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60th Annual Bank of America Colonial
Colonial Country Club
Forth Worth, Texas
May 20, 2006

Third-round Interview

AN INTERVIEW OF ROD PAMPLING

THE MODERATOR: Rod Pampling, thanks for joining us. You are the co-leader with Tim Herron heading into the final round of the Bank of America Colonial. Along with Tim Herron you are the winner of the AstraZeneca Charity Challenge as a third round leader. Congratulations.

ROD PAMPLING: Thank you.

THE MODERATOR: For your performance AstraZeneca will donate \$100,000 to the American College of Gastroenterology. On behalf of you, Tim and the Bank of America Colonial. A good three days for you. Today was a tough day, I'm sure with an even par 70. You have to be happy with your position.

ROD PAMPLING: Yeah. If someone said you would be tied for the lead at the end of the day, you would have taken it. It was a slow start. We scrapped our way down there for a 6. I knew I was in for a battle. We tried to get it around as good as we could. I wasn't driving it well. But I was missing it on the right sides that we can still have angles to the hole. And that is the key, it was, I think, still giving me the correct angle so I could make the pars, and the occasional birdies. It was a tough day. But thanks, we're still in the lead.

THE MODERATOR: I don't know how much you watch the leaderboards. Several players Stephen Ames and Stewart Cink were right up there and all of a sudden they are gone out of the top 10. I don't know if you watch that kind of thing during the course of the round?

ROD PAMPLING: I was with Stephen so today I could see he didn't have the greatest start that you were looking for. It's a golf course that you can be up there, and in two holes you are out of there. It's just one of those golf courses. You know, if you don't know what the people have done when they get off the leaderboard. You keep an eye on what is going on out there. You know I'm not sitting eye balling every leaderboard. But you pay attention to what is going on.

THE MODERATOR: Questions?

Q You have so many guys in striking distance. Do you in any sense feel like there is less of a bull's eye on you at the top the leaderboard when there are so many guys in the mix and you are a couple of shots clear.

ROD PAMPLING: I don't know the exact run down of how many players are around. You look at the board, there is 7-under is three shots out of the lead, here is nothing on this golf course. If someone gets hot they can easy win it. I think with more people around, it's hard to sort of put the bull's eye on one guy saying that he is the one that you have to beat. I think with myself and Tim being in front, we're the two main targets that most people are looking for. I would say it's a golf course where if someone gets hot out there they can come from anywhere.

Q Rod, talk a little bit about the challenge picking clubs and sticking with it and maybe where you got fooled a time or two out there with conditions?

ROD PAMPLING: It was just a tough battle. The wind is still pretty consistent. It's very strong. That was the only difference it was the gusts. The direction was pretty similar. It was more of the greens getting firmer, and making sure you controlled your second shot to the green. That was the key, it was to try to control it. But, you know, from the rough all day it was difficult. But, you know, that is the beauty of this golf course it just gets so hard, it's just, as in firmness of the golf course, you are on your toes all day long. It never lets you up.

Q Rod, I know you have been flower bound for quite a while. Is there any coincidence of having so many Australians at the top? Is that a coincidence, or is it something about the course?

ROD PAMPLING: This is the style of golf course that we all grew up on, really hard and fast. That is where I think a lot of Australians, we all grew up with this kind of golf course. You have the memories of how to play these kind of golf courses. It's certainly a bonus that is why you have quite a few Australians at the top.

Q (Inaudible).

ROD PAMPLING: Definitely, you have to be swinging it well to control your shots with the wind. The wind can grab hold of the ball so quickly. We have most guys in Texas themselves play in a lot of wind anyway. The wind I don't think, as much as the hard surface.

Q How much in your comfort zone do you consider this type of golf right now you guys are playing this weekend where suddenly pars are valuable and birdies are getting scarce?

ROD PAMPLING: Well again it's what we grew up. In Australia there is a lot of golf tournaments that you played at home, and 4 or 5-under would win. That is just the kind of golf. Par is your friend big time. This is a golf course that is exactly like that. If a birdie happens to come your way, well you grab it with both hands. You really just have to play the golf course. As I said yesterday, if you have a shot in your hand where you can be aggressive, or you can be aggressive, it's not a lot of times you are playing it to try to make a 20-footer maybe.

Q Rod, I have been hearing not just this week, but last also, about you guys who live down here having a lot of barbecues and baby showers and basketball games; have you been real involved in that kind of thing?

ROD PAMPLING: We just had a baby, well he is getting to be 17 months ago. I think that is just part of the tour, they do a few of the baby showers. Generally most guys we try to get together and have a barbecue every now and again.

Q Have you been out a lot of evenings in the last couple of weeks?

ROD PAMPLING: No, not really. No, this week I have just deliberately tried to keep it a little bit low-key. There has been a few times where we have a lot of people staying at our house. It gets a bit busy, and you are trying to look after them and make sure they are having a good time. This time we just decided, not a whole lot, but in saying that we have a barbecue tonight.

Q Where at?

ROD PAMPLING: Just around the corner in the neighborhood at some friends.

Q Do you have any outfits that match red and green plaid?

ROD PAMPLING: Red and green plaid? I suppose a white shirt looks pretty good with that. I'm sure I'll try to find one. It's whatever I choose in the morning. I will go through and whatever looks good, I will grab that. I think it looks good, it doesn't matter what you have got on. If you get the jacket, it always looks good.

Q How is your frame of mind different today walking off with shooting a 70 and staying in the lead on a very difficult day, as opposed to shooting a 63 yesterday?

ROD PAMPLING: Well it was a lot easier when you are not concentrating as hard. You are still concentrating hard. But yesterday I was on a lot of fairways and hitting the first cuts. And you could concentrate on the shot. You didn't have to work as hard. But I think it's as satisfying today to shoot a par round today and it's still in the lead and that is the good thing. I know I didn't play great today I was mentally I was solid out there and that is what kept me in it. Hung in tough and made 3 up-and-downs coming into the stretch to keep it 10. It's two different types of days, obviously. But you get just as much out of it.

Q Which of those three up-and-downs was the best in your mind?

ROD PAMPLING: I think 16 was the rough -- the lie I had there wasn't the greatest. It came out really nicely. And then 17 and 18 -- well 18 was a good hole as well, but it wasn't -- the trap shot wasn't as hard as the lie. The grass goes everywhere you are hoping to get a good contact, it came out very nice.

Q So you are trying to pad your sand save stats this week?

ROD PAMPLING: Yeah, well it wasn't that good today. But at least there were a few coming down the stretch.

THE MODERATOR: If we could touch on your round, and we'll take a final question or two. [Scorecard]

Q Did you catch a gust or something on 16?

ROD PAMPLING: It's getting hot. Once the temperatures get up as well the balls go a lot farther as well. My caddie wanted 8, but I just didn't think I could get the 8 there. It was a nice shot. It's a tough pin to be in. You have to be aggressive at the hole if you play in the green, and it catches and runs down you have a difficult 2-putt. The shot was fine, it just went a long way.

THE MODERATOR: Rod Pampling, thanks.

ROD PAMPLING: Thank you.
