

**59TH ANNUAL BANK OF AMERICA COLONIAL
Colonial Country Club
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First-round interviews

AN INTERVIEW WITH STEPHEN LEANEY

THE MODERATOR: We welcome Stephen Leaney into the interview room. Can you talk about your round today?

STEPHEN LEANEY: It's a good time. I've been suffering the last couple of weeks with really bad allergies and I really didn't feel good this morning.

I made a nice birdie on 11, but I gave it straight back on 12. I made a nice par putt on 13 and that sort of got the round going. I hit a nice little wedge in there to about two feet. First of all, I hit (inaudible) and knocked that in for eagle. I played the hard stretch fairly well. I'm not good on all of the greens. I 3-putted 5 which was a bit dirty. I 3-putted. I made a birdie on No. 7. Overall it was a good day.

THE MODERATOR: Talk about, it looks like the wind the kicking up out there, did you play a little bit ahead of it, or was it bad for you guys already?

STEPHEN LEANEY: Well, it started blowing on 12. I guess it started blowing on 10. I got more than 15 all day. With this particular breeze, the course doesn't play that hard. It's a cross breeze. Holes like three or four or five, they're not as hard as what they can play in that direction. There was some fairly tight pins today. It's probably why no one is really taking it really low. I thought the course would play a 62 or 63, but I think the pin placements are keeping the scores up a little bit.

THE MODERATOR: Questions?

Q. Where was the toughest pin, or were they all just tough, were there any in particular?

STEPHEN LEANEY: 14, I had a tough little pin on the front right. It hit a four or 5-iron back into the wind. 15, was back up on a ledge. 17 was back a little bit tight, back. It just sort of caught bunkers. It's hard when the wind is blowing. (Inaudible). It was more the fact that if you go on the wrong side of the pin, then you are going to have a hard time getting up and down. Straight right at it.

Q. You said have you have been struggling with your allergies, did you see a good day coming?

STEPHEN LEANEY: I've been playing it well for the last month. I changed to a belly putter four weeks ago. Just to try something different. But I went back to the short putter today. I just bought a brand new putter on Tuesday. I think it was a long putter. It just sort of helped my strike, it just helped my release through the ball, and I started to roll the ball much better today. I haven't been making a lot from 15 or 20 feet because I actually made some good putts. That's probably the main difference.

Q. Why did you go back then if you felt that your stroke was going well with the long putter?

STEPHEN LEANEY: I just wasn't making enough putts with the long putter. Last week I played great the whole week. I shot four sub par rounds. It didn't look like I made a putt the whole week. That kind of hurt me.

And today, I felt I will just see, I put my short putter back in. But straightaway, the stroke is a little different than what I felt before when I used the belly putter. So I think using the belly putter certainly helped my stroke.

Q. Where are you living now, around here somewhere?

STEPHEN LEANEY: I live in South Lake.

Q. How did you decide to take up residence there?

STEPHEN LEANEY: We bought the house at the end of 2003. There is four or five Australians living in that area. It's very central. But a lot because there was a fairly small group of guys there that I've grown up with. It's also just a very easy airport to travel into.

Q. Which guys are out there?

STEPHEN LEANEY: Rod Pampling, Greg Thomas, John Finland, Brendan Jones, Phil (inaudible.)

Q. Is this a course that you typically feel comfortable on, how does it fit you?

STEPHEN LEANEY: I love the golf course. It's not about length. You have to be able to hit it both ways. There is a very similar sort of course that we play back home in Australia. You got to hit it on certain parts of the fairway to keep it on the fairway. That's what I'm used to playing. I'm also used to playing in fairly strong winds. Where I live, it blows all the time. I would rather have it blow than not blow. It's just a golf course that I can hit 3-wood and irons and drivers and just sort of mix and match. It's not a course where you stand with a driver and bash away. I think that's why guys like coming here. You don't have to have a golf course that plays that difficult.

Q. Do you know specifically what you are allergic to?

STEPHEN LEANEY: Grass. I don't know what it is. It's that time of year when we all struggle with it. I have been taking pills to stop, but it hasn't stopped.

Q. Have you had a hard time?

STEPHEN LEANEY: Yes, I've been trying. I think I'm going to have to get something else from Australia. The ones that work there work better than the ones here.

Q. Steven, are there any similarities between this course and Olympia Fields where you played so well in 2003?

STEPHEN LEANEY: You don't have to hit driver off every hole. And you hit driver up there, the course really fits me very well. You don't have to carry it a long way around here. I just sort of go into certain parts of the golf course to have a shot. It's not all about length. I think there are golf courses I only play well, you just have to look at the area you want to hit in the fairway, try to hit it four days in the row.

Q. Just to follow up on the belly putter, it sounds like what you are saying, that was almost like a training aid, and now that you are back to the short putter, the belly putter sort of smoothed your stroke out and made it easier to go back now to the short putter, is that correct?

STEPHEN LEANEY: It was. I thought maybe it would cut across the ball a little bit. I found when I put the belly in, it just (inaudible) down the line. I have actually felt fine playing with a short putter in practice. I've just used the belly putter for the last month. Tuesday, when I put the short one in, it felt like a completely different set up and grip and the stroke and putt was different. (Inaudible.) He said it's really easy to keep the putter on line, past the ball. That's probably what I've been lacking in.

(Scorecard.)

Q. How far of a drive is it out here for you?

STEPHEN LEANEY: About 35 minutes in traffic.

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