

Crowne Plaza Invitational at Colonial  
Colonial Country Club  
Ft. Worth, Tx

May 23, 2008

Second-round Interviews

**AN INTERVIEW WITH MATT KUCHAR**

DOUG MILNE: We would like to welcome Matt Kuchar. Thanks for joining us here, a great round today 6-under par 64.

You birdied 4 in a row, 10 through 13, I was just looking at.

Just a couple of general comments. You've played at the Crowne Plaza Invitational just once previously last year. I recall you had a T 36. I was doing a little research when you walked in. It's still fresh on my mind. Just a couple of general comments about the round today.

**MATT KUCHAR:** It's awfully fun to see the ball fall into the hole. I think any time you shoot a round like a 6-under par, you've made some good putts. And to start the round out with four birdies, I made some sizeable putts there.

The tenth hole made a 20-footer. Then I think the third hole, another 30-footer. And the same on the fourth. So it was fun to see the ball go in.

I've been hitting it pretty well. I really enjoy this golf course. I think this is one of the better golf courses we play on TOUR. It's fun to shoot a nice round.

DOUG MILNE: Talk about your year so far. Assess the state of your game as you are heading into the weekend in such good position.

**MATT KUCHAR:** It's been a much more consistent year. I played a lot more weekends than I have in the past. It's been fun.

My game is slowly getting better and better and steadier and steadier.

I've been working with a guy here in Dallas named Chris O'Connell. He was a Jim Hardy disciple. That's been a really great fit for me. I've been working with him about two years. I feel like it matches what I came with very well. I feel like even on off days I can still get the ball around pretty well. It really worked out well.

Q. What's the big difference today, the putter? Did you make any changes or

anything?

**MATT KUCHAR:** I made no changes. It was disheartening at the AT&T in Atlanta. I played really well. I just saw putt after putt slide by the hole. No adjustment. It's just one of those things with golf you keep your head up and pretty soon the putts start going in. It seems like they even themselves out. Today I got the best of it. It tried to even itself out on my behalf today.

Q. You said you had a 20-footer and two 30-footers about on three of those four holes, is that right?

**MATT KUCHAR:** Yes.

Q. Any other long putts that you made?

**MATT KUCHAR:** No. I think the No. 11, the second hole I made an 8-footer in my stretch of birdie putts. So those were the ones that went in in a row. I wasn't in a whole lot of trouble today. I found myself, I think, twice in trouble and made great up and downs for par. So it's a difficult test of golf, especially with the wind blowing the way it is out here. To find myself not in trouble that often was nice and to see some putts go in the hole that was kind of the difference in seeing a 6-under par as opposed to a 1 or 2-under par.

Q. A long one on the first, how did that get you going especially on that hole?

**MATT KUCHAR:** That's definitely a help. Seeing a putt go in on the first, gets you off on the right foot. It really does make you feel well. I think if you were to miss a short one on the first hole you can feel like you are in for a long day. It was definitely a nice feeling to make a sizable putt on the first hole.

Q. What made you decide that Chris was a good fit for you?

**MATT KUCHAR:** It was Nationwide 2006, I spent a lot of time with my buddies from the Georgia Tech team. Matt Weibring was one of them, and we would just talk a lot of golf. We would hang around after golf and talk a lot of golf and figure out what each of us was working on. I would tell them what I was trying to do.

The instructors I was working with were all trying to get me swing left on my through swing. I would take it back relatively flat and swing more down the line. Most instructors would try to get me to rotate better through the ball and swing left.

I had the hardest time doing it. And Matt Weibring said, you ought to go see a buddy of mine Chris O'Connell. He is a Jim Hardy disciple. He might be a good fit for you.

I had seen Jim Hardy guys. They all have a warm-up practice swing that I think just looks awful.

I said I don't know if I can do that. It looks not like golf to me. I went out and saw him, and we hit it off straightaway. What I brought to the table matched up pretty well with what they teach.

Q. Do you now have that awful practice swing?

**MATT KUCHAR:** I hope not. I might.

Q. I didn't know if Chris was also a disciple of the same practice swing.

**MATT KUCHAR:** I told him my fears, and he has been pretty good. Believe it or

not he almost never breaks out a video camera and hasn't had me doing crazy drills just yet. I told him my fears going in. He has been very accommodating.

Q. Can you show us what that preshot routine is or tell us what it's like?

**MATT KUCHAR:** It's either crazy pulling back of the right elbow, or a very over the top looking -- like you are going to smash something, practice swing. Two awkward maneuvers that I see a lot of the Hardy guys doing. It's a rehearsal. Their normal swing looks nothing like their practice swing. It's something that has always scared me.

Q. Anybody particularly have a bad one out there? Any Hardy disciples that you just kind of cringe when you walk past somebody?

**MATT KUCHAR:** Jeff Quinney does a funny right elbow maneuver. Olin Browne certainly looks like he goes over the top in the practice swings. Those two.

I actually think they each swing the club very nicely. Quinney is having a heck of a year. Olin, I don't think he is having much of a year, but I don't think it is has anything to do with his ball striking.

Q. I think for me personally, having been around when you first jumped on the scene, it was kind of shocking to see that you are a month from your 30th birthday.

On one hand maybe some people might have expected more of you by this time. 30 is kind of an age of reason on the TOUR when things kind of start settling in. How would you assess your career at this point?

**MATT KUCHAR:** I definitely don't feel like a veteran. I still feel somewhat like a rookie. I still really enjoy being out here. It seems like golf changes so much that it still seems fresh and new to me, going to new tournaments. There is still an excitement about going to a new tournament. . Each week, every coming week, every new tournament. So I still feel like I've got that rookie excitement and adrenalin.

But I've talked to a lot of veterans who talk about a 10 year learning curve out here. And I think I am kind of falling into that category where I'm starting to feel much more comfortable going to new places, going to courses over again where you start to get a feel of what courses you really like. You start to get a feel of all right, I know I can't miss it in certain places on certain holes. You get a comfort level with. Each hotel you are staying at, the restaurants to eat. Then you get comfortable hitting balls next to Phil Mickelson, Tiger Woods, Ernie Els.

There is a bit of a learning curve there not to get so overwhelmed out here with the equipment vans and the great players that you stand beside. So I feel like I am starting to get much more comfortable out on TOUR.

Q. Some of your finishes, not your best finishes -- some of the others have been on tight demanding courses. What is it about those kind of courses that you like?

**MATT KUCHAR:** I think I'm a pretty accurate driver of the golf ball. I think I do a good job of staying out of trouble, a lot of pars, not too many bogeys on my scorecards.

I definitely remember my coach at Georgia Tech, Coach Hepler (phonetic) brought me in his office before I played in the Masters in '98, and he said, now, Matt you want to go into this with or without much expectation. The Masters takes guys years and years to learn Augusta National. Go have a good time.

Don't expect a whole lot. Your game is better suited for a U.S. Open and maybe for The Masters straightaway.

It probably wasn't the greatest pep talk but, you know, him saying that my game was better suited for U.S. Open. I would probably agree with him. I would say it's better on a tighter, demanding golf course where you don't have to do anything overly special. Just keep your ball in play.

Q. What did he tell you before Olympic?

**MATT KUCHAR:** He left me alone. He left me alone.

Q. In terms of things kicking in, you mentioned Matt Weibring, he is having a tremendous run lately, do you keep up with each other?

**MATT KUCHAR:** We have missed each other as far as getting together. He was in Atlanta for the Athens Nationwide. Then they went down to Valdosta. I was out of town. We tried to get together. We ended up just missing each other. I definitely scan the Nationwide for Georgia Tech alumnae with Bryce Molder and Matt Weibring. It's good to see them in pretty good form.

Bryce had a second place finish three or four weeks ago. Matt seems to be playing well now. And Matt Weibring I know works with Chris O'Connell on a fairly regular occasion.

Q. Did you ever have any long frustrating times with the putter?

**MATT KUCHAR:** Any time you have an off time with the putter it seems extremely long. You know, if it lasts a week, it seems like it's lasted a month. If it lasts a month, it seems like it's lasted a year. I don't know.

I'm probably going to exaggerate. I certainly have -- all of us have gone through frustrating times with the putter.

I couldn't tell you the exact times about how long I have gone with being frustrated with the putter. I think I do a good job of keeping a good attitude. That's about the only thing you can do is keep a good attitude, and they will go in. Davis Love told me a long time ago told me he putts looking at the hole when struggling. He will look at the hole and forget about his stroke as if you are shooting a free throw. You don't look at your hand or elbow and shoot a free throw and pretty soon you start making them, and you realize if you are out here, you are a good putter. There is not one of us out here that is not a good putter. I know all of us go through our struggles. If you are out here on the PGA TOUR you've got the natural ability. You are a good putter.

Q. Did you ever try that for 18 holes?

**MATT KUCHAR:** I only tried it as a drill never done it on the course.

Q. I thought that was interesting, one of the golf magazines did it on that you probably saw that, they said it was more accurate in tests, that style of putting was more accurate?

**MATT KUCHAR:** I did not see that. They said players faired better while looking at the hole. I knew one guy, a guy I played [junior, Jr.] golf with, Sal Spalone (phonetic) who has been on the Nationwide Tour played for a while looking at the hole. That's the only guy I knew who did that.

Q. It's only natural, hockey you are looking at the net.

**MATT KUCHAR:** I don't know why we don't do it. You certainly don't do it on

your full swing. That would be pretty tough.

Q. Would you have expected to have more than one tournament win by this time?

**MATT KUCHAR:** I would have to say yes. 2002, 2003 if you were to ask me that question by 2008 would you have won again, certainly I would have responded with yes. It is amazing to think though how difficult winning is. To think of a player like Stewart Cink, a player of that caliber, what has he gone two years without winning? It makes that win in 02, that Honda Classic win, really special to find out that it just doesn't come that easy. It is difficult to get a win out here.

DOUG MILNE: Matt, thanks for your time. Congratulations on a great round. Good luck into the weekend.

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