

CHRYSLER CHAMPIONSHIP
The Westin Innisbrook Golf Resort
Copperhead Course
Tampa Bay, Fla

October 30, 2005

Final-round quotes

AN INTERVIEW WITH CARL PETTERSSON

CHRIS REIMER: Congratulations, Carl. Yesterday you were in here, you talked about how winning on the PGA Tour is what you've been dreaming about since a kid, how does it feel now that it's a reality?

CARL PETTERSSON: Oh, it feels fantastic. It hasn't quite set in yet, but unbelievable. Just a real special day. I'm just thrilled. I don't really know what to say right now.

CHRIS REIMER: Probably the key turn round was the saving par on a few holes. Can you talk about a few of the holes where you were able to stay at the top of the leaderboard with pars?

CARL PETTERSSON: Yes, I didn't hit it great today from tee to green, but I chipped and putted fantastic. I think the whole key to the round was, I made about a 20. 25-footer for a par on No. 8. And Lowery made a triple, I think.

I knew that was my chance. I thought, well, this is obviously a little sign here. Let's try to feed off that.

CHRIS REIMER: Questions?

Q. Yes, I don't know if you saw much of the leaderboard there, but if you don't make that putt on eight, you are still in the lead, but it's not much of a cushion, you probably still had one shot at the time?

CARL PETTERSSON: Yes, exactly. I knew it was playing tough out there. I figured somebody had to come -- somebody had to shoot a decent round that was 5- or 6-under. I honestly didn't think even par starting the day, if I shot even par was going win. I figured I'd shoot 2- or 3-under but it played tough.

Q. You must feel like you really earned this thing today?

CARL PETTERSSON: Yes. Yes, exactly. I looked at the scoreboard on 15 -- 14. Chad Campbell was 7, and I had a tap-in to go 9. I thought I had a 2-shot lead and he birdied something coming in. 18. Then I saw that, and I said thanks (inaudible.)

But I felt good all day. I was a little nervous on the birdie putt on 18 and the par putt.

Q. It's hard enough to get your first victory under any conditions, but he is posted at 8, I think he posted at 8 when you were still on 16, so you've got 17 and 18.

Particularly satisfying to do it under the gun.

CARL PETTERSSON: Yes, 16 is a horrible tee shot. I had a great tee shot in the middle of the fairway. I hit not the best of second shots, a decent one. I had a terrible lie on the fringe and gave it the old whiskey flick with a 3-wood over the back and made it coming back.

So 16, 17 and 18 are tough holes.

Q. What was so terrible about it?

CARL PETTERSSON: Somebody walked off and scraped the grass back up, so I had grass in front of my ball and behind my ball. I was just going to put it if it was a regular lie. But I figured, you know, so much grass in between the ball, and the blade, I figured a 3-wood was the only safe shot.

Q. On 15 what's a reasonable expectation, how close to get that ball, could you hit that chip?

CARL PETTERSSON: Ten feet. You know, it just came off perfect. I had a bad lie deep in the rough, downhill lie. You know, I knew there was a chance that I could pull it off. Just from playing, you know.

But I would have been happy with ten feet passed the hole and tried to make that. It came off perfect, landed on the fringe and trickled up.

Q. As badly to the right that you hit that tee shot on 15, how do you step up on 16 with that tee shot?

CARL PETTERSSON: Well, I was just kind of talking to myself, I had a bit of a wait there. It's so easy to bail out left. And I said just go ahead and step up there and make a good swing. If it goes in the water, it goes in the water. If it goes in the left rough, it goes in the left rough. But you just commit yourself, buck up and hit a good one and I managed to do it somehow.

Q. What did you hit off the 15 tee?

CARL PETTERSSON: 15 I hit a 4-iron.

Q. Also all four days you parred 16, Chad was just in here, he bogeyed it 3 out of four days. Not only that, but how important was playing 16 even par this week to you?

CARL PETTERSSON: Well, you know, it's a very difficult hole. Starting the week I would have been happy with one or two over for the week on 16.

I guess, you know, I drove the ball real well today -- I mean, this week, and I was just confident with the driver. If you get a good tee shot away, it's not that tough of a hole, but if you mess up the tee shot, you're going to struggle.

Q. When you win do you think that you win an executive club out here, do you feel a little taller, a little more handsome suddenly today?

CARL PETTERSSON: Well, I don't know, I've won in Europe. It was a short -- we had a bunch of wind and rains. They shortened it to 36 holes. I won in a playoff there. I was nice to win a four round event. What was your question about?

Q. You think people will look at you differently now, is there a fraternity out here of guys who win?

CARL PETTERSSON: I don't know. It was important to myself to win, even if I didn't do it this week. Next year, or the year after. Eventually get one early in your career. To get the monkey off your back. But I don't think people -- maybe a little bit. Maybe a little bit. I don't know, we'll find out.

Q. Along those lines, Carl, I think probably last year you flew all the way out to the Sony Open as an alternate but probably should have got in?

CARL PETTERSSON: '03, my first year.

Q. Which is like one of the all-time flights for not getting in a tournament?

CARL PETTERSSON: Yes, my caddy at the time was from England, so it was a 25-hour trip for him.

Q. Can you talk about now getting into -- you are going back to Hawaii, and you are assured a tee time at Kapalua and getting into the better draws and things like that, have you given any thought to that?

CARL PETTERSSON: Not too well. Obviously if you win a tournament you start off in Hawaii. It will be a fantastic two weeks. I'm sure the family will come out and we'll have a great couple of weeks at it.

Q. Going back to you mentioning what you said yesterday, that you dreamed growing up, dreamed of playing on the PGA Tour, and winning, is that something that you say, or do you visualize holding a trophy?

CARL PETTERSSON: Not so much dream. When you are a kid putting, playing with other guys, you always putt, this putt is for the U.S. Open, or for the tournament. And it's just an incredible feeling when you've got one yourself.

Q. Did today go sort of like you imagined it in your dreams?

CARL PETTERSSON: Well, it was a little easier in the dreams. But, you know, it's a fantastic feeling and tough to describe. But it's just nice to finish it off like I did.

Q. Was it tough at the end, I mean knowing that it's sort of in your hand, that's a good thing?

CARL PETTERSSON: I felt great until I was reading my putt on 18 for birdie. I knew it was a quick putt but I didn't want to leave it short because that's a horrible downhill putt. You know, I tried to lag it up there, get it just past the hole. But it ran about, I guess, two or three feet. You know you started thinking -- you guys have played this game. But I told myself I had the same putt when I won in Portugal. You've done this a million times, just go ahead and do what you usually do and see what happens.

Q. That par putt wasn't easy, that was a tough putt?

CARL PETTERSSON: The comeback was straight up the hill, right of center, straight up the hill. But in these circumstances nothing is easy.

Q. Did your putter going back in a straight line or was it wavering?

CARL PETTERSSON: Who knows?

(Laughter.)

Q. Someone said once that having to lag from 20 feet, two putts to win is one of the hardest putts?

CARL PETTERSSON: Yes, you know, yes, all of a sudden you are not mentally thinking you make it. It almost puts a mental block on you. I should have probably just tried to make it like the other putts. Instead I tried to get it close. It worked out really well for me. In that situation again I think I'm going to --

Q. Did Lowery give you any help with his putt?

CARL PETTERSSON: A little bit, a little bit. Sort of a different angle, but I could see the pace.

Q. It didn't help, did it?

CARL PETTERSSON: No, I'm not a quick learner.

CHRIS REIMER: Any questions?

Q. I guess next week now you got to go and try to get in the Top-40 to get in the Masters?

CARL PETTERSSON: Yes, I was going to play anyway. I am look forward to it. I like that course. That would be special to play Augusta. Maybe a good week next week I might be able to get it done.

(Scorecard.)

Q. You are going along, and you make, and you don't make a birdie until the 14th hole, are you feeling that you are playing well enough to win, or do you take into account that it is a pretty tough golf course and making pars is okay?

CARL PETTERSSON: Yes. I wasn't hitting my irons very good on the front 9. I knew it was a tough golf course, I knew if I could just plod along and make pars and putts. I managed to turn it on. I hit it better the back 9. And I knew if I could just started hitting some iron shots, because I was putting well, I would have a chance to make a few birdies. I guess I only made one.

Q. When you look at the fact that you only made three bogeys all week, what do you attribute that to?

CARL PETTERSSON: Just driving the ball good. I used to fade my driver and this year at the Deutsche Bank I decided to draw it again like I used to. I changed it about two years ago. I hit a cut. It was almost two different swings where I draw my irons and cut the driver. At the Deutsche Bank, I decided to start drawing the driver, and I hit my driver fantastically ever since that tournament.

Q. Does it surprise you having made that adjustment that it clicked so suddenly?

CARL PETTERSSON: I used to draw the ball. In '03 I drove the ball terrible so I decided to hit a fade with the driver and play it like that. The whole of 04 and the beginning of 05, I wasn't doing any good, so I decided to go back to the draw and I am glad I did.

Q. I don't mean to belabor this Carl, but I probably will. We have had different people that win this year. We have a guy who wins when the guy is hitting into a hazard and he can make bogey and still win the tournament. And last week where Lucas Glover hit an improbable bunker shot where the hole kind of gets in the way, but in your case you had to make a great chip, and you had to make a great putt on 16, you had to split the fairway on 18, you were tested so much in four holes, how do you think this will help you or serve you down the road the way you won?

CARL PETTERSSON: Well, obviously it's a great confidence builder knowing that it's a tough golf course. You have to play some really good golf to do well on this golf course. It's a tough stretch of holes coming in. So hopefully if I get in the situation again I'll be even more confident and knowing that I've done it.

Q. Did you learn anything about yourself today?

CARL PETTERSSON: Well, I was more patient today than I've been in the past. I think, you know, that just comes from growing up and getting older. I learned that I can do it now, you know.

CHRIS REIMER: Anything else? Thanks, guys.

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