

SBS Open at Turtle Bay

Turtle Bay Resort Golf Club, Palmer Course

Oahu, Hawaii

Feb. 16, 2006

First round Interviews

Interview of Grace Park

THE MODERATOR: Grace, thanks for coming in. 6 birdies the first round of the year. That is a great way to start the season, the top of the leaderboard. Go ahead and talk about that.

GRACE PARK: I'm looking forward to 2006, and I'm happy and relieved to get the first round out of the way, and shooting the first score of 66, I'm very happy.

THE MODERATOR: Okay. Take questions.

Q Why are you relieved?

GRACE PARK: I'm waiting for this day for the past six weeks. Really working hard on my game and getting my strength back and waiting for that first day of the new season. And I had a little butterflies in my stomach this season starting off the round. Yes, that is why.

Q You had health issues. Do you feel better about those after getting that round out of the way to see how things were going to hold up back-wise, or were you confident?

GRACE PARK: To be honest my back is tight right now. It gets tight every day after a round. When you are standing out there 6 or 7 hours walking and working on the golf swing. I have worked hard with my trainer to strengthen my back, and strengthen the areas that need to be strengthened in order to keep the pain away. But it's something that I will have to deal with as long as I play golf. You know, keep my fingers crossed in the morning that I'm pain-free.

Q (Inaudible)?

GRACE PARK: Yeah, we were doing stretching, like a flexibility test, and I tried to go really far forward, and then it was stuck. And I couldn't -- I was playing golf at the time too, and I couldn't swing because it was so painful. But everybody thought it was a fluke, that I was faking the pain so I didn't have to practice. And that part of it probably was true.

Q You are here in the last six weeks, with all of the young players coming in, how does that make you feel?

GRACE PARK: Hey, that is reality. The tour is excited to have these young phenoms. I'm thrilled to have them. I'm welcoming them. But the veterans, I guess I'm one of the veterans now, the older players, you know it's a good challenge for us. It pushes me to work harder. I don't want, you know, a teenager beating me. You know, I think it really brings more competition to the tour. And it is great for everyone.

Q Was last year difficult because of the success you have had --
(Inaudible).

GRACE PARK: Last year was difficult because I started the season out with injuries in the second event. I came back early from it and not getting the result I wanted. I started to put too much pressure on myself. And I got exhausted, not just physically but mentally. And I couldn't put anything together. And by the end of the season I was pooped out.

Q Do you have to be patient with that?

GRACE PARK: Definitely. Definitely. I'm much smarter about it. When I feel something I'm popping those Advil and putting my back brace, on and walking off from the golf course because I don't want the pain to go on for weeks.

Q You wear a back brace all the time?

GRACE PARK: Not all the time, but I have it with me all the time.

Q How are the conditions out there today, difficult?

GRACE PARK: It was very nice. The wind calmed down a lot since Tuesday. And with all of that rain we had overnight I think it softened the greens up. The greens were softer and a little slower than they have been, but still rolling nicely. And, yeah, the condition was very nice. Close to perfect.

THE MODERATOR: Can you tell us about the six birdies.

[Scorecard]

Q (Inaudible)

GRACE PARK: My ball striking was awful. I hit 1 fairway and 5 greens on the front side. And I was able to get up and down on all of them. I had 11 putts on the first side, first 7 holes.

Q What was the longest of the par putts?

GRACE PARK: Longest par putt was a 15-footer. I had a 15-footer.

Q Have you had some indication coming in, have you had something like this going?

GRACE PARK: I have been looking forward to it. After an awful season last year, I wanted to start fresh. And I knew that I am a matured player. I work hard at what I do, and I knew a good round was out there. I knew I could start strong and work very hard, and I just did it out there today.

THE MODERATOR: You guys all set? Thank you.