

60TH ANNUAL BANK OF AMERICA COLONIAL
Colonial Country Club
Fort Worth, Texas
May 16, 2006

Pre-tournament quotes

AN INTERVIEW WITH RYAN MOORE

Q. (Inaudible)?

RYAN MOORE: Yeah, I had surgery 7 weeks and a day. Exactly. I'm feeling great. Feeling about as normal as I can be. Last year I got a chance to play the course and I just loved it and looking forward to it ever since.

Q. You played 5 events before the surgery, it's kind of hard to because of the hand I would imagine?

RYAN MOORE: Yes, it's been injured for quite some time. We had a hard time figuring out what it was. But as early as, right after the U.S. Open last year. It's been bothering me, and we talked to so many different people and we just couldn't find the answer.

So I finally found somebody right after the second round at Bay Hill, I found somebody that could figure it out and we dealt with it and it was behind me.

Q. Talk about how long you have been able to swing a club now.

RYAN MOORE: I'm trying to remember. I've been swinging a club for over two weeks. Today was my first time I played 18 consecutive holes and since the second round of Bay Hill. So I felt great. I played nine holes. I played 12 holes. I hit some balls and stuff. I hadn't gotten out and played 18 yet. I kind of didn't know what to expect today. I felt great all the way through the round. I'm very happy with that and just excited to get out and compete again.

Q. (Inaudible)?

RYAN MOORE: Early on (inaudible), where the actual injury was, I was having no pain which was kind of odd, and it was in some different areas of my hand. I was having the pain and they were saying there is nothing that could possibly be wrong in that area that could be causing that kind of pain, so we really don't know what to tell you.

I had cortisone shots for tendonitis and stuff like that and they did nothing. The pain -- I took a few different points of time. I took three or four weeks off this time, and I didn't do nothing, didn't swing a club, didn't do anything. It never helped. Earlier this season it was right after Phoenix, it was really sore. I figured I would just lay off. I saw a doctor, and he said I should

probably take some time off. I sat out for four weeks without doing anything, and it still wouldn't go away.

I was very happy when I finally found somebody who could tell me exactly what it was. I was playing with Mark O'Meara at the Honda, and he had had the same problem a couple of years ago. He asked me, what I've been sitting out for? That was my first tournament out after a month off.

I said, well, my hand is hurting, I can't figure it out. I've seen doctors. He said, I know exactly what it is. He talked me through his whole story, which was pretty much the exact same as mine, maybe not for as long, but he had problems three or four months without being able to figure it out. It seems to be a pretty common theme with this injury from all of the guys that I've talked to that have had it.

So he just said I got this doctor up in Orlando, he is the guy that figured it out for me. I will take you to his house next week next week when you are up in (inaudible). So I did that. And he answered the question for me, and we dealt with it the next weekend.

Q. (Inaudible)?

RYAN MOORE: (Inaudible.) It was actually removed just because there was an injury that happened over time and just repaired it. It would just happen again eventually. So they just took it out.

Q. (Inaudible) the exact same thing?

RYAN MOORE: He had the exact same thing on his right hand mine was the left hand.

Q. (Inaudible)?

RYAN MOORE: The other guys, other players? He did Arron Oberholser, who I played with today. I don't really know. I talked to a few guys that have it.

Q. (Inaudible)?

RYAN MOORE: My therapist, my doctor, and it came to a point where it is what it is. From that point I just kind of got to strengthen it. It's a matter of comfort and what I feel that I can do. I'm at that point where I cannot make decisions and it's not causing me any discomfort, and I feel like my swing is getting close to where I want it to be and I'm just ready to get out to play.

Q. How long ago was it that you are able to start seeing golf activity?

RYAN MOORE: Golf activity? Swinging a club, a couple of weeks. A couple of weeks, I just started easing into it, hitting a few balls, playing nine holes and stuff like that. And just kind of advanced a bit, a day at a time really.

Q. (Inaudible)?

RYAN MOORE: It's hard to say. Like I said I'm just excited to get out and play again. Sitting at home and watching it every week, sitting on my couch, is not that much fun. Just knowing that I can be out there and playing. So that's actually be good for me, giving me some good motivation. I really don't know what to expect. My putting feels great right now. Probably the best it's felt in a long time. I really feel like I'm rolling the ball well. A golf course like this you got to hit it in the fairway, hit it on some greens and give yourself chances.

I like this kind of course for me. It's not too long. That's the one thing that might be a little bit lacking, I'm not quite 100% length-wise, maybe 10 percent or so, as far as I normally hit it. So it actually helps. It's nice, on a golf course, where you just got to put it in the fairway. That's what matters.

Q. On a day like today where you play 18 holes for the first time, is there no pain?

RYAN MOORE: I hope so. I was talking to my dad and my brother afterwards, I feel -- I have more energy after playing today than I've had forever after a round of golf. Maybe it's all of those voices in my head trying to figure out what on earth is going on with my hand, why it's hurting; maybe that's just all gone, I can go and relax and play and not have to worry about things anymore. I think that's a big relief. I felt great out there. Like I said, I feel great right now. I feel like I can go another 18 right now. It probably wouldn't be real fun, but I feel like I could.

Q. (Inaudible)?

RYAN MOORE: Well, originally, with the injury, it was kind of tough because I had to give up my exemption into Augusta this year because of it, because it happened. It got to a point at Bay Hill where the pain was somewhat tolerable and I could take it, if I wanted to play a couple of more weeks and try to make it through Augusta. But I couldn't do it anymore. And for me, the U.S. Open being at Winged Foot, where I won the U.S. amateur this year, I didn't win the U.S. amateur this year, a couple of years ago, that was my target. I want to give myself the best chance to be 100% by the U.S. Open. Any target in me before the U.S. Open, I was trying to get out as early as I possibly could. Knowing that I had a shot in this tournament, that was definitely the goal. I really didn't think I would be quite feeling as good as I do this fast.

Last week, I was still kind of holding on, thinking I still have a chance of feeling good. A couple of days it really progressed fast and all of a sudden it felt great. I'm very excited to be here and get a chance to play again.

Q. Inaudible)?

RYAN MOORE: I don't know, when I look back at it now, it was frustrating at times just because I really couldn't do really what I could do now. There was certain shots. I look back on it now. It got to a point where it was affecting my putting. It matters so much with the putting. I couldn't put as much pressure as I normally do with my left hand, and then my right hand, I had to compensate for it. That's as good as best. The Canadian, have you ever had a golf course where really nobody was going to hit a lot of fairways, nobody was going to hit a lot of greens, you had to get it up and down. It was one of those golf courses.

I really kind of approached that course and that tournament the right way that week for me. I knew I had to fight to finish real high there. That week really worked out for me and that kind of gave me a boost and maybe a little adrenaline to fight through the pain.

It was never to a point where obviously I could not take it, the pain. It was not comfortable in any way. But it was something that I could take it for a while and then try to fix it once the season is over. Unfortunately it took a little longer to figure it out than I would have liked.

Q. (Inaudible)?

RYAN MOORE: I don't know. I don't remember how many times I hit it today, probably six or seven times or so. Yes.

Q. (Inaudible)?

RYAN MOORE: There is only a couple of holes out there like 10 and maybe 17 where if you hit a driver, you are just going to be in a severe downslope in the rough, which is obviously you don't want to be there. The rest of the course, if you really want to try to hit it, you can hit it. But there is some small gaps. It's not the smartest play. It's a great golf course. It really makes you think of the kind of shot that you need to hit off the tee and the middle of the green as well. You got to put it in the right spot.

Q. (Inaudible)?

RYAN MOORE: I love it. I love having to work the ball, just to hit golf shots. I pull out the driver as much as you wanted, that's great.

Q. (Inaudible)?

RYAN MOORE: I'm sure it won't. I think we may have heard that but I'm pretty sure it (inaudible). Unfortunately, that's another way. It kind of gives me a little motivation. It's kind of torture at the same time of having to sit back and watch, but it's always good motivation.

Q. (Inaudible)?

RYAN MOORE: You can't help but do that. But it's fun. But it's tough. At the same time just knowing I can be there and knowing I can be there competing if I was just -- it gives me a little bit motivation to work that much harder on my therapy or whatever it was to get back here and to be here as soon as I am right now.

I was talking to some guy, it was quite a few months to get back from something, hand surgery, and I'm very pleased to be back this early.

Q. (Inaudible)?

RYAN MOORE: I believe it was before. If I remember I think it was on a Wednesday I realized it started feeling really good and my swing started feeling great. My hand wasn't hurting. I said, yeah, over a week from now it's only going to feel that much better. I was very excited just at the thought. In the back of my mind, it was still thinking I probably didn't have a chance. I was thinking maybe Memorial. Then I progressed faster than I thought. Like I said, the target was the U.S. Open qualifier right after the Memorial, the goal, so I have a couple of weeks before that to warm back up. That's great.

Q. (Inaudible)?

RYAN MOORE: He had something going.

Q. (Inaudible)?

RYAN MOORE: It's hard to say. I'm out here to compete. I'm out here to win. That's what I play golf for. I'm not going to hold myself back and say I'm out here hoping I make the cut and see where it goes from there. At this point in time, I don't know. Today is my first 18 holes in two months. My expectations shouldn't be too high but I tend to set my expectations probably higher than they should be. So I'm just out there.

Q. (Inaudible)?

RYAN MOORE: Not really. I know I made a few birdies. I made a couple of putts. That's always a good thing to remember.

Q. (Inaudible)?

RYAN MOORE: I mean it's still there. It's hard to get over that. It will take a full year to get your hand back 100% strength. Mine is well on its way. So it's still there. There is no way I can try to trick your mind into it. Your body knows. Like I said, if it was causing pain, or if I felt I was having to make big compensation for it, I wouldn't be here.

Q. (Inaudible)?

RYAN MOORE: Yes, there is still a little bit in a couple of my fingers. But I don't notice it. Like I said, it doesn't affect me. I have a glove on it any way. I have been work on my putting a lot. But I really didn't figure out what actually made my putting a lot better the last few days. I was working on my putting a lot until a couple of days ago, go back to normal for me. That's a good thing. I want to be back to where I was. That definitely feels like it's right there.

Q. (Inaudible)?

RYAN MOORE: Pressure, I like to put the putter a little more in my left hand than my right. The discomfort that I was having in my right hand, I couldn't really do that. More and more subconsciously I wouldn't allow myself to do it, even if I tried to do it. So now I'm to the point where it's not hurting me anymore. I can get back to just kind of letting my shoulders drop and it just feels great.

Q. (Inaudible)?

RYAN MOORE: Thank you.
