

59TH ANNUAL BANK OF AMERICA COLONIAL
Colonial Country Club
Fort Worth, Texas
May 19, 2005

First-round interviews

AN INTERVIEW WITH BILLY MAYFAIR

THE MODERATOR: We welcome Billy Mayfair after a 3-under, 67, the first round of the Bank America Colonial. **Error! Bookmark not defined.**

Billy, a place that you seem to like, you've made 14 of 18 cuts in your history here.

BILLY MAYFAIR: Well, it's 18, I played two years here as an amateur and all of that and they were nice enough to invite me as a U.S. amateur champion and then come back the next year.

They've always been very special to me here at Colonial. I love the golf course. I love the area and all of that stuff. Probably if I didn't live in Arizona, Fort Worth would be my next guess. It would be my next pick and all of that. I love playing Colonial. Like I've said, I've been here 18 years, I know the golf course very well and I just enjoy coming back every year.

THE MODERATOR: Talk about the round today, you got of a birdie on the first hole, and a bogey No. 3, and added a couple more down the way.

BILLY MAYFAIR: Yes, I got off to a good start. I birdied No. 1. I hit a good drive, I had about 240 to the front, hit a 3-iron just in the left bunker and blasted out about eight feet from the hole and made that for birdie.

Then I went to No. 3, I hit a real good drive down the fairway, only had about 170 yards to the hole, hit a 7-iron. I must have caught a gust of wind, or something like that, because I hit it over the green and hit the tower behind the green. It kind of bounced backward where it really could have gone a long way. I didn't get it up and down, made bogey there. I just played solid the rest of the day.

I actually hit 3-wood from about 270 on 11, flew the green into the back bunker, and just kind of blasted it out 15 feet from the hole, made that for birdie. I kind of felt that I picked 1-up myself because I hit it too into that back bunker, which was a pin placement I've never seen before on No. 11, which was really weird. They usually put it right in the corner there, and they put it all the way in the back center, right behind that center bunker. So it was kind of a different pin placement.

Then I birdied 15. I hit a real good drive down there, had 110 yards to the hole, hit a sand wedge about six feet from the hole and made that for birdie.

But getting off at 7:30 this morning, being the first group out was a big advantage. The wind was pretty calm. It picked up probably on the seventh or eighth hole for us. I think it's always good to get out early, get going and see what you can do.

THE MODERATOR: Questions?

Q. (Inaudible)?

BILLY MAYFAIR: Well, you know, practice round I was about 10 yards. I was just about where I was in the practice round. The pin was about 10 yards further back, so I figured a good 7-iron would be perfect.

And my caddy and I both thought the wind was blowing right-to-left. When we got up there and started looking around a little more, I think maybe it was blowing right to left and down. I just caught a good 7-iron and maybe the ball flew a little bit off the grass, I don't know. It hit the (inaudible) on the fly. I thought it great. Because it took a funny bounce, and it hit the score's tower back there. It was kind of fortunate it just kind of hit it and shot it straight back down on the ground. I had a chance to get it up and down and wasn't able to.

But I've been hitting the ball really good, turning the ball over and maybe hitting it a little further than I normally in two. Maybe that's why the ball went. I can't figure out. I'm not going to worry about it. It was just weird watching it. I figured it was going to land pin-high and it hit the tower. Luckily it wasn't too far over the green.

Q. The guys say it's 18 times, has your strategy changed at all over the years, or is it just a matter of trying to perfect the same thing?

BILLY MAYFAIR: Well, I think this year is a little bit different strategy. The golf course is in such great shape. There is a lot more grass in the fairways. The ball is not bounding, not bouncing as hard as it normally did. A great example would be on 18. If you get the wind blowing right-to-left, if you hit that ball turning at all, you can hit the center of the fairway, it can roll another 40 yards all the way down there. Now, it's just kind of bouncing, it's just kind of rolling about 10, 12 yards. And you are further back. You got to play a little more aggressive off the tee because the ball is not bouncing as hard in the fairway.

Other years we've played here -- 9 is a great example, into the wind, you just used to hit a 3-iron. Now you got to hit a 3-wood going to get it down in the same position because the fairways aren't as fast. That might change as the week goes along, but for right now it's not.

Q. Do you prefer one for other?

BILLY MAYFAIR: No, I actually prefer this because when you hit a good shot you get rewarded. You can hit a good shot last year here, the ball could take a funny bounce in the fairway and roll into a bunker or roll into the rough when you really hit a good drive off the tee. Tomorrow afternoon we'll just see how the golf course is playing and take it one shot at a time.

Q. I'm curious, one of the theories about this course is that it kind of neutralizes the big hitter and can take driver out of a guy's hand. Why do you think a guy like Kenny Perry, who is one of the longest buys out here, seems to drive here year after year?

BILLY MAYFAIR: Well, one, I think Kenny really shapes the ball very well. He hits it really hard right-to-left and left-to-right all of that. Kind of like Payne Stewart did when he was out here. The golf course sets up really good for him. The other thing is Kenny Perry is a great putter. He has hit a lot of shots close to making a lot of putts. That's how he shoots low numbers. The win here last year, and then go win the next week at Memorial, shows what kind of a great of a putter he really is.

Q. Given what you were saying about how good the conditions are, the Harrison Frazars up there, like you said, does that have anything to do with it you think, are they able to hit more drivers maybe?

BILLY MAYFAIR: Well, maybe a few more, maybe they will be able to keep the ball more in play, more in the fairway, keep the ball more in the fairways because the fairways aren't rolling. Harrison is a Texas boy, and he loves it here too. I think he gets psyched up playing here too. I don't know if you can really say that long hitters have a disadvantage here. I don't think they have an advantage over everyone else like sometimes they do on the TOUR. Some golf courses like this one.

Q. You got it going early last week, I wonder what you took away from last week?

BILLY MAYFAIR: Well, I played great on Friday. I shot 64 over at Cottonwood and was ready for the weekend and just got off, both on Saturday and Sunday, got off to a bad start, a couple over after four or five holes and just kind of fought my way back. Saturday I shot 1-over and Sunday I shot 1-under. It was a disappointing weekend. It was a weekend where if I could have gone out and played good, I could have had a chance to win and all of that.

You know, I'm just happy I was in a position, keep myself in that position as much as I can and see what happens.

Q. Talking about the course conditions, anything better, growing conditions, thicker grass throughout the fairway, anything else you've noticed this year playing the course that is different than maybe the last handful of years here?

BILLY MAYFAIR: No, I think the biggest thing, obviously there is more grass in the fairways, the ball is not rolling quite as much. The greens are in fantastic shape. They are receptacles, but I think they will get firmer and firmer as the week goes along to as the wind starts blowing. Colonial is usually in great shape every year. I know I love coming here.

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