

Chrysler Championship  
The Westin Innisbrook Golf Resort  
Copperhead Course  
Tampa Bay, Fl

October 26, 2006

### First-round tournament quotes

#### AN INTERVIEW WITH MARK CALCAVECCHIA

**TODD BUDNICK:** We thank Mark Calcavecchia for coming in, 5-under 66, round one of the Chrysler Championship. Mark, a continuation of your good play last week as well.

**MARK CALCAVECCHIA:** Yes, thanks. I played well today. I played good last week. Last week, I needed that about six months ago. I seemed to play pretty well there and made some putts at Disney World and it just kind of carried on over to yesterday and today.

I actually played good in the Pro-Am yesterday here too.

I never had any success here whatsoever. I think it's a pretty hard golf course. We caught a perfect day of weather and the scores weren't super low or anything.

I can get myself right here with three more good rounds here. It's a good start.

**TODD BUDNICK:** Just the one hiccup today on 16, your front 9, just talk about what went well for you today.

**MARK CALCAVECCHIA:** I really didn't have to struggle much. I missed a few greens on my first nine which was the back 9. I made a nice up and down on 13 from over left of the green. The rough around the greens here is pretty deep and ended up making about a 20-footer for par here.

Then on 16, I just hit a horrendous iron shot. It's a real hard driving hole, and I got that part down perfect, right in the middle of the fairway, and just half shanked a 6-iron over right of the greenside trap.

As a matter of factly, I probably would have lost my ball if the marshal wasn't paying attention because it was unfindable. You could not see it. I'm like where? He had the flag like an inch from it. I still didn't see it. He said, yes, there is a ball in there. Needless to say that was a bogey. I made a nice bogey there actually.

That was really, those two holes -- everything else, I drove it well, and put it in the right spots in most of the greens.

**TODD BUDNICK:** 128th on the Money List but you have your winner's exemption from last years Canadian Open, just assess your season for us.

**MARK CALCAVECCHIA:** 128th on the Money List, about all you need to know. Just bad, you know. I had a bad 2004. The best way I can put it is I had a bad '04. Came back and had a good year last year and won the Canadian Open. Looking back on it, I

probably got a little -- I'm hard on myself in terms of practice. I probably got extra lazy. I'm plenty lazy without winning a tournament. Once I won that, I played pretty well the rest of the year and finished off the rest of the year. I haven't done anything this year as far as practice or working out or anything. My back was bad most of the year. My putting sucked. I couldn't break 74 on a Saturday or Sunday. I pretty much mastered the tied for 68th this year. I can tell you exactly what that pays. It doesn't add up in a hurry. I played 27 tournaments, and I think I made 23 cuts, just grinding as hard as I know how on Thursday or Friday to make the cuts. And running out of gas on the weekend was pretty much the whole story of my year.

Like I said, three more good rounds here, I am playing well. I have some confidence. I know how to win a tournament, so you never know.

**TODD BUDNICK:** Questions?

**Q.** There is a country western song, I'm not as good as I once was but once I'm as good as I ever was, something like that, do you think that might apply to you now?

**MARK CALCAVECCHIA:** That would be a good way of describing me. I still got a lot of good game and I know it. Obviously I can't bring it out as often as I used to. Plus everyone else is a hell of a lot better 20 years ago to boot, or 15. I was in my prime in the late '80's. It's a different game. I was a heck of a player back then, mainly because of my short game.

I'm 144th in sand saves. I can't believe that. I have a lot of buried lies this year. I still think I'm pretty good out of the bunker and chipping the ball. Putting is a mystery. I putted so good last week, Thursday, Saturday and Sunday. On Friday you would have thought -- I don't even want to describe what it was like. I had 36 putts. I actually had 38, but the guy only gave me credit for 36. It was just brutal. I barely made the cut and putted great on the weekend. And putted good again today.

So I can still do it, it's just -- I need to feel a little bit better next year and sit around and think about this bad year I had and get a little more fired up for a big next year.

**Q.** Are you playing for pride at this point, just to gain some confidence and momentum since the Top-125 doesn't really apply in your case?

**MARK CALCAVECCHIA:** Well, I'm playing to pay off my debt at the Wynn casino two weeks ago. I'm playing to pay off two houses that I owe a couple million dollars on. There is a lot of stuff for me to play for. All kidding aside, yes, I don't want to finish out of the Top-125.

There is no pressure on me to keep my card. Basically, the only thing I'm really playing for this week is a spot in the TPC next year, THE PLAYER'S Championship, which obviously it's the 5th biggest tournament in the world, in most people's opinion, and I would love to play in it. I played well there in the past. So I'm trying to get in the Top-125 and have a big week this week and enjoy the holidays.

**Q.** You sound a little hard on yourself, do you think you're not giving yourself credit enough for 12 career wins, that's a lot out here.

**MARK CALCAVECCHIA:** I've always been hard on myself my whole career. 27 seconds, I could have had 22 wins. I finished second and third, you know, 27 seconds and 17 thirds.

A lot of those tournaments I made good comebacks to finish in that spot. Some of them I gave away.

Comparatively speaking, you know, 12 wins, a lot of people think that's a pretty great career. I think I've under achieved. I felt I should have won more. You look at what some of these guys are doing today, namely Tiger Woods, no one has a clue, well, except

the players out here, winning six tournaments in a row, what kind of accomplishment that is.

Everything he does, he does something amazing every single year it seems like. So I look at stats.

I saw Nick Price was on the Golf Channel the other day, 18 wins, three Majors, No. 1 in the world for 44 weeks. That's Nick Price. He's a Hall of Fame guy. He should be in there. I think if I would have won another 6 or 8 tournaments, then you might have could have talked to me in that same sort of grouping.

Q. What do you think your legacy ought to be?

**MARK CALCAVECCHIA:** I don't know. I'm just trying to make it to the Senior Tour. You know, it's like the best way I can describe myself is after I shot 28-under par in the Phoenix Open, and broke every scoring record known to man, won by 8, 27 holes later I broke my putter at the AT & T. I just through a fit.

What happened last week, or last year, or in 1989 has nothing to do with shooting a million in Las Vegas. I was miserable. I don't think about what happened several years ago with my record or anything like that. I'm thinking about what I'm trying to do now. I'm trying to feel better, trying to get some confidence and see if I can beat some of these kids. I'm looking ahead. I really do look ahead.

I don't think that I used to be great or anything. But I still think, like you said, that country song, there is still a lot of game in there. It's just harder to pull up than it used to be. As has been the case for most guys 45, 50 year olds out here. You have moments of greatness, but not every week.

Q. Your win in Canada, if I'm not mistaken was a pretty hard golf course where you didn't have to go very low to win. Does that bode well for you here?

**MARK CALCAVECCHIA:** Right. Exactly, the scores today were only as low as they were because there was hardly any wind really all day. It blew a little bit when we teed off on our first seven or eight holes. Pretty darn perfect day to play and the greens were immaculate.

It's a hard course. Last year in Canada it was a hard course. That just sort of fell into my hands because it was hard for everybody. It was just real hard to make birdies for everybody, not only me last year in Canada. It was just a perfect situation where I wasn't making any putts on the weekend, but I was hitting enough fairways and greens to make a whole bunch of pars. Nobody ran me down.

It was just one of those things.

This course, the same sort of thing can happen. I haven't checked the weather in a few days, but the last I looked I think it's supposed to be a little windier tomorrow. You know, when the wind comes up here. What happened last year, 5-under finished third? 8-under par won.

Q. 9-under won

**MARK CALCAVECCHIA:** This course will give you all you want when the wind is blowing a little bit.

Q. Was it the last round you didn't make a birdie in Canada?

**MARK CALCAVECCHIA:** It was the third round I didn't make a birdie. And the fourth round I made a 2-footer on the fifth hole. That was it. It's pretty hard to win a tournament not making a putt over five feet in 36 holes on the weekend. I don't know, is that penciled in? Thank you, Lord. Yes, I guess, I will take it.

Q. What haven't you been asked?

**MARK CALCAVECCHIA:** You missed everything, I'm done.

TODD BUDNICK: He has wrapped up.

Q. What's your goal for the week?

**MARK CALCAVECCHIA:** THE PLAYER'S.

Q. He's exempt?

**MARK CALCAVECCHIA:** He's 128th on the Money List, but he is fully exempt, don't worry about me, which is fine. That's the way I should be thought of. Really I'm playing for pride. I don't want to finish outside of 125 as I did in '04. I would love to play in THE PLAYERS Championship next year. The only major I'm looking good for is the British Open. I'm pretty much set there until I'm 65. How long will I make it over there. I don't know. No world golf championship stuff, no majors, it's tough.

Q. I've got a new one for you if you don't mind. You are kind of a Florida swing guy, you can only play half the Florida swing next year?

**MARK CALCAVECCHIA:** Yes, the schedule Jason and I were talking about that today. I'm going to hate missing Doral. Although I guess I can still get in with a fast start next year or a win somewhere. I don't even know the order. I guess this is the first Florida tournament isn't it? Or Doral. Honda, here, Bay Hill, then Doral. Is that how it goes?

I'm going to have to get an exemption in the Bay Hill the way it looks. Unless I win or have the top couple this week. The Florida swing is kind of shot to pieces for me. Like you said, I'm trying to get in the TPC in May whenever that is. It's a different schedule. It's going to be a little choppy I think for the average guy.

Q. Would you have any thought on the fact that you're playing a world event at the end of February, and then four weeks later at the end of March to maybe change the criteria and broaden them? I think Doral, if Doral is like London was this year, the field is going to be 65 to 70 ballpark?

**MARK CALCAVECCHIA:** Then the Match Play is in Tucson somewhere.

Q. Is there anything they could do or should do to broaden that field?

**MARK CALCAVECCHIA:** I guess if you're on the edge, yes.

Q. Ask the commissioner?

**MARK CALCAVECCHIA:** I'm sure the crowds down there, and the world would like to see a bigger field. You are leaving a lot of great players kind of on the short end of the stick when you are only having 60, 65 player fields for the World Golf Championship dealings. Obviously, anybody could win it. I don't know how you go about doing that. I was also telling Jason today, I've been lucky out here, I haven't caused any problems. You get the occasional fine now and then. That's about it. I'm just thankful I can come out here. I've had a long career out here. I play golf on the TOUR, you know, end of story.

Q. Is there a punchline to this?

**MARK CALCAVECCHIA:** No, that's it. I don't have any say in anything. The last thing I bitched about to Sid Wilson might have been -- they were using plastic cups at the TPC on the putting green. What's up with that? It's THE PLAYERS Championship, you can't put a real cup in the green? That was my last bitch to the TOUR five years ago.

Q. Did they fix it.

**MARK CALCAVECCHIA:** They used to have those little shallow plastic cups, you couldn't get three balls in. I'm like scrape up a dozen real cups and dig some holes in the green. They listened to me.

Q. They could build a \$50 million clubhouse?

**MARK CALCAVECCHIA:** What did they claim it cost 50, aka 80 or 90. The TOUR has a lot of money sitting around. No one knows about it, I have a feeling. They should throw an extra couple million to us every now and then.

**TODD BUDNICK:** Birdies, Mark.

**MARK CALCAVECCHIA:** Started on 10, nice birdie on 11, hit it in the trees, punched out. Hit a nice 9-iron there 12 feet. Made that.

I birdied 14, almost chipped in for eagle just short of the green.

Bogeyed 16, terrible iron shot right to the green.

Birdied 1, hit a good drive, chunked a 2-iron kind of left, short left of the green, chipped up to two feet.

My first career birdie of my life on No. 5, by the way, the par-5, I usually make about three sixes and a five on that hole. I hit a perfect drive, a perfect 2-iron and zipped a perfect L-wedge in there about 2 feet, lipped in. The pressure was overwhelming,

completely flinched on it. So that relaxed me, and I played the last four holes perfect.

Birdied 7, driver wedge to six feet. Hit an 8-iron about 12 feet above left of the hole on No. 9, was purely lagging, about a foot and a half breaker down the hill, just dribbled it down there right in the middle. That was a nice way to end the day. I wasn't going to 3 jack from there. That was a fast putt.

Q. How far on 7?

**MARK CALCAVECCHIA:** Six feet.

Q. Below?

**MARK CALCAVECCHIA:** Straight below the hole, straight up the hill.

**TODD BUDNICK:** All set? Thank you.

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