

**60th Annual Bank of America Colonial
Colonial Country Club
Forth Worth, Texas
May 18, 2006**

First-round Interviews

AN INTERVIEW WITH NICK O'HERN

THE MODERATOR: Okay. Nick O'Hern, making your first appearance at the Bank of America Colonial. Great first round, 4 under par 66. A lot of golf left, but you have to like your position heading into the second round.

NICK O'HERN: Absolutely. I'm happy to be awake at the moment. I arrived here from Australia on Monday. And it usually takes three days to get over jet lag. I woke up pretty fresh this morning. Yesterday was a bit of a no brainer. But I'm feeling good, and played well today. It's my first look at the course, I'll take it.

THE MODERATOR: Okay. Questions?

Q As far as the course, your first time through are there advantages at certain points or disadvantages as far as being a lefty out here?

NICK O'HERN: As far as being left-handed? I don't think so. As it turns out the course just really fits my eye really well off the tee. You need to shape the ball quite a lot right to left, and a few holes left to right. I played with Corey today, and I was kind of seeing what he did around a little bit as well. So, it's not a long hitter's golf course, which is nice because I'm only a short hitter. And if you can put the ball on the fairway you are going to have a lot of birdie opportunities. You don't have to be long off the tee. You put it in the fairway you are going to make some birdies out there. Having said that, I still made some good saves for par. The course fits my eye really well. It's pretty rare we play a course like this, one of the old traditional courses where you need to shape the ball and think your way around. A lot of the courses in Australia are like this. I wish we played these every week.

Q Nick, for a guy who has never played this course was it a good draw for you to be playing with the guy like Corey?

NICK O'HERN: Yeah.

Q Who obviously knows his way around here pretty well?

NICK O'HERN: He has played his 22nd or 23rd year or something. And I get a long well with Corey. We have similar games we bump it down the fairway and grind it around. Not having played here also you don't know where some of the problems are, which is good. That could also be a disadvantage because you don't know where to hit it as well. So as it turned out I was first off a lot of tees, so it was up to me to put the ball where I thought it was the best place to go. As it turned out, I was making some good decisions. And I played well. I was very happy.

Q You alluded to flying in from Australia. You obviously have played here sporadically this year. Can you talk about the challenge that your schedule presented for you in terms of trying to get --

NICK O'HERN: I was due to come over the week before the world Match Play and move my family over. It turns out my wife had a bad pregnancy and so she stayed home, and we just had the baby a few weeks ago. And so I'm going back and forth basically. Other words we all would have come over and I would have spent pretty much the whole year here. As it turns out I'm not playing here that much. I'm trying to play as many as events I can. I'm here this week and I'm in England next week, and I will go home. And I will probably make another trip back for the U.S. Open and I will go home. There is a lot of over pacific flights. But from Australia you are kind of used to that sort of thing. If you can get here early enough each tournament, about 2 or 3 days, is a good time to get over jet lag. It's not ideal preparation. This year it's just part of life and my family is more important.

Q (Inaudible)?

NICK O'HERN: Something like that, yeah. But you know, as things are turning out I'm quite enjoying just not playing too much and having a few weeks off. It works out pretty well.

Q Did you get any preparation on the course out here or is it the first time out today.

NICK O'HERN: I had a practice round on Tuesday. I got here Monday. Generally after a long flight it's not good idea to hit balls I have found. I came and walked the course Monday, played Tuesday, and a little bit of practice yesterday. And you can tell where you need to go anyway, I think. And for some guys where I think is the right place to hit it maybe not the right place for other people. I have to play the course how I see it

Q You mentioned the timetable you expected to have everything moved. What is the timetable now for the whole family to be back?

NICK O'HERN: We're still having a few problems with our baby. So they are going to be home for the year and I will travel back and forth. I will probably do another four or so long haul flights. So it's going to be very interesting. I will get those frequent flyer miles up.

Q What is your baby's name, and how old?

NICK O'HERN: Halle is her name.

Q I can't imagine what the inspiration is for that one?

NICK O'HERN: No, one has never heard of it back in Australia anyway. She is three weeks old. She was 8 weeks premature and she is still in hospital. And by the time I get back she should be coming out of hospital and then let the fun begin.

Q Where were you going to set up home?

NICK O'HERN: We were first going to rent a place in Orlando. It was either between Orlando or Dallas, that seems to be where all of the Australians migrate to. There are a few Aussies here and then a few over there. I have no idea where to live to be honest. We're just taking it as it come.

Q I hear Gary, Indiana is really nice.

NICK O'HERN: No.

Q You got six Australians ranked in the top 35. I think there is 5 South Africans in the top 35. You throw in Vijay and Mike Weir. The President's Cup Team is the hardest team to make of all whether you go from the Ryder Cup down to the President's Cup, would you agree with that?

NICK O'HERN: I was very, very fortunate to make that last President's Cup Team. And the good thing it gives you a two-year exemption. I was glad about that as well. It's tough because it goes back to world rankings. It went back to the mid to high 20 s , I think it was. As far as the international team went I wasn't sure what the U.S. team ranking was. It was probably a little higher. You are probably right there. You know, internationally, yeah, we've got a really strong team. And the guys coming out of Australia, I mean, there is quite a few more guys that people haven't heard of that are still coming too. We have a strong golfing nation at the moment. And I think the foundation that we laid quite a few years back are starting to pay, to come to fruition.

Q Were you aware of the fact that the exemption is not available starting the next time around?

NICK O'HERN: Yes.

Q What did you think of that decision?

NICK O'HERN: Well you know I take it as it comes. I think I was probably the only one maybe Trevor Immelman gained exemption. I have been a European tour member for about 7 years now, and I have played mostly over there all of that time. And last year I had a chance to play over here and experience over here. I enjoyed playing full time in Europe and coming over here and playing a few events. But I found the travel was too hard to go back and forth. And when we had a chance to become a member here this year, why not take it up and go from there. As it turns out we may not be playing much. I will be doing well to get my 15 events up. Hopefully I can do that and retain my membership for next year.

Q One other thing. I apologize if you answered this. When Watson used to play in the same pairing with Crenshaw, he said, I would try to watch Crenshaw putt and putt like him. Now Corey around here is sort of legendary. Was there some of that going on with you today watching him fit his way around?

NICK O'HERN: Yes. He chased the ball a lot left to right, and I'm opposite, I'm more right to left. And in that sense it was more a case of what sort of clubs he took off the tee. And as it turned out I probably teed off before him quite a lot. But, you know, around the greens and that he is just wonderful to watch. And I love watching his short game and the way he just fits his golf ball around the course. For his game and to achieve what he has done over the years is just phenomenal.

Q Two sort of unrelated questions. What part of your game do you find suffers the most with all of the erratic schedule. And secondly, you talk about the classic nature of this course. Do you think that classic type courses make it easier to play the first time because it's kind of out in front of you, and you don't have --

NICK O'HERN: Yeah. Well it's the sort of course that you don't need to flush it all of the time. You can sort of hit a few mishits and scrounge it down there on the fairway and it's that sort of golf course. I'm not saying that in a bad way, I'm saying that in a good way. A lot of courses now where you have to bomb it. If you don't, well for me, if I don't really flush the ball I have fairway woods coming and putt 4s and things like that. This type of course you don't need a lot of drivers off the tee. As long as you get it off the short stuff, it's not too bad .it doesn't matter how you do it, you know, you can hit a big high hook or a low cut, it doesn't really matter. As long as it gets there. Some courses you need to smash it as far as you can. Thankfully this isn't one of them. The biggest problem I find when traveling is to getting the body right as far as the connection of the golf swing. I find I'm a little bit out of sync, and I mishit a lot of shots when I do a lot of travel. But that is probably the biggest downfall is traveling. Other than that, not too big of a deal I played all right.

Q Not too many mishits today?

NICK O'HERN: I had quite a few. They all went straight. This is a game of misses. You can miss it straight you are not in too much trouble. It's when your misses go wide that is when you have problems.

Q Can you touch on your round?

NICK O'HERN: Yes.

(Score Card).