not in Match Play?

Q. When you are over the ball --

J.B. HOLMES: When I'm over the ball, sometimes it's pops in my head quicker than others. So like I said, I'm not proud of it. I don't like doing that. It's just kind of something that's crept into my game. I am working on it. I would like to get rid of it. I am sure I will over time. It's not something that's going to be real easy to kick out.

Q. Have you ever played with someone who tried to slow play you?

J.B. HOLMES: When I was real younger I played fast. I mean I didn't know how to play golf when I was younger, I just got up and hit the ball.

Q. Younger is third grade now?

J.B. HOLMES: I was just trying to hit the ball in the third grade. Now I think it matters. I can play as slow as anybody wants to play. Or I can play fast, whatever.

JOHN BUSH: Anything else?

Q. You mentioned working with Matt on wedge play and short games, things like that?

J.B. HOLMES: That's obviously where everybody scores. It wasn't bad. I mean nobody gets on TOUR with the bad short game or anything like that. It needed to be improved compared to the standards out here. I have improved. As long as I am able to hit as many wedges, as I am able to have in the greens, if I can get to where I am good, or one of the better wedge players in the world, it would be a lot better for me to win. That's something I'm working hard on, trying to get better at my wedges and it's starting to pay off a little bit. I'm hitting my wedges closer when I have the opportunity. So, hopefully, I can continue that and get better.

Q. Have you talked to Azinger at all?

J.B. HOLMES: Yes, I played a couple of practice rounds with him this year.

Q. What does he say?

J.B. HOLMES: He came up to me at the beginning of the year and said he would like to have me on the team in Hawaii. He said, don't put extra pressure on yourself. Just go out there and play and do the best you can, and I got off to a pretty good start.

Q. What kind of sense do you get for him as far as a captain? I don't know you haven't been on many cup teams. You have played on Walker cups?

J.B. HOLMES: I think he is going to be good. Maybe somebody in

there to shake things up a bit. We need something like that. Obviously, what we've been doing hasn't been working. I think he gets 4 picks this year. I think that's good. He changed the point system to all of the points counting this year instead of two years. You get the players that have been playing well. He gets 4 picks. Take a chance on somebody that's run three weeks in a row, Top-10, Top-10 and they win won. If they are hot, why not put them out there. I think that's good.

Q. I suppose you would like to see some fresh blood thrown in there, too?

J.B. HOLMES: Definitely. Keep sending the same people, and it's not getting it done, maybe some younger people. Maybe just different. Just mix it up, and see what happens. Obviously, what we have done is not working. What happens if they change it up and we lose. It doesn't matter. We're sending the same people and lose any way. It's the same result. You can mix it up and throw them off their game and kill them or just win. It's worth a shot in my opinion.

Q. Have you ever been to The Masters's yet?

J.B. HOLMES: I never played at Augusta. I watched once.

Q. What year did you watch?

J.B. HOLMES: The year Tiger won by a million.

Q. '97. How old were you?

J.B. HOLMES: 17, 16. I was in high school.

Q. You got tickets through?

J.B. HOLMES: My grandpa knew somebody and the friend was nice enough to let me and my father go watch during the week. That was a real treat for me at the time.

Q. What round?

J.B. HOLMES: All 4.

Q. Who did you follow if anybody?

J.B. HOLMES: I didn't follow anybody. We walked the whole golf course the first two days and the last couple of days we picked a hole and we sat on 9, sat on 16. Just kind of watched everybody come through, walk through every day. Tired of fighting through the crowds.

Q. Were you getting a sense you were watching a hurricane arriving on the scene that year with you know who? Something was building? Not really?

J.B. HOLMES: I watched him. He hits it so far. He hits it so far. He got on a hole, and he hit it out there, I looked at my dad, and I said, that's not that far. Of course, I didn't know how far I hit it at the time. I was longer than the people in my club.

There are not a lot of dominant golfers that came out of there. I can hit it that far. Obviously, he came in and won like that. And continued to do that. I can't say he is a lot of talk. He won one. He is not going to do that all the time. But he started doing it all the time. Probably more afterwards you feel like that. He played great that week.

Q. If you had lost that Match Play thing -- if you had been behind all week and caught him, and lost on the 18th hole, would you feel good about it, or better about it? You push the guy all the way to the 18th hole.

J.B. HOLMES: I played well. If the guy doesn't make 90 feet worth the putts in four holes. If I was behind all day, I would feel I probably wasn't playing that good. So I would be disappointed. I played pretty good all day. I will be glad to be able to fight back at the end. I will be proud of that. But I still lost.

Q. Have you had any plans to go up to Augusta before the tournament?

J.B. HOLMES: Yes. I am wanting to get up there and go play a couple of practice rounds. I don't know exactly when, but I'm hoping to get up there before the tournament starts and try to play and see around. I hear it's a pretty tricky golf course, the approach shots. Maybe get some practice rounds with some experienced players that have been out there and try to get a little bit of their knowledge.

Q. So you haven't been there since '97?

J.B. HOLMES: No. I heard it's changed. Every change has been beneficial to me. They are making it longer. That's fine with me.

JOHN BUSH: J.B. thanks.

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