

Crowne Plaza Invitational at Colonial  
Colonial Country Club  
Ft. Worth, Tx

May 25, 2008

Final-round Interviews

## AN INTERVIEW WITH ROD PAMPLING

CHRIS REIMER: Rod, thanks for coming into the media center. Obviously, probably not the finish that you look forward with family in the area. I'm sure that you are proud of the way you played all week.

**ROD PAMPLING:** Yes, you know, it was certainly a great week. It's a bunch to takeaway. At the end of the day it was an amazing shot from Phil. The birdie on the last to take it away, maybe head down for a playoff. But it was a lot to takeaway. It was a fun week. Definitely having family around makes it much more special.

CHRIS REIMER: Talk about, if you could, being in the fairway on 18, knowing where Phil was on the 18th hole, and how you felt before those two shots?

**ROD PAMPLING:** Obviously, I thought I was in a great position. I really had good numbers and not expecting Phil obviously to hit when he had a lob-wedge in his hand. He wasn't that far out. I was expecting him to get somewhere near the green if not on. I felt like I had a good number and everything like that. I hit the shot. It felt quite nice, and it was just one of those things as it was halfway there I could feel a gust on it knock it down. .  
Even if it was another 10 foot further, I wouldn't have had that bad a putt.

Q. When you hit it close on 18, I'm sure you were a little surprised but being Phil maybe not shocked.

**ROD PAMPLING:** I was preparing for Phil to hit one in there. I was telling myself I had to make birdie to win. Regardless of what he did, I had to do that birdie as well, and then obviously he hit a great shot in there. It didn't change anything. I still hit the same shot I was aiming. I was aiming at his ball as it turned out now, and try to spin it in there. Obviously I didn't get the number right?

Q. So it didn't take you aback a bit and force you to regroup?

**ROD PAMPLING:** No, there was a number of holes in there, you kind of figured you had Phil in a bad spot. But you just knew he would get out of that. So you got to expect him to do that. He is No. 2 in the world. Those guys do those kinds of shots. It didn't change much. I was still going to try to make birdie.

Q. Can you talk about that bunker shot that was a hellacious bunker shot?

**ROD PAMPLING:** Yes. It was really a hit and hope on there. Obviously, it was buried in there. I was just trying to keep it out left so it had maybe a 10 foot putt for par. Obviously, it squirted a little bit the right. But it had a fantastic bounce, just nice and soft. I actually thought it was a big chance of going in. It breaks a lot to the right there. It just didn't seem to break as much. To make a bogey there, certainly I was really jacked after that. I wiped out a couple of bad swings the last two holes and felt good about myself again. Obviously hit a good tee ball off of the next.

Q. Rod, you kind of touched on it there, I want to know about the balls on 16 and 17. It looked like on 16 maybe your hands were sweaty?

**ROD PAMPLING:** My hands slipped on 16.

Q. 7-iron?

**ROD PAMPLING:** No, it was an eight. That's the thing, you are trying to hit it harder too it slipped. Obviously it wasn't a shot. It's a nice accessible pin that one.

17, there was obviously a few thoughts of that again happening because the hands were sweaty. But it was just a bad golf swing.

Q. What did you hit there at 17?

**ROD PAMPLING:** A 2-iron.

Q. Rod, after you saw Phil stuff it there at 8, and your putt didn't go in, did you sense?

**ROD PAMPLING:** On 8?

Q. I'm sorry, 18. After you had finished, did you kind of sense, because of the moment that he was likely to make that? Do you think you might head to a playoff?

**ROD PAMPLING:** It was still a 10 foot putt. The guys, when they hit a miraculous shot like that, they always seem to make the putt. Obviously, I was disheartened. It's a sneaky putt there. He read it right. Normally it goes right-to-left there. Somehow he made it go right-to-left. He read the putt great.

Q. I walked almost the entire round with you, it felt almost uncomfortable that you had this entire crowd rooting for Phil, and not for a hometown guy, was it uncomfortable for you as it was for me walking around?

**ROD PAMPLING:** I had no issues for that. I expected there to be big crowds following Phil. I heard all of my friends out there. I was listening for them. I wasn't worried. There was going to be comments going everywhere. I don't pay attention to that.

Q. They were yelling "Pamps," did you get that at Flower Mound or Australia?

**ROD PAMPLING:** It's a pretty easy one to get comfortable about. It's been in the family forever as far as I know.

Q. How did the nerves hold up during the day and down the stretch?

**ROD PAMPLING:** You know, it felt I was really focusing on what I had to do and kept in control. There were times it would get a bit nervy. I was just trying to relax and do breathing and focus on what I had to do. I felt fine out there. It was just a bad swing on 17 was really the only swing I'm disappointed in, but the rest of the day was quite good.

Q. Do you think that was maybe nerves or just a bad swing?

**ROD PAMPLING:** Obviously a little bit there. It was quick. I didn't feel the smoothness I had in my swing and tried to get a little bit steep on it and it just squirted to the right.

Q. Rod, when you set up your putting line, you take your hands off your putter. Have you been doing that all of your life and how did that come about?

**ROD PAMPLING:** No, just the start of the week it felt good and it's been working good. It's one of those things I guess that if it feels right I do it. But the routine is the same, whether I take my hand off the putter. That changes here and there. It's not everything I do all of the time. It was working so I kept doing it.

Q. Rod, you've got recently now a couple of near misses here, you know how to play this course, you showed that over and over again, do you feel like maybe your day is going to come?

**ROD PAMPLING:** It's getting close to the end. The last time I was on 15, I hit a double there. And then 17 this year, so hopefully next time I will be good to go.

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