

**Zurich Classic of New Orleans
TPC of Louisiana
Avondale, La
April 29, 2005**

Second-round leader quotes

AN INTERVIEW WITH J.J. HENRY

THE MODERATOR: Thank you, J.J., for joining us for a few minutes. I know it's late and you want to get home. Why don't you just talk about the day a little bit, you played great this afternoon.

J.J. HENRY: Thank you. Yes, another real kind of stress free day to be honest with you. Again, I feel real comfortable for some reason on this golf course. It really suits my eye. I like the way most of the holes fit. I'm driving the ball well. My ball striking has actually been great for the last couple of weeks and my putter is finally catching up.

So, you know, again I'm just trying to just go out and enjoy and play golf and have fun and it's worked well the last two days.

Q. Is this the best you felt?

J.J. HENRY: Yes, this is my 5th year out here, I've put myself in position a couple of times. I think I'm finally realizing where living and dying by every shot is not the way to win golf tournaments out here. So, I'm trying. It's hard for me, but I'm trying to just go out and enjoy myself and have fun, and whatever happens happens.

To be honest with you, I was able to do that today. I only made one mistake all days I made two bogeys in 36 holes and both of them were all pretty good golf shots.

I feel pretty comfortable right now. I'm looking forward to hopefully playing well on the weekend.

Q. J.J., can you talk about how you like to play comfortable, and just have fun, it's an easy thing to say but it's difficult to do, isn't it?

J.J. HENRY: Without a question. I have been struggling on that for a while. I have been a little bit kind of down on myself because I really haven't gotten off to a real good start this year. I feel a lot of my parts of my game have been great, but I haven't been able to put it all together. Regardless of what happens this weekend, obviously, I'm playing well to hopefully stay in the hunt.

But I feel like I'm finally starting to put all of the pieces together, so hopefully I'm looking forward to a lot of good things throughout the rest of the year.

Q. When you played in Houston last week, did that give you some sort of up beat?

J.J. HENRY: Well, to be honest with you, I didn't play real well on the weekend. I made the cut. I really kind of struggled on the greens. I spent about four or five hours Wednesday afternoon on the putting green messing around with some different putters and some different things.

I just went back to one that I kind of started the year off with, and I happened to putt great.

My speed is real good out here. I think with as sloped and as mounded as some of these greens are with the wind blowing the last two days, to be able to control your speed on these greens is a huge plus.

Q. You say you are starting to put everything together, 10-under, what's the best thing you've done the last two days?

J.J. HENRY: Without a doubt I think the speed of my putts have been great. I don't think I have 3-putted. Again, there is not a whole lot of trouble out there. There is some bunkers and you can get into some bad spots. I have driven the ball well, and I just put myself in the right positions.

But without question, with how windy it was yesterday and today, and how mounded some of these greens are, the speed of my putts has been tremendous.

Q. Can you talk about your putt on 8?

J.J. HENRY: Well, I was, to be honest with you, like you mentioned, the wind kind of died on about my 15th hole. And I knew I had, at the time, which was three holes downwind which were all virtually kind of birdie holes today with the way it was playing. I was kind of upset at myself that I ended up making a par on the 7th hole which is a very reachable par-5.

Then I hit a great job on eight, I took an aggressive tee shot and I had 60 yards to 70 yards to the 8th hole and just hit kind of a bad shot and got a little bit frustrated. But I was able to kind of salvage it and make a great putt.

Q. How long was that putt on 8?

J.J. HENRY: Probably 30 feet, 35 feet.

THE MODERATOR: 32 feet.

J.J. HENRY: It was a tough put. To be honest with you I was just trying to get it somewhere close to the hole.

THE MODERATOR: 33 feet.

J.J. HENRY: I made a great par. I made a great par on my 10th, which kind of kept the round together. I think I blocked it in the right woods, punched out, and hit a great little wedge shot to four feet to kind of salvage the round, kind of midway through the day there.

Q. Have you ever been in this position on the TOUR, one shot out of lead after 36?

J.J. HENRY: Not a whole lot. I think a couple of times I have. I've finished second twice out here. I've had kind of spurts of good things.

THE MODERATOR: You have been a first-round leader a couple of times.

J.J. HENRY: Yes, I have been a first-round leader a couple of times. I mean, obviously, we are all competitors. This is what we look forward to do. I'm looking forward to play.

Q. Do you know much about Arjun?

J.J. HENRY: I really don't. I know he is a really nice guy. I never played with him. I think this is his second year out here. I'm looking forward to it. I don't know him real well. He is very cordial hello and stuff. Obviously, he is playing great, I think he played real well in Atlanta, so I'm sure he's playing real well.

Q. The final pairing tomorrow with Henry and Atwal isn't exactly what the people anticipated entering the tournament?

J.J. HENRY: I think it's a credit to the TOUR really. As a player, there is 156 guys that play each week and probably 140 of them are good enough to win. So I think it's just a credit as to how good the players are. Obviously, the marquee names and the top players in the world from a World Ranking stand point. But it goes to show you, any given week, or given couple of days, there is 140 guys out here that could really play good golf. Obviously, that's the case. Virtually every week somebody plays well.

Q. What's the closest you've come to a win on the TOUR?

J.J. HENRY: Well, '01, I think Frank Lickliter ended up winning the tournament, made about a 15 foot double breaking putt to beat me by a shot.

THE MODERATOR: In Washington.

J.J. HENRY: At the Booz Allen. I lost by a shot and he made a great putt to beat me on the last hole. And I lost by two shots to Justin Leonard at the Texas Open the same year. I've been close a couple of times, but I've never gotten over that hump.

Q. J.J. with the winds the way they have been blowing, are you surprised at 11?

J.J. HENRY: To be honest with you, I am. I was trying to stay patient today. I thought anything under par would be a great score. I'm surprised, how low the cut is, I think it's even or 1-over. I mean, a golf course that nobody is familiar with. The wind blew probably steady for two days up 20-plus miles an hour. Again it's a credit as to how good the players are. To be honest with you, I thought it played very difficult. I hung in there well, and made some putts and played very well. But, you know, I'm impressed with how long the scores are, there is no doubt.

Q. What got you started in this game, any story there?

J.J. HENRY: My dad has played in U.S. Amateurs and British Amateurs. I was exposed to golf at a high level at a young age. I've caddied for him in U.S. Amateurs and different things. I was very athletic growing up, I enjoyed playing all sports. But my dad for sure had the most influence as far as getting involved in golf.

Q. Is he here?

J.J. HENRY: No, he is not here, no. No, he is not here this week. I'm sure he is watching or watching the computer.

THE MODERATOR: Thank you, J.J., for joining us.

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