

60<sup>th</sup> Annual Bank of America Colonial  
Colonial Country Club  
Forth Worth, Texas  
May 20, 2006

### Third-round Interview

## AN INTERVIEW OF RICHARD JOHNSON

**THE MODERATOR:** Richard Johnson, thank for joining us. Your third consecutive round in the 60<sup>th</sup> s<sup>h</sup>. A 68 today had to be a good score with the conditions of the golf course. And nobody is making a big rush. It looks like you are in a good position heading into the final round. Maybe some opening comments on a good day and a good week for you so far.

**RICHARD JOHNSON:** Yeah, it was a nice round. It was a kind of a round that you get up on the first and you are like, hit the fairway, hit the fairway, missed it. And I pitched it out and I flew the next one in the hole on the third shot, but it came out and rolled up to about 6 feet. I was like, oh, is it that kind of day, it don't go in. And I make a good par save on the next. And I just went on from there. I made a lot of nice par putts today from 6 to 8 feet, and that is really what kept me going. I wasn't hitting it as good today as I was yesterday, but it could be with the blustery winds as well.

**THE MODERATOR:** Okay. Questions?

**Q** How big of a challenge was it to pick clubs out there with the wind stopping, starting changing directions?

**RICHARD JOHNSON:** It's very, very tough I think. It's the kind of wind after a couple, I missed the green with 3, 9-irons today from the middle of the fairway. You look at your caddie and say, what you are doing?

It's hard to forgive something when you hit a good shot and it ends up in the bunker or something it's strange. It's that kind of a golf course. And I think you need a lot of patience to play and that is probably why the older players have done better out here.

**Q** Do you consider yourself a patient player?

**RICHARD JOHNSON:** Well it depends on what side I wake up on in the morning. No, but, I would say I'm pretty patient. I mean I'm not super, super aggressive on the golf course when it comes to attacking pins. I would say I'm conservative playing this golf course. I don't know it well enough I have tried to attack a couple of pins and I have done the mistake of missing on

the wrong side a couple of times because I didn't know what the green looked like. I would consider myself pretty moderate, I would say.

**Q** Richard, for those of us who don't get to see you play a lot, the thing that sticks out on your bio is the skateboarding background. Can you talk a little bit about that. Were you as good as it sounds like were you?

**RICHARD JOHNSON:** No.

**Q** Can you embellish?

**RICHARD JOHNSON:** When the bio comes up everything gets blown out of proportion. I tried to compete, but I wasn't any world champion or anything. I competed in a couple of Swedish competitions for like nationwide, but it was around where I lived but it wasn't like I traveled around. I was a decent skate border at that time. But if you look at today's standards I would be probably a 25 handicap.

**Q** They had one story I saw had a list of your broken bones. It says you had 7 broken ribs and broke a hand and a foot?

**RICHARD JOHNSON:** I took a lot of beating, and that is pretty much why I quit after a while. The older you get the heavier you fall. I broke and fractured a lot of ribs and stuff when I was young, it became to a point where I got scared. And if you want to make it in any kind of extreme sport or any sport the minute you get scared you will hurt yourself even more. So I quit.

**Q** I guess considering that playing the Colonial on a windy day is not so bad?

**RICHARD JOHNSON:** Well the funny thing was I mean I played a European Tour for three years and I put on the European Tour, I love to watch it still, and I put it on the Golf Channel this morning. And I see them in woolly hats and long sleeved shirts, I was like, I don't care if it comes 120 out here today. I still like it.

**Q** Can you go over the story of how you started playing golf, the girlfriend's family?

**RICHARD JOHNSON:** Yeah, it really started I was dating a girl -- I was seeing a girl when I was like 15, 14. I can't remember it was a while ago. I sort of made a bet with her father, in Sweden you have to take like a green card, like a drivers license, pretty much to get on the golf course. Because you can't just pay and go on.

In Sweden you have to do everything by the book. You have to learn the rules, and take lessons from a PGA professional, and so on. And we had a bet, they were going to France for a couple of weeks. And he said, there is no chance that you will learn to play golf in two weeks. Well I was on the range for two weeks and I came back and I had a 35 handicap. And I didn't play much that year, but the following year I went down to 4 or something. It went down quick.

**THE MODERATOR:** We'll touch on your round, and if anyone has any final questions we'll take those.

[Scorecard]

**RICHARD JOHNSON:** I still like to hit it low. I can always hit it low and left because of playing with the European Tour. With the new balls you can hit it high in the wind. I still have a hard time doing that. It doesn't look right in my eye. The problem is when it gets windy I bring the ball flight down and I have a hard time getting onto the green. That is something I'm

working on to learn to hit it higher and into the wind. It's more of an approach you have to take on the golf course in this country.

**Q** Did you bring it down a lot today?

**RICHARD JOHNSON:** It went down more than I liked. I'm heading to the range again to try to bring it up. Bring it back up again.

**THE MODERATOR:** Richard, thanks for your help. Good luck tomorrow.

**RICHARD JOHNSON:** Thanks.

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