

**Viking Classic
Annandale Golf Club
Madison, MS**

September 19, 2008

Second-round leader quotes

AN INTERVIEW WITH PAUL STANKOWSKI

JOAN vT ALEXANDER: Thanks for joining us for a few minutes in the media center at The Viking Classic. A nice round out there today, 65. Yesterday no birdies. You had a couple of bogeys today but bounced back with a lot of birdies. Obviously playing well the first two days, what are you doing?

PAUL STANKOWSKI: Well, I rolled some balls in the hole today which is nice. The thing I struggled with all year has been putting. It's kind of been my weak link early throughout my career. I had a month off and finally got a putting lesson for the first time in my life and actually started working on my putting for the first time in my life which is probably a good thing. I drove the ball okay. It was pretty much normal for me. I hit irons which is pretty normal. But I made a lot of putts. I think I average 50 to 70 feet a putt a round in my career. Every week a good week is 60, 70 putts, and I think I made that in four holes today. It nice to make a couple of 30-footers which hasn't been the norm. But I hadn't 3-putted which is nice, things I've been used to doing over the years, so it's good to finally roll it good, see some fruits for the effort that I put into it the last month or so.

JOAN vT ALEXANDER: Questions?

Q. Did ending the way you did yesterday carry over? Is there no consequence at all, or is it in your mind, hey, a great shot, I made a great birdie?

PAUL STANKOWSKI: Yes, it doesn't hurt. The shot I hit was, you know, any time you pull something off out of the trees, out of the rough and it works out better than you anticipated, it's usually a good thing.

I was just trying to get it up there around the green yesterday. You know I hit a great shot. I hit a lot of good ones yesterday and really only made 2-putts all day. I rolled it nicely though. I was encouraged by that. I made two 10 footers, one for birdie, one for par. I had a chip-in which was foreign. And that shot on 18. Yesterday was a good solid day. I was really encouraged by what I saw, especially on the greens. My speed got better and that carried over as well.

But yes, that shot, I was trying to hit a good one but it's a little bit lucky when it turns out that way. When it hit the pin, I don't know how hard it was going when it hit the pin and stopped a foot. It was a great shot. It would have been better had I hit a perfect tee shot, perfect 9-iron to a foot. I probably would have taken that. It's hard to take a pulled draw into the trees and a hack out of the trees to a foot. I'm not sure how much encouragement is in that other than the fact that I can make birdie from anywhere.

Q. What club did you hit on that shot?

PAUL STANKOWSKI: 7-iron.

Q. The putt you made today, can you go through the card, I guess that's the best thing?

PAUL STANKOWSKI: Started on one, I made a 30-footer.

1, I made a 10-footer .

2, I hit a 4-iron.

3, I hit a driver, wedge, seven feet.

5, was a par-5. That one is downhill. I hit driver, 4-iron left rough, chipped it to about seven feet, made that. Par-5, 7, made about a 12-footer.

8, I hit a 4-iron in the front bunker and missed about a six-footer.

9, driver, 6-iron, 30 feet.

10, drove it just in the bunker. I had one foot in, one foot out, batted it short in the rough, knocked it in.

Par-5, 11, I hit a pitching wedge to 12 feet.

15, I hit an 8-iron, ten feet.

18, I hit 3-iron to the back fringe and 2-putted from -- just off the green on the fringe; three feet.

Q. Can you talk about the struggles you have had. Also pain free for the first time since 2002, what ailments have you been battling?

PAUL STANKOWSKI: First I tore a cartilage in my left wrist in the fall of '02. I had my first surgery in May of '03, scope, clean it out. Retore it. I had another surgery in June or July, somewhere in the summer of '04. They completely rebuilt the wrist basically. I don't have much cartilage left. Return to play at Pebble in '05. The first day I tore a tendon in my finger. That put me out the whole year. The same hand, left hand.

While I was out, I had my left shoulder scoped. I had a torn

muscle in the shoulder. Came back in '06, nothing major, nothing that Vicodin and Celebrex would help soften.

'07, I tore my right AC joint. It was completely jacked up. I had that scoped and had a resection of the clavicle in October. I just tried to play through it to get in the playoffs.

So it's been just one thing after another for so long.

In spite of the pain I was in, I actually played decent considering. Last December, after my shoulder surgery, I started practicing again to get ready for this year and my wrist was hurting me worse than it ever hurt, and I went to a doctor in Oklahoma and had an MRI, and he said I got couple of torn ligaments in my hand, but the pain that I had was completely different. It was in here (indicating) and the ligaments were up here (indicating.)

I said, doc, I don't hurt up here, I hurt down there. He said you have nothing left from all of the surgeries. So he gave me a new tape job, had me tape it a certain way.

Literally a week later my pain was gone. So I tape it every day. I don't have any pain.

I'm baffled as to what the heck this tape job does, but it obviously creates a little more stability and keeps the ECU tendon from banging around and it's gone. I am pain free and I hope for a long time, and I finally got my wish and it looks like I'm going to get to play at least one full year without any pain. It's been fun.

This year has been a struggle professionally. Obviously, I played very well. In '06, my teacher and I changed my swing to kind of a more of a one plainish (phn) kind of deal to take the stress out of the left side of my body, being that all of my injuries are on that side.

I struggled going in between that swing and my old swing and now that I don't hurt I kind of go back to my old swing again.

It's been a weird transition trying one thing for a year and a half after doing some for 30 years and now trying to go back. It's been a struggle to say the least. But I really haven't hit the ball poorly this year. I just wasn't putting good.

I'm ranked 190th or something in putting, and we all know that's where it's at. Tiger Woods wins tournament. If he putted from where I hit it all year he would have won 3 of the 6. If I putted where he hit it, there is no chance he would have won.

I've come to the conclusion that's the one aspect of my game I've never worked on, and I am committing myself to, and we will see how it goes. Obviously to win week in and week out, or contending week in and week out, they're all putting good. I have had a couple of good putting tournaments in my career and that's pretty poor to say that. That's my focus and today went well.

Q. (Inaudible)?

PAUL STANKOWSKI: I know about the wrist. I've got a guy in Dallas named Troy Van Desen (phn). He got me out of retirement. In '05 when I tore the tendon in my finger, I couldn't hold the

golf club up in one hand, let alone hit it. The ring finger tore up under the muscle valley of the deep tendon. I couldn't hold a club without feeling the forearm.

Greg Rose, out of the Performance Institute in Carlsbad told me I needed to go see a guy that does ART. He printed off of page of providers, and I called one of these guys, and I look at the list and Troy Van Desen said he was the chiro for the PGA TOUR. I called him. I started seeing him. 3 weeks after seeing him the pain in my hand was gone. Something that no doctor I went to could help with.

He basically gave me a second life there. Had I not run into Troy I probably would still been on the Golf Channel because I wasn't very good. I would be doing something else. I owe a lot to him. My point is when guys hurt with their hands or elbows they go see Troy and he takes care of them.

I learned a lot through all of the crap I've been through. It's been great. I have two kids at home. Paying poorly gives me more time at home. Being injured gives me more time at home. Josh and Katy love the fact that daddy gets to be home more. It's tough when I have to leave. I'm trying to find a silver lining. It's always nice to look at the bright side.

Q. When you call them today, is the good news you made the cut or the bad news?

PAUL STANKOWSKI: My son doesn't care how many birdies I made. I can make 80, and he will go, "all right." He will be excited I made 9 birdies today.

Q. (Inaudible)?

PAUL STANKOWSKI: Cameron Doan (phn). He is in Dallas. I wanted him to take a look at it, and over the last few weeks I found a few things wrong in my grip that caused me some headaches and I fixed them. It's an unorthodox style right now but it's working.

Q. (Inaudible)?

PAUL STANKOWSKI: My grip is different. I'm gripping it differently.

Q. You've made a lot of birdies, Will is, there is a lot of birdies being made. Is it because the fairways are softer the ball is staying in the fairways? We thought it might be difficult to score this week with the rough the way it is.

PAUL STANKOWSKI: The rough is brutal but the greens right now are really soft. The thing about coming here, back in the past when it was Bent, it was like shooting darts. There was no pin you couldn't get at. They are pretty soft right now, and as long as you don't land on a down slope on the green, you can get it to stop. The greens are really nice. They are rolling perfectly. The fairways are soft, you can fire at pins right now. If we don't get any rain, and they continue to dry out, it will get tougher come Sunday, I think. They are very receptive, which is nice. The

combination of soft greens, soft fairways and perfect greens is a recipe for lots of birdies.

Q. (Inaudible)?

PAUL STANKOWSKI: All it is is a category. I'm no longer in that. I burned through that halfway through the season. All it is, it gets me into events. When I failed to achieve a number I was looking for, I just felt that category was good enough to get into.

Q. (Inaudible)?

PAUL STANKOWSKI: Absolutely. I'm just like anybody else. I just get into events maybe a little bit later.

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