
84 LUMBER CLASSIC
Nemacolin Woodlands Resort
Mystic Rock Golf Course
Farmington, Pa

September 23, 2004
First-round leader quotes

AN INTERVIEW WITH PAT PEREZ

THE MODERATOR: Thanks, Pat, for joining us for a few minutes. A great start to your round. 31 on the back nine, pretty nice. **Error! Bookmark not defined.**

PAT PEREZ: Yes, it was nice. I birdied -- what did I birdie?

Q. You birdied the first hole?

PAT PEREZ: Yes, I hit a good drive up there. I hit it to about ten feet and made that. And then I 3-putted 3. A pretty tough pin. And I just kind of cruised along, just waiting for something to happen. It started happening on 10. I birdied 10, 11, and left a five-footer on 12 for birdie, and it just kind of went from there.

THE MODERATOR: Questions, please?

Q. Pat, did you think after a practice round or two that someone would be able to shoot 8-under or that you would shoot what you shot?

PAT PEREZ: Let's put it this way, I'm not surprised the guy that did it, did it. It is out there though. If you can control the spin and the distance. If you can fly it where you want to fly it, you can get it close. If you're not right on, it's real difficult to get it close. You can have 30 feet all day and hit shots.

Q. Did you have any trouble approaching the greens?

PAT PEREZ: I had a couple early. I played Oakmont yesterday. They are completely opposite. They're soaked. They're spinning back. I knew that these were hard. A lot of these pins, I try it 15 yards short. The problem is all of the fringe, short of the green, is soaked, which I don't know why they do it anyway, but that's how it is. It's soaked there. If you hit it there it stops. If you hit it a yard on, it goes past the pin. I had a little bit of trouble with that early on. I got a little more used to it during the day.

Q. Can we go through your club selections on the backside to the green?

PAT PEREZ: 10, I hit a sand wedge from 127 to like ten feet.

Q. 11, par-5?

PAT PEREZ: 11, driver, 3-wood, just a little chip from 33 yards like six feet.

Q. 13?

PAT PEREZ: 3-wood, L-wedge about eight feet.

Q. 14?

PAT PEREZ: 14, a driver, little 9-iron to about 2 inches.

Q. 17?

PAT PEREZ: 17, I hit a 7-iron to about 15, 16 feet.

Q. Pat, what was 17 playing, what yardage did you have to the hole?

PAT PEREZ: 196. Where that pin was today on the right you can hit it short and right and it kicked down to the hole. It will probably be one of the easier pins. When they put it back, you will have to fly it into the middle of the green so it brings more trouble into play. If you miss it in the right bunker it's toast.

Q. The front bunker, did it come into play at all?

PAT PEREZ: Yes. If you hit it in, it looks like it will be trouble. Especially on 17, that's the bail out is right. With those two back pins, it will be a busy bunker.

Q. How about on 14, when you put it over the bunker, do you go that line?

PAT PEREZ: No, I'm way left. I got all day. I can't go through that fairway at all. I don't even see it.

Q. Did it almost go in that hole?

A. No, I was probably 10 yards from the rough line.

Q. No, you said you hit it to 2 inches?

PAT PEREZ: Yes, it went right across the back edge of it.

Q. When you see a number like a 64 go up today, how important is it for the rest of the field to stay within distance for the rest of the weekend?

PAT PEREZ: I'm 3 behind, and I know I got to play real hard tomorrow to stay up because I know he is not going to shoot 75 tomorrow.

THE MODERATOR: Everybody all set?

Q. Vijay is on such a streak, such a roll, he said today, as good as he has been playing, he said that's as good as he can hit it?

PAT PEREZ: It must have been because to make eight birdies out there, he must be really playing. I made five on the back, that's about as good as I played in a long time. He was five after nine, wasn't he? That's not easy, in the lead. So he is definitely on top of his game right now.

THE MODERATOR: Thanks, Pat.

