

**Zurich Classic of New Orleans
English Turn Golf Course
New Orleans, LA
April 29, 2006**

Third-round tournament quotes:

AN INTERVIEW WITH PHIL MICKELSON

(Interview by tape.)

Q. (Inaudible)?

PHIL MICKELSON: Yes, it's playing very difficult right now with the wind. I just cannot believe that Chris Couch is 8-under par. What a great round to shoot that out here.

And Charles Howell is down to 6-under. I would have gladly taken 2- or 3-under par and thought that would have been very, very good. I'm certainly pleased with 4.

Q. Are these conditions the toughest that you've faced all year so far?

PHIL MICKELSON: They could be, certainly with the wind, how the wind is. The nice thing though, what makes it play as well, the greens are softer and receptive. So if you do miss greens, you can get up and down, you can chip.

And if you do happen to get a hole downwind, you can hold your green, the greens are soft. There are birdie holes there. But the first 5, and the last hole are very tough.

Q. Admittedly you came into this tournament a little rusty having not played much since Augusta, but seemingly you are getting it back, now with one round to go, do you feel good about things tomorrow?

PHIL MICKELSON: Well, I certainly feel better after today's round than I did after yesterday's round. I played much better today, and I hit a lot better shots. But I still have a long ways to go tomorrow to try to make up ground. Right now I'm 3 back. I'm hoping that stays. It could, but it also could be four or five. I'm going to have to go out tomorrow and shoot a low round to try to catch the leaders, but I'm pleased that I at least have that chance.

Q. The headlines in tomorrow's papers, if you win, you will donate your check to the charities here, and Reggie Bush goes to the New Orleans Saints, those are the two big headlines right now?

PHIL MICKELSON: Well, I think it's great for the Saints if Reggie Bush came here. Even if they end up trading him, they have Deuce McAllister. They have a great running back already. And if they end up trading him, they could probably get who they thought they were going to get who is Ferguson from Virginia, and maybe somebody else.

Q. How exhausting of a week has it been for you since you stepped foot on the grounds here, one interview after another, and you've gladly done them all, how exhausting of a week has it been for Phil Mickelson up to this point?

PHIL MICKELSON: Well, Doug, anything for you, you know that. It's been a (inaudible) to get back out on TOUR. I just had two weeks of great rest with my family, and I'm looking forward to getting out tomorrow.

Q. Talk about Reggie Bush going to the Saints, and Leinart to the Cardinals.

PHIL MICKELSON: I think that's great for Arizona, they have nice receivers. I love that Reggie Bush has a chance to come to the Saints, even if they've don't end up keeping him, because they already have Deuce McAllister.

Q. By the way a good round today?

PHIL MICKELSON: Thank you. It was fun playing today.

Q. What about the conditions?

PHIL MICKELSON: They were tougher today than the first two days, that's for sure. The wind has been hazardous picked up. I thought the first five holes played very tough, and the last four holes played very tough. The middle 9 played primarily downwind, and you were able to make birdies. I will gladly take my score. I thought anything under par today would have been great until I looked up on the scoreboard and saw Chris Couch was 6-under through 10 holes, and ended up shooting 8, just an amazing round of golf.

Q. You thought somebody possible could go under eight, was that possible?

PHIL MICKELSON: I didn't think it was possible under these conditions. I thought under calm conditions there was a 9 or 10 out there, and Chris Couch had it to 9-under even in these conditions. It's out there. If the wind dies down tomorrow a little bit tomorrow I think we'll see some low scores.

Q. If it turns out to the number we were talking about yesterday, if it stays the way it's is right now, you've got a really good chance tomorrow?

PHIL MICKELSON: If it stays like this, It's 12-under, and I'm only 3 back. Even if they get to 13 or 14, I'm still within striking distance if I can get out tomorrow and make some birdies. There is a lot of birdies out here. The par-5s are very good birdie holes, and I need to tank advantage of them.

Q. I thought the beginning of the week you were a bit rusty, do you feel much better now?

PHIL MICKELSON: Well, as the tournament has gone on, I feel a lot better. After today's round I feel a lot better. I hit the ball much better today than I did the first two days.

Q. If it rains today will that make the course easier for tomorrow?

PHIL MICKELSON: If it rains today, it probably won't have much affect on the way the course is playing, because the greens are already soft, the fairways are already soft. So it shouldn't play any different than the way it has been.

Q. Only one driver today?

PHIL MICKELSON: I went with my normal driver that I was using. I took out my Augusta special there. That driver goes a little bit higher. I didn't really feel like that trajectory would be great today.

Q. Given that you placed your winnings to recovery efforts and charities, do you think you will have a few people rooting for you tomorrow for you to come away with a good score and come away with as much money as possible?

PHIL MICKELSON: Well, that would be nice if that happens, but that's not the goal. We all have a part to play here to try to get the City back to where it belongs and hopefully better than it was. It will take some time, 5 or 10 years maybe. But in the end it will be worth it.

Q. What's the big difference in the wind?

PHIL MICKELSON: Well, I hit a driver, 6-iron into one. So it was howling when we teed off this morning. I couldn't believe anybody was under par, let alone 6-under through 10. That changed my mindset a little bit. I let a lot of good opportunities slide by.

Q. (Inaudible)?

PHIL MICKELSON: Well, it was hard to put a number out when the conditions are like this. I just didn't know what a good score would be. I thought anything under par would be a good round. I'm certainly pleased with 4.

Q. (Inaudible)?

PHIL MICKELSON: Yes, when I saw guys making birdies, I knew I had to try to make some as well. After the first five holes though, 6 through 14, were very birdieable, that was where you could really have the golf course. But the last 4 of the first 5 were crosswind and very, very tough.

Q. (Inaudible)?

PHIL MICKELSON: Exactly. We know it's going to blow more. It's blowing a little bit harder today than normal.

Q. (Inaudible)?

PHIL MICKELSON: Yes, the toughest aspect is either soften the ball downwind, because the greens were soft, or putting it into a crosswind. That's very difficult trying to read a green with a crosswind because on a 15, 20-footer, it could be one to two feet of break distance.

Q. (Inaudible)?

PHIL MICKELSON: Not too bad, not too bad, no.

Q. (Inaudible)?

PHIL MICKELSON: Exactly.
