

**Nissan Open Championship  
Riviera Country Club  
Pacific Palisades, CA**

**February 17, 2007**

**Third-round tournament quotes**

**AN INTERVIEW WITH RICH BEEM**

JOHN BUSH: We would like to welcome Rich Beem to the interview room at the Nissan Open. 11-under par, Rich, through three. Obviously, a great day out there, and a shot and a reaction that people will be talking about for years to come. Comments

**RICH BEEM:** You know, I stole that from Jacobson, I'm sorry, I wish I could take full credit for making a fool out of myself, but Jake had a convertible and he hopped in it. I will never forget that. I just saw that car, hell, might as well. I will tell you what, the top of that hood though was pretty warm and the back of it is a little scratched up from my shoes.

JOHN BUSH: You are one shot off the lead after a great day. Comments on the round in general if we can.

**RICH BEEM:** Yes, it was another good round of golf. I hit the ball good. I got a couple of really good breaks out there to start off the round. I hit the ball solid all day and I made a few putts and always the one always helps. But it's just another really good round of golf on a golf course that I absolutely love to play. So, you know, I always come here looking forward to playing this golf course, and I think you play enough and you get good feelings about it. Good things are bound to happen.

JOHN BUSH: Questions?

Q. Where and when do you remember Jake doing that?

**RICH BEEM:** I remember watching it on TV whatever year he made it. I was just watching on TV, it was pretty funny. He hopped in the car and acted like he was driving. It was pretty comical. I don't remember what year it was.

Q. Rich, are you thinking ace, I just picked up two shots, and go to 12-under par?

**RICH BEEM:** I'm thinking I just won a car and it's going to cost me an awful lot in the bar later on. You know, when you make it you are just shocked. I wasn't picking of thinking about picking up 3 strokes in the field. I wasn't thinking about anything other than the fact it went in the hole. It's pretty fun. If anybody ever made a hole in one in their life, it's pretty fun. You don't really think about everything else. I just had fun.

Q. The other thing you win the 2002 PGA, and people are thinking boy here comes a great career. The last three years I think you only had Top-10's. What happened? Did you get lazy? Did you lose your tempo? All of a sudden this year it seemed to be back again?

**RICH BEEM:** Golf happened. Life happened. It's pretty simple. I mean, I win a Major championship, and I'm top of the world and there is only one place for me to go and that's down. Between having kids, moving cities, and trying to deal with everything else in life, you know, golf wasn't a priority for me. Yes, it was to a point, but I didn't get excited about it. And I am finally getting excited about it again, and I think it's showing in my game, my attitude and things like that. No, I've enjoyed myself. I've enjoyed my career and I've got no regret about anything that I ever done. I'm looking forward to what the future holds.

Q. If you were looking at leader boards at all on the back 9, and you did get the car, do you think you would be this close to the lead by the time you finished because Phil was going?

**RICH BEEM:** Yes, I didn't notice a lot of leader boards for whatever reason. I didn't, you know -- Phil has been playing unbelievable lately as we all know. For him to make a few bogeys I guess the last few holes is kind of surprising, to be honest with you, he's been on such a tear and his confidence is unbelievable. I can't do much about what he's doing, but I'm pretty happy that I put myself into position to make a run at it tomorrow.

Q. If you have to give credit to someone else for making a fool of yourself, who do you give credit to at Hazeltine?

**RICH BEEM:** A buddy of mine Scott Stewart. You want to hear the story.

Q. Sure.

**RICH BEEM:** We are playing on Wednesday before The International starts and we go down to Broadmoor, I'm just thumping on Scott, just hammering him. I've got him 17 down after 17 holes or something. I'm just killing him. He presses everything on the last hole. No. 18 at Broadmoor, I think a 3-wood out here and hits it across a big building in the background, and he gets up there and hits it about 35 feet, and I hit it just inside of him about 25 feet and he gets up there and he makes this bomb out of nowhere. You would have thought he just hit the lottery. He drops his putter and literally, just went. (Indicating). He's screaming, just going nuts. Absolutely nuts. I mean there is all these people at the hotel going, what in the hell is this idiot doing? So that's where I got that from. But I'm not too sure that would have been too appropriate to do on the 18th hole at Hazeltine.

Q. Rich, touch on this a little bit when golf wasn't a priority, was it still fun, were you still having fun out there?

**RICH BEEM:** No. How can you get excited with going to work when you don't see anything good happening. I wasn't playing good. I felt like I was practicing hard and things like that. But I was always searching for something. Always working at something. Just nothing good was happening. So really, you know, I went out there with the best of intentions, but once things started going bad, it's just like, you know, this just sucks and it was no fun. And I didn't really enjoy it.

I won't say I dreaded going to tournaments, but I certainly didn't look forward going to them like I had. Even last year I looked forward to going to tournaments. I felt like my game was turned around, doing better. Once I took three weeks off I literally didn't touch clubs. It was probably the best thing I could have ever done. I look forward to going to tournaments now. I skipped the Phoenix Open this year, something I always played in. I never played well there. I had to force myself not to play that event. Where in years passed I would force myself to go see if I could make something happen. I took two weeks off knowing full well I was coming to a golf tournament and golf course I absolutely love to play. That's just a sign of maturity a little bit, but it's also picking the right shots and looking forward to going to certain places. It's not like you have to go.

Q. You said you were searching for something in that period, what did you eventually find?

**RICH BEEM:** Probably nothing. You know, you are searching for a swing, for putting stroke, anything. Anything to kind of work that week, another band-aid to put in your golf game to see if you can get through the golf game pretty well. If I found something one week I would lose it the next week. It was nothing ever consistent. That's no fun when you always feel like you are searching. This is a game, everybody will tell you, you guys know as well. It beats you up 8 days a week and you just hope now and again you can kind of get your licks in. You are always searching. Even Tiger always says he's always searching. He is always working hard at it because you have to. It got me down for a while, but it's starting to be fun again which is nice.

Q. Is it fair to say that you're more domestic than you were in younger days? That maybe that has been more of a distraction than good timing?

**RICH BEEM:** Was I foreign before?

Q. Are you domesticated?

**RICH BEEM:** Yes.

Q. Is that more of a distraction from golf?

**RICH BEEM:** Yes, I certainly pick and choose my spots even more so. But, you know, like I said when you look forward to going to work, you kind of tend to shun some other things away. But, you know, I still love, you know, the occasional cocktail now and again after a good round of golf after today. And, you know, I'm the same guy who I am. I'm just a little bit older. I maybe look or act or say things that are more mature. But at the end of the day I can be juvenile at times. But I think that as you get older, you know, you just grow up. And I think that's normal for everybody. Besides, the hangovers really hurt.

Q. Rich, I just wondered if Ernie said anything of interest after you climbed back off of your new car. Are you having more fun now than you did prior to Hazeltine from golf?

**RICH BEEM:** I am. Even last year I started having more fun. But certainly, you know, this year, I am having more fun. I don't know if I got a different approach to it. I don't know what it is, but I really enjoy coming out to the golf course. I enjoy the challenge of it now. When I was playing at Hazeltine, playing well then, I really enjoyed it then. But now since I've seen how bad it can be, and probably the worse in my career two years afterward, after I won Hazeltine. I just makes days like today, weeks like this week that much better, and you just kind of hope that they come around a little more often.

Q. Ernie, did he say anything?

**RICH BEEM:** No, Ernie was in midair says, hey, boys it's a one, and it went in, so I had to give him credit.

Q. Rich, presumably successful PGA TOUR players can afford their own automobiles, what do you do with a free one?

**RICH BEEM:** I don't know. I never got a free car before. That's kind of up to my wife. I'm sure I will have a lot of people giving me suggestions they need new cars and things like that. I don't know what we'll do.

Q. Give it to Scott Stewart?

**RICH BEEM:** God, no. Scott is my mortgage guy now.

Q. You said you loved playing this course, is it different playing it when the weather is so nice and the

heat? There's been some lousy weather here.

**RICH BEEM:** Absolutely it's great. I would rather play it in a short sleeve shirt not having my rain gear bundled up. I played in some pretty miserable conditions. When we get conditions like today you are just thankful for them, absolutely.

JOHN BUSH: Rich, number 14 was it a 7-iron?

**RICH BEEM:** It was a 7-iron, 179. I think, I don't really remember. 70 over the bunker, 79 to the hole I think.

JOHN BUSH: Thank you for coming by, play well tomorrow.

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