

**Nissan Open Championship
Riviera Country Club
Pacific Palisades, CA**

February 17, 2007

Third-round tournament quotes

AN INTERVIEW WITH PADRAIG HARRINGTON

JOHN BUSH: We would like to welcome Padraig Harrington into the interview room 12-under, one shot back heading into Sunday.

Can we get opening comment on your round?

PADRAIG HARRINGTON: I'm still in there with a good chance. I felt it would have been, you know, I had a few opportunities at that time. It would have been nice to get to 15, 16-under par, so that would have taken the field out. It brought a lot of people back into the tournament this week by not going low today. I'm in a comfortable position. Whoever plays the best tomorrow, will probably win the tournament. But as I said maybe a half a dozen guys instead of just two guys have a chance.

JOHN BUSH: Questions?

Q. What kept you from it, was it simply just putting or was the course firming up?

PADRAIG HARRINGTON: Just the nature of the game. I played okay in place. I hit a few bad shots here and there, I had a couple of nice putts at the end that didn't go in. That's the nature of the game. I'm hoping that turns around tomorrow.

Q. Even though you talk about the fact that there is a half dozen, instead of 2, is there a part of you that's relieved that you're not chasing one, he was starting to pull away with three shots there?

PADRAIG HARRINGTON: Yes, there was a good number for me to be focussed on, when he was 15-under that's a good number to chase. Because as I said, if I can catch him at 15 it keeps a lot of people -- I know he came back. 15 and 16 rather 13 and 12. If we had to have tomorrow. I worry about someone shooting 65 from behind us.

Q. Was the putt a tricky one on 17?

PADRAIG HARRINGTON: It was, where my feet was right-to-left I wanted to hit a ball inside the hole, or hole in a half. Unfortunately where the hole was, it was a little flatter and just stayed up on the high side. I hit a nice putt but it was an awkward one.

Q. Padraig, this is a top name leaderboard, a lot of great players, a few major winners and almost everybody has won a tournament is in the Top-10. Any comment on that?

PADRAIG HARRINGTON: I suppose it's a good golf course, that must be that's it's bringing out players. But, yes, it's a very good golf course and very testing golf course. But besides that, normally every tournament you have a few of the named players. But you always have a few guys thrown in there that are having a good week. So I have no idea why not this week. That's for you guys to figure out.

Q. Padraig, any similarities here to Westchester?

PADRAIG HARRINGTON: Yes, I would think this is quite similar around the greens, just a little bit longer here, you drive more off the tee than Westchester but very similar everywhere else.

Q. You are talking about worrying somebody shooting a 65 and coming from behind, obviously it seems like the conditions are such that that weighs on you because it is possible, right?

PADRAIG HARRINGTON: Well, I obviously go out on Saturday, if I'm in the lead I want to extend my lead, that's my attitude on Saturday. I feel I haven't don't that today. It's not. It's still well in contention with the tournament. That's the thought on Saturdays is to try to -- when you are ahead, is to push on. The goal on Saturday is to -- if you are leading to go and extend your lead to take people out. Unfortunately we didn't do that today.

Q. Robert Allenby was saying that the course is easier and harder because it is playing shorter, but the greens are trickier because they are so firm, would you agree with that?

PADRAIG HARRINGTON: I can't compare it with anything else. I never played here before. It is playing like that firm off the tee, firm around the greens. But as you said, what's presented this week is all I know.

Q. It sometimes rains here?

PADRAIG HARRINGTON: It ain't going to rain tomorrow.

JOHN BUSH: Padraig, take us through the two birdies and bogeys, No. 3.

PADRAIG HARRINGTON: 3, I hit a drive, I hit wedge to 15 feet, 12 feet, hold the putt.

6, I hit a four or 5-iron left of the green. And then chipped it by -- it was short. I chipped it well by the hole and missed the putt. Seemingly I could have chipped it up the side of the green and it would have come back down. I didn't happen to notice that. My playing partner told me that as I was going up the next hole.

11, driver, 3-wood, short of the green, chipped it up to five feet, six feet and hold it.

Q. Are you saying that was Phil that showed that to you and not Charles?

PADRAIG HARRINGTON: Yes.

JOHN BUSH: Play well tomorrow.

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