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**Nissan Open  
Riviera Country Club  
Pacific Palisades, California  
February 21, 2004**

**Third-round leader quotes**

**AN INTERVIEW WITH JEFF MAGGERT**

THE MODERATOR: All right, we have Jeff Maggert with us, 11-under par for a 69 today. Obviously the conditions were a lot more difficult today.

JEFF MAGGERT: Yes, I thought we got a little bit of a break on the weather actually. I didn't even have my rain gear on at all today. I just had the umbrella up the last four or five holes, so overall I thought we got a little bit of a break. The golf course played a little bit more difficult, a little bit more wind today. They pushed the tees back a little on a couple of holes, so the golf course did play a little bit tougher.

THE MODERATOR: Questions?

Q. As often as you played here, Jeff, can you imagine being 11-under through three rounds and being six shots off the lead?

JEFF MAGGERT: Well, this is a funny golf course, when you look at all of the scores yesterday, it looked like it may take 20-under to win. It might still do that.

But after four days here the golf course usually wins the battle and, you know, usually around 15-under is a pretty good target score here. If you can get to 15-under you can win a lot of tournaments on this golf course.

I just need to stay focused and play well. Certainly, Mike shot a good score today.

I was a little sloppy today. I made 4 bogeys. But certainly I'm making a lot of birdies and if I can kind of play a mistake-free round tomorrow and make 5, 6, 7 birdies, I will certainly have a chance.

Q. Do you go with the thought that we might not be playing tomorrow, the weather is supposed to be worse, when you start the day, or were you not worried about that and hope you play well?

JEFF MAGGERT: I'm not too worried about the weather. The forecast isn't great, but you just got to kind of grin and bear it. On the West Coast you get a lot of days like this in the winter. So hopefully the weather is going to be good enough where we can play golf tomorrow.

I don't know what their game plan is as far as going to Monday if they have to. But certainly if we have to do that we will. But hopefully the weather will be good enough tomorrow, we can get all 18 in.

The golf course is taken the weather very well. I mean, we had pretty good rain on Wednesday. The golf course just drains well. The greens are still pretty firm. So unless we just get an inch and a half, or 2 inches of rain over night, I don't see why the golf course won't be playable.

THE MODERATOR: Questions?

Q. It was a bad break you had last year playing with Weir in the last round of the Masters, when the ball hit the bunker, when you tee off with him tomorrow does any of that come back to you, or do you just move forward?

JEFF MAGGERT: Not really. Mike is a great guy. He is just fun to play with. He is a true gentlemen. I haven't played with him a lot, but all the times that I have played with him, you know, it's been fun. You know, obviously he has a nice lead tomorrow but there are still four or five guys that are within striking distance.

You know, if we can make some early birdies and make a run at him, it will be a little bit different back nine.

Q. Do you have any thoughts on why Tiger hasn't won here and why, at least in the last few years, he hasn't been much of a factor?

JEFF MAGGERT: It's hard to say. I mean, you know, he says he considers this his home tournament. Sometimes it's a little bit tougher to play at home. But it doesn't seem like he has a tough time with anywhere that he plays. I don't know, there could be a lot of factors, you know. He normally takes a little bit of time off leading into this tournament. I don't know if his game is rough here. The golf course doesn't suit, you know, the way he is playing, or what. But, you know, he certainly hasn't really performed in this tournament as well as he has a lot of the others.

I'm sure he'll win it some day, as many tournaments as he's winning.

Q. Do golfers sometimes get nervous with a great big lead?

JEFF MAGGERT: I get nervous every day. That's just part of the golf. I have always said if you're not nervous then you're not playing well. The nerves and that adrenaline that you get from that is what makes you perform at a little bit higher level. You know, I haven't been playing that well. I have been a little bit more nervous than I'm accustomed to, but it's a very positive affect on my game. It's making me concentrate more and work a little bit harder on my game and things are starting to pay off for me.

Q. It's a little bit of a reach, I'm wondering if you see -- we were teasing Weir yesterday looking like a little bit of a left-handed Ben Hogan, size and stature, do you see any of that?

JEFF MAGGERT: I have always admired Mike's swing. He's got a very compact swing. For a small guy he certainly has a very powerful game, and he plays within his abilities. Probably just as well as any player that's ever played. He knows his capabilities, and he plays within himself, and he probably just plays a lot of good rounds of golf.

(Card.)

JEFF MAGGERT: I played pretty sloppy the first nine holes. I wasn't very encouraged by the way I was hitting the ball. Other than the bogey on 12, I really thought I hit the ball a little bit better on the back nine and gave myself an opportunity to make a few birdies and fortunately I made a few putts.

Q. Can you talk about how the course played different today than yesterday?

JEFF MAGGERT: Just by the cold and the wetness made the golf course play a little bit longer. You know, it was just hard to really, you know -- it just seemed like the irons were all up the club floor today (phn). I hit a 4-iron on the sixth hole and actually thought I might have too much club in my hand will, hit a good shot and still came up 30 feet short of the pin and that was -- the whole day was like that. You know, normally, yesterday, or the day before, you know, hitting, you know, seven or eight irons on some of these shots. Today it was five and six.

They pushed the tees back a little bit further. They had the tee back on 12 today which that adds about 50 yards to that hole. So that hole was playing -- I don't know what the stroke average is there but I guarantee you it was at least probably almost a shot harder today than it was yesterday and Thursday. So, the golf course overall definitely played a little bit tougher today. They had some good pin placements out there. If you weren't hitting in the fairway, and hitting a lot of greens, it was tough to get a good score.

THE MODERATOR: Thank, Jeff, I appreciate it.

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