

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

**March 11, 2007**

**Final-round leader quotes**

### **AN INTERVIEW WITH MARK CALCAVECCHIA**

**JOAN vT ALEXANDER:** You are 5th on the FedExCup, a lot of exemptions coming up. Talk a little bit about it, a lot of things have happened this weekend.

**MARK CALCAVECCHIA:** It's been crazy. I never felt like this after winning the tournament. I'm not emotional yet I think I'm still partially stunned at what happened. No one has ever missed a putt to let me win a tournament. In fact, any time anybody has ever needed to make a putt against me, they usually make it. I was expecting Heath to make it. He did have a tough 2-putt. I was disappointed in my iron shot. My lie was horrendous, and I hit a decent chip. I was really proud of the way I hit the putt. I hit the ball outside the hole and it was clearly right edge, but I hit a good putt. I was ready to play 18 again. But lo and behold we didn't have to. Heath played great, scraped it around on the front, but just played awesome on the whole back 9 really. Anyway, 5th in FedExCup points, I know Chucky Howell has a commanding lead. In fact, I'm thankful to FedEx for doing what they are doing for us. I swept into that \$8 million shindig down at the Blue Monster.

Q. For that I think you moved up to third on the FedExCup list?

**MARK CALCAVECCHIA:** Oh, yeah, I had to get a couple of 3,000 bonus points for that.

Q. Why do you say you never felt like that? Is it only because somebody missed a short putt or is there more?

**MARK CALCAVECCHIA:** I guess, I actually felt myself pretty good most of the day. I obviously missed a little one on 15 because I pretty much knew it was to cement the thing more or less. Not that I was thinking that. I just got nervous and missed it. Maybe it was inside my range. I missed a million of those and I will miss a million more. 16, I miss hit my 3-wood a little, I thought it was fine. I really did. I was stunned to see it didn't get over the rough, let alone the water. It barely got over the soup. I would have really be stunned. Another horrendous lie. But I made good swings with my wedge, and my drive on 17, and my drive on 18, so for the most part I did what I wanted to do and I hit a good putt at 18 and so even though it missed I can take that with me.

Q. You looked more upset when his putt didn't go in than when your putt didn't go in?

**MARK CALCAVECCHIA:** Again, I was just stunned. I mean, I guess I knew I won but it didn't feel like it. I just didn't. I was never thinking he was going to miss it. He is a great putter. He is not very old yet, so he doesn't usually shake. At least I don't think he does. I heard him on the interview, he tried to take a little break out of it, and jam it in there, which is probably what you want to do. I don't know if he pulled it a scoche, it broke left on him and lipped out, but I will take it.

Q. Mark, it's not the way you want to win, but it still a win, just talk about that?

**MARK CALCAVECCHIA:** Yes, it is still a win. I'm sure the emotions and the fact that it's a win will sink in here a little bit. From where I was Thursday, maybe it's just a fairytale week. Stuff that just didn't happen literally from the bottom to the top this three days. I know things happen in a hurry in this game but that's a new record there. From no hope, no chance, missed cut to victory.

Q. Did you pack last night by the way?

**MARK CALCAVECCHIA:** No, actually because we are staying here tonight any way. So we are driving over to Orlando tomorrow. My son and his buddy are flying in at 4:00. It's their spring break. We are going to traipse around the park Tuesday and Wednesday, so don't look for me at the course.

Q. Calc, you were talking yesterday about the chances not being as many at this point in your career, is that going through your mind when you are teeing off or at any point in the tournament like, hey, I would like to take advantage of it when I do have it?

**MARK CALCAVECCHIA:** You know, I actually did a real good job today of not thinking about winning it at all. On the sixth hole, I hit a great drive, I kind of thought -- I thought about it for a minute and I said forget that. Then I went on to birdie the hole. I always felt like I was going to win, but I didn't think about it. I just never felt like I was going to blow it or lose. Even though I was nervous.

And, you know, it's a hard golf course and those are hard holes out there. You know, I made just enough putts. I didn't beat anybody to death the last few rounds in Canada either. One birdie on the weekend. But, you know, is one enough? The same with today.

Q. It was just 17 weeks ago I think that you guys were here the last time, and they also had to find a title sponsor. Can you comment about the environment and the atmosphere here? Did it feel like maybe this was thrown together at the last minute, or did it feel like just another week on TOUR?

**MARK CALCAVECCHIA:** No, not at all. It's as good as it gets. PODS, Gerald Goodman, everybody that came in in 17 weeks was perfect. The food, everything. Everything is just the way it was every other time we played here. And the course, again, was in great shape. The rough was an over seeded rye. I think it was actually worse than it's ever been. It's a different kind of rough. It seems like at the end of the year it's more Bermuda rough, which is actually easier to chip out of around the greens. This stuff is pretty thick and stiff. You just don't know how the ball is going to come out. On the 8th hole I had a bad lie and I went ahead and swung at it and it shot out like a cannon. And I stunned the one on 12, I didn't get it out on 18. It's hard stuff. Everybody knows it was very well done.

Q. The galleries were --

**MARK CALCAVECCHIA:** The galleries were great, tons of Gator fans out there

cheering for me and that was nice. I honestly felt over the last couple of days for sure that the crowd was, especially yesterday once I got it going, that they were really, really pulling for me.

Q. Did you realize you won over 20 million for your career today?

**MARK CALCAVECCHIA:** Hard to believe, 3 million in debt and I won 20 million.

Q. Talk with being able to write that check to Eric and where do you see your future; will he still carry for you?

**MARK CALCAVECCHIA:** Oh, yes, there is no question. Eric knows, I told him a long time ago Adam is going to come in a couple of weeks. Eric is going to work next week. It's his job. It's his job for sure. You know, we are going to have a great night tomorrow and he is going to wander around the parks with us on Tuesday and Wednesday and we will have fun next week. He has a job at Bear Lakes also. I'm sure he is going to quit that now. I don't see him cleaning carts. He is a great friend. I'm very happy that I'm able to help him out and it's his job and it will be probably for a long, long time.

Q. This set you up for a good run at The Masters, will Eric caddy for you at The Masters?

**MARK CALCAVECCHIA:** Definitely. He will be in Hawaii next year, he will be at Doral too. He's got a couple of more weeks.

Q. Have you thought about The Masters?

**MARK CALCAVECCHIA:** Yes, actually, wondered about it this morning, what a win would do for me if it would get me close or wherever. I guess we will find out tomorrow or the next day. I don't even know what you got to be. I think you got to be Top-50 in the world. I don't know if I will jump that high, I think I was 130 or something, I don't even know what I was.

Q. You were Top-10 on the Money List and you went up to 7?

**MARK CALCAVECCHIA:** Through after Doral? Okay, well that's good. I've done well at Doral in the past, too. So I'm really excited about playing there. So, yes, good.

Q. Was it even on your radar screen at the beginning of the year, The Masters?

**MARK CALCAVECCHIA:** No, no. People asked me about it. I said I got to peel off a win or something or a couple top -- even after I had a couple of Top-10's on the west coast, I knew I still needed to win. I went up in the World Rankings a little bit. But nobody really said anything about it. So I haven't. It was a planned skip. Not Skip, I was planning on being somewhere else. So hopefully I will be in Augusta.

Q. Calc, you've always been pretty honest about how tough you are on yourself, just through the years have you tried different approaches to deal with that?

**MARK CALCAVECCHIA:** I have. At times, you know, I talked to Dr. Debra Graham on occasion. I went through a nice stretch where I was really a nice guy for a while. Even when I was playing bad. My wife appreciated that. That was a couple of years ago, or three years ago maybe. I guess she wasn't my wife yet at that time. But at any rate I do have times when I'm okay. But making putt certainly lightens up the load you put on yourself. I've always been emotional. I'm generally pretty good once I get pissed off and leave the course. I'm done with it,, slam a couple of beers and I'm fine, take a nap, look at the computer and yell at everybody else on TV.

Q. What does this win mean to you different from your other wins?

**MARK CALCAVECCHIA:** I guess I'm fully exempt until I turn 50, which is good. I don't have to go back to TOUR school any time soon. Just kidding. It's just a special feeling. If you ask Tiger there is no other position. I finished second 25 or 26 times out here. I don't know what it is. Half of them I blew and the other half I probably made good rallies to finish second. I didn't want this to be a tournament where I looked backed, I lost, and say I bogeyed two of the last three to lose. All I had to do was make some pars, make that 3-footer on 15. That didn't happen. We won't think about that. I'm happy the way I hit it and the last three days were magical. I just penciled in I would say.

Q. Had it crossed your mind you might not win again, did you wonder if Canada was going to be your last win?

**MARK CALCAVECCHIA:** Yes, after you go a year or two without winning, I was kind of an every three year guy. Going all the way back to '92, '95, '98, 2001, every three years. 2005 and now 2007. So, yes, after you go, especially once you get into your 40's. Before Canada I wasn't sure if I would every win again. It's a hard thing to do out here. It's very difficult. What Tiger and Phil do and some of these other guys are really, really special. It's just hard to do. Grant it when you are multi gazillionnaires, and you don't have to worry about jamming a putt that's going to cost you a couple hundred grand, makes a difference. You know, playing with no financial pressure has got to be nice. They are just so good, they are always in the hunt. It's pretty awesome. Yes, if I don't win again until I leave this TOUR, I've always liked 13, Dan Marino is my favorite football player of all time. Every time I play roulette, 13 baby.

Q. Is that why you are 3 million in debt?

**MARK CALCAVECCHIA:** No, my gambling has been okay.

Q. Mark, this is your first win without your mom, talk about that?

**MARK CALCAVECCHIA:** A friend of mine David Rashman (phn) texted me this morning and said, do it for Marge, and I wrote back and said yes. I thought about it this morning and yesterday crossed my mind that my mom is not with us anymore. That's cool. I know she is up there smiling, her and dad are up there chuckling away having a good time playing Canasta or something.

Q. Can you talk about the Florida swing here, has kind of been resurfaced. Honda is on a different course, U.S. Open style, this is on a course, very tough, players like. Bay Hill, that's always going to be tough. Doral is kind of a different look. How do you feel it's a notch below a Major type feel?

**MARK CALCAVECCHIA:** It is. We had absolutely perfect weather this week. It could have been windy, cold front, who knows what comes through here. This course is really hard. It is a Major championship type feel. You can whip out a Major here in a flash. You know last week was great. That's just going to be nothing but great for that tournament, even though I played bad and missed a cut by a mile. I loved the course. I thought 10 was a little much. There is no water or OB or anything. It's a driver, 3-wood, par-4. But other than that, it was awesome. And I think guys like that. It's nice to know if you go out and shoot 62 you can pass the world, or even if you shoot 67 you can go from 135th to 38th. I picked up a hundred spots on Friday. It was a perfect day. That's awesome. Guys like that as opposed to the cut being 4 or 5-under. That can be tough at times, those 4 or 5-under type cuts.

Q. Speaking of next week and tough courses, what do you think about the 70 at Bay Hill?

**MARK CALCAVECCHIA:** I could never make a four on the fourth hole when it was a par-5 so now I will just take my bogey and go to the next hole. I don't know how much shorter they're going to play it.

Q. Maybe none.

**MARK CALCAVECCHIA:** Maybe none, yes. They got to play it a little bit shorter. That hole is borderline reachable any way.

Q. Does par matter?

**MARK CALCAVECCHIA:** No, we talked about that the other day too. Whether it's par 68 or a par 75, it only matters how many under par you are at the end of the week. What you shoot you shoot. You make the lowest score possible on any hole. It is a little less painful to make a 5 on a 500 par-4, than it is to make a 5 on a 500 yard par-5. That's more upsetting because you feel like that's a hole you needed to birdie. But if you make a 5 on a 500 yard par-4 you go, everybody else in the field will make 5 here any way, so it's not that big a deal.

Q. Last year, I'm trying to remember you were 120th on the Money List at the end of the year, did you come here on any kind of bubble?

**MARK CALCAVECCHIA:** On what?

Q. Any kind of bubble. Were you set Money List-wise?

**MARK CALCAVECCHIA:** Yes, I was going to be fully exempt this year, but I wasn't in the Top-125. I was playing for the TPC. I had a tie for 9th at Disney, or 8th, which got me right to 127 or something, and then I think I finished 20th or something here last year, that got me -- I was playing for the TPC last year when I was I playing here.

Q. Is there anything when you are doing that, when you are playing for just a spot in the TPC and you are 45, 46 years-old wondering if your best years are behind you, and now you are turning into journeyman almost; pardon the bluntness.

**MARK CALCAVECCHIA:** I'm just glad I feel decent. As I said, yes, those Golf Flex pills, I think are really helping me not only with my joints and stuff but my flexibility. I do good on the floor every day for like 15 minutes. I can actually bend over and put my hands on the ground. My belly needs to be smaller, but what are you going to do?

Q. Can you talk about you always been a streaky player, a lot of that, this week it was putting, obviously there was some ball striking behind it whether you are shooting 29 at Augusta; have you always had that? Did you try to dissect that and figure out why and when you are able to do that?

**MARK CALCAVECCHIA:** Yes. I have tried to figure it out. I can't figure it out. I've tried. As far as tee to green, really, I've always thought I've been pretty decent. Again, everybody goes through stretches where you can't hit a wedge within 30 feet of the hole, but that's going to be a short lived thing. Peter Kostis helped me in the early years. I was with Butch Harmon for 10 years, and I still think about things that he's taught me. And I went to see Peter again last year a couple of times, and I'm still thinking something he told me at The Memorial last year.

So, you know, then it's time to pull the trigger, you can't run through 12 swing thoughts. You got one or two things and then whack. So as far as the putting and the scores, that's

just my personality. I'm exactly opposite of Heath Slocum. I think he is a very level headed Jim Furyk type player. He is just a shade not quite as good as Jim. But he is very unflappable, and he has a good future ahead of him.

Q. You are going to spend Tuesday and Wednesday at theme parks which sounds relaxing, how long will you take to enjoy this? At what stage will you start dialing in?

**MARK CALCAVECCHIA:** I will start dialing in on Wednesday afternoon unless they throw me in the Pro-Am. Is the Pro-Am there Wednesday this year?

JOAN vT ALEXANDER: Yes.

**MARK CALCAVECCHIA:** Anyway assuming that I'm not in the Pro-Am, I will probably hit balls Tuesday afternoon. I will completely take tomorrow off. We will do the park from 10 to 3 depending on how tired I am. We got the in door outdoor pass, which is expensive, which the is the only way to go to those things. We got a private TOUR. We met this lady, and we skate in the exit and get on. Nice. I don't wait in lines by the way. I had to wait 10 minutes at the dry cleaners the other day, and I was ready to break something I was so mad. A lady had \$200 worth the dry cleaning. She must have waited six months. All unbelievable. It was like little shirts and stuff. It took her 4 trips to get it out of there. I don't wait in lines. Can't wait to see my son. It's be a month since I've seen him. I will do some practicing Wednesday for sure and probably get out there early Thursday and give myself an extra half hour to get tuned up and ready to go.

Q. How long a pass does this putter now have?

**MARK CALCAVECCHIA:** It earned its way for quite a while I think. Hopefully I can just keep with the same thoughts and feel that I had the last three days. The little one I missed on 15 was nothing but pure nerves. I just miss missed it. I probably moved a little on it to. Even when I think I'm staying still I moved a little. I'm just one of those guys, my shoulder comes up. You look at Tiger, nothing moves. I can't do it. So as hard as I try, I can't do it. At any rate, the putter is in for quite a while.

Q. What was your approach yardage on 18?

**MARK CALCAVECCHIA:** I had 140 to the hole. I think what happened it was calm out. I was actually rooting for some wind. I wanted to swing at it. It was dead calm and I eased up a little it.

Q. Eight or nine?

**MARK CALCAVECCHIA:** 8-iron. I obviously had plenty of club. I just didn't. I just eased up. The only swing thought -- really the thing I had, it's just not to slide, and just swing my arms. It was really all I had to do and the good iron shots I hit, I did that great. And on 18, the second I hit it I, just sagged a little and slid, just enough to come up short and a little right.

JOAN vT ALEXANDER: Rest of your round, birdie on two.

**MARK CALCAVECCHIA:** Great birdie on two, nice 3-wood fairway, 8-iron to a foot. 6, awesome drive, 8-iron to 12 feet right behind the hole, made that.

8, bogey on 8, not a bad 3-iron, a little push into the right hay, a horrendous lie, chipped it 25 feet by, two putts.

10, drive-in the right rough, I had a tree limb in my way, I had to try and slice a wedge, hit it in the rough, just left of the green and stubbed a chip and missed an 8-footer.

11, great drive in that first cut, which is really long here. I only had 225 to the front. I couldn't get a long iron on it, so I laid up on a 9-iron, zipped an L-wedge in there to about 75 yards and three feet.

13, was unbelievable pin placement over there. You have to play left, and I hit a good

shot on the fringe and tapped in a 30-footer. 14, unreachable, good drive right in the middle, nice lay-up. The same thing I did with my 8-iron, kind of scraped my wedge out there 25 feet right of the hole and made another big downhill right-to-left sweeper. 16, just mishit my 3-wood a hair and came up a foot short of getting to the first cut which would be fine, but an awful lie and chip out. A good wedge, but it hit right by the hole and went long, 2-putt bogey. And we talked about 18.

JOAN vT ALEXANDER: Talk about 15 a little bit that shot off the tee.

**MARK CALCAVECCHIA:** You can't dream up a shot better than that. After you make a couple of nice putts I knew I was where I wanted to be. I knew it was my tournament. I never thought I was going to lose. Still you got four holes left, and you got four pretty darn good tough holes left.

I got up there and I knew my putt was perfect, and I took dead aim and I just got my hands right out in front of me just perfect and never left the flag. I was actually planning on pulling it a little bit. The way I play away from flags is to aim at them and then pull or push away from them.

If I aim, at the middle of the green to a right pin, normally other than 13 I hit a good shot there, a lot of times my brain won't allow me to hit it in the middle of the green, and I will intentionally push it at the hole. A lot of times I will over push it. Same thing, if the pin is left, aim at the middle of the green, the last second I'm going to go give it a little hook action with my hands. I hate aiming away from pins.

At any rate, that was such a nice shot. From the tee I'm like, go in. I wouldn't mind seeing that thing roll in at all. I thought it was a tap-in. And then I got down there and it couldn't have been more than three and a half feet. It was just about three feet too far.

Q. How long was the par putt on 18?

**MARK CALCAVECCHIA:** Probably seven feet. The lie I had was right in the exact same spot on Thursday, when I finished a triple on 17 and bogeyed 18, that was pretty much the same pin that was there Thursday. I had a bad lie. It's just awful rough there. I could barely see the ball. I really hit a pretty decent chip. I didn't want it to shoot out of there. There are all kinds of -- the distance is pot luck. I'm below the hole, right-to-left breaking putt, uphill, it was my favorite putt. Eric actually read it right. He had it right edge. I said I think it is just a little out. I played it out. I wasn't going to ram the thing. It was just right edge putt. I misread it by a ball and it just barely missed, just right over the lip. I was so happy I hit a good putt. That actually is going to help me as much as making it, that I hit such a good putt in that situation. I could use that down the road.

Q. Mark, in your illustrious career, you have played for everything from Hershey Bars to a million dollars, how do 3 putts get missed?

**MARK CALCAVECCHIA:** Just that little area up here that panics. Technically on greens this pure -- it's like jumping on your pool table and putting the ball 3 foot away from a pocket, you would never miss in 100 years. You can't miss. Until you are playing for a million dollars, and you're trying to win the tournament, and all that comes along with it. I just panicked a little bit, got a little nervous and missed it

JOAN vT ALEXANDER: Congratulations.

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