

**Viking Classic
Annandale Golf Club
Madison, MS**

September 18, 2008

First-round leader quotes

AN INTERVIEW WITH MARC TURNESA

JOHN BUSH: We would like to welcome Marc Turnesa in the interview room here at The Viking Classic; 7-under par 65, our leader in the clubhouse.

Marc, if we can get your comments on a great day of golf.

MARC TURNESA: I puttied well today. I didn't really feel that comfortable in my golf swing but I started hitting it a little better as the day went on. But I puttied well all day long.

JOHN BUSH: It's always nice to close out the round with three birdies, too, if you can talk about that stretch

MARC TURNESA: Well, we had a short par-4, 16. I hit a 3-wood in the fairway, a perfect number for a pitching wedge, six feet. I had an inside left putt and made it.

The next hole I hit a good 3-wood down there and hit 8-iron, five feet, a little right-to-left and made that.

18, just a three-shot hole today into the wind. Driver, 5-iron and a little lob wedge. I had a putt straight up the hill. I hit it pretty hard but it went right to the back.

JOHN BUSH: Before we open it up for questions, comments on your season up to this point

MARC TURNESA: Shaky. It hasn't been that great. You know, I've had a few good weeks, a few good weeks that I really didn't close out, and I had a few weeks where I just really wasn't hitting the ball well.

But overall this year I think my ball striking has been holding me back. I have been working on it on the range. To be honest with you, I'm surprised I'm at 7-under today because I didn't really feel like I was hitting it great, and I didn't hit it great. But, you know, putting is a great equalizer. If you can make putts, you

can get away with a lot of things.

JOHN BUSH: Do you remember a round where you only had 22 putts before?

MARC TURNESA: It's been a long time. I think I might have done it, but it's been a long time. I think 22 putts shows that I putted well. But it also shows that I didn't hit very many greens. So a couple of putts standing from the fringe, that number looks pretty impressive.

I'm going to work it out on the range and hopefully tomorrow hit it better and putt just the same.

JOHN BUSH: Questions?

Q. Talk about what it's like to be out here as a rookie and it's been kind of a rough year; what it's like. You won last year on Nationwide. It's not like you haven't won a tournament, you know how to win. There is a difference between winning out here as opposed to there, and tell us what you have gone through this year.

MARC TURNESA: I think it's a pretty big adjustment for me, anyway. It's just the biggest stage. You know, the golf inside the ropes isn't really that much different, but it's everything that goes on outside of the ropes with much bigger production. It's a bigger stage.

To be honest, I haven't hit the ball as well. So I think that the golf isn't that much different really from what I can tell. You play good golf courses on both tours. The courses overall are a little bit better out here, but you got to play well on either Tour. Guys can play down there, and they can play up here. So I think outside of the ropes is the biggest difference.

Q. I haven't looked at the statistics today, but you did not hit a lot of greens, is that what you are trying to tell us?

MARC TURNESA: I don't think so. I didn't count them up.

JOHN BUSH: 11 of 18.

MARC TURNESA: Fortunately, when I missed I wasn't in bad spots. I missed in the right places. So when I missed the greens, I had relatively easy up and downs. I like the Bermuda. I can tell you that. I don't know. I'm from New York, but I started playing professionally on those mini tours down in Florida, and I have come accustomed to it, and I live down there now obviously. I got good vibes with Bermuda.

Q. Talk about your goals for the fall series starting a seven tournament stretch. Are you playing all of those?

MARC TURNESA: I am playing all of them. I don't think I really give myself much of a chance. Of course, if I win this week I would be able to take a week off.

In the position I'm in, I need to get up there on that Money List. Obviously, I'm going to start with trying to get inside the Top-150 and then Top-125. That's the goal.

When you come to play on Thursday you're not really thinking about that. I'm just trying to play solid golf where I value each shot and try to do the best I can.

Q. Looking at your bio, your family history of golf, were you going to play golf your whole life? Did you play other sports and say, hey, I like golf better or were you a golfing pro from age two on?

MARC TURNESA: Yes, I was pretty much a golfer. I played other sports. I wasn't very good. I played Little League baseball and soccer. Golf was always my thing. I was hoping that I'd always be a golfer. It's nice to be out here. But you just never know. You got to play well to get out here, and you got to play well to stay here. Yes, golf has always been my thing. I just enjoy doing it.

Q. Usually in a round like yours today, there is a break here or there, or you catch a good lie in the rough, or you chip-in, you make a long putt. What were your moments today? Was there anything that stands out?

MARC TURNESA: You know, I only had one real moment there. I made a good birdie on 10 with a pitching wedge. I hit it three or four feet. The 11th hole, par-5, I bogeyed. I wasn't really feeling too good after that, giving one back on the par-5. I missed a 4 footer for par. I was pretty disappointed with that. But on the very next hole, the par-3, I missed the green, just off the fringe left. I didn't know if I wanted to put it or chip it. I could have done either one. I decided to putt it and I made it. So that was probably, I'd say, 25, 30 feet. It was pretty straight forward, but you don't really expect to make it coming out of the fringe. I hit a good fringe putt through. That was nice. I probably gave one back on the par-5 on the previous hole.

Q. (Inaudible)?

MARC TURNESA: No, I take it out. I generally always take the pin out when I walk the greens, if I'm just off, unless I have a horrendous lie.

Q. With your family history growing up, are you always talking about golf, or are you always playing golf, everybody's topic?

MARC TURNESA: I was always playing golf. Not always talking golf. My dad golfed professionally. So I grew up on the golf course. But, you know, my immediate family, I got my dad who is a golf professional and my brother is a professional. But it wasn't always golf talk. I was the one most interested in golf. To be honest with you, there wasn't much golf talk going on around the house. I was always on the golf course.

JOHN BUSH: Thank you

MARC TURNESA: Thanks, guys.

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