
**Nissan Open
Riviera Country Club
Pacific Palisades, California
February 17, 2004**

AN INTERVIEW WITH JUSTIN ROSE

DAVE LANCER: We have Justin Rose with us who has joined the PGA Tour this year full-time, for the first time in his career, and he is making his first start of the season, so welcome over to the states. How is your game and where have you been the last few weeks?

Justin Rose: Well, firstly, I played two events this year, two in South Africa and one in Thailand and came back to London for a week and then headed to Orlando. I have been in Orlando for about the last 10 days. Having a few lessons with (inaudible) and doing a bit of practice, trying to get my game in shape for obviously this week. I flew in Sunday night. I'm looking forward to Thursday really.

Q. (Inaudible)?

Justin Rose: Very average really, 23rd. Missed the cut, 40th. I'm waiting to run into a little bit (inaudible).

Q. Justin, what was the thought of about this tournament, have you played this course before and why did you pick this one to make your debut in?

Justin Rose: Obviously, it really had good reviews, this golf course. I can see why having played out there today for the first time. It really is a fantastic golf course. Also it made sense, I was in the Match Play, so I came over the week before the Match Play to get into it. It made sense to me.

The only reason I didn't play the Buick last week, I felt that I needed to have a block of time where I could actually do some practice and work on my game. So it's nice to play the West Coast, something I haven't really done before that much.

Q. It's not the easiest course to be making your debut on, is it?

Justin Rose: Yeah, well, none of them are easy. In a sense sometimes ignorance is bliss in a way. I don't really know what to expect. You turn up at the course, and you see what's in front of you and deal with it. I think it's nice to come into an event (inaudible). It's great that I played a practice round before, so I'm feeling good about it.

Q. What are some of the things that you like about this course?

Justin Rose: I think it's just very plastic. It's like a real old style golf course; small greens. You got to drive the ball well; tree lines. There is not a lot of water on it.

It's like a real good, natural golf course. Those types of courses generally are much shorter than the modern day courses but this course is actually playing pretty long as well.

Q. What made you decide to become a PGA Tour member and how does that effect your European Tour membership?

Justin Rose: Well, what made me decide to become a member of the PGA Tour is the fact that I enjoy playing in America for a start. I think if you want to be the best player you can be, you certainly have to come over and dabble in America. The courses are good. Everything is a little bit more consistent in terms of the facilities are better. In terms of enhancing my golf game, I feel like it's the right thing to do. You know, last year I played well enough in 10, 11, or 12 -- I don't remember how many I played, around 11 events I played in last year. And I played well enough in those to make enough money. I thought it would be silly not to make the most of that this year. It doesn't really affect my European Tour status. Obviously with The Majors and the World Champs (inaudible). I virtually played enough tournaments in Europe. You only have to play 11 in Europe. I really only have to play one more event in Europe to make it to the World Champs.

Q. Do you have a house here?

Justin Rose: Yes, I just bought a house in (inaudible), Orlando.

Q. Are you part of that team?

Justin Rose: Yes.

Q. What were you working with Leadbetter on this week and what was the problem that you had of the three weeks? You sounded like you really weren't satisfied with what was going on.

Justin Rose: Yes, I mean just the same old stuff really, your same old tendencies. It had probably been a good three or four months since I last seen David, basically do a little tune-up. There is real no major changes going on, just a little fine tuning or maybe a little tweaking here and there. Basically it was just the fact that I hadn't seen him for a while. (Inaudible). Hopefully that break will really pay off during the middle of the season, so I will feel nice and fresh.

Q. Justin, is there any resentment from guys on the European Tour when guys come over to play the PGA Tour, or do they understand that this is a better venue and it will help your game overall?

Justin Rose: Yes, I don't think it's resentment, it's probably more like envy, you know. Everybody aspires to at least be able to come and play on the TOUR, whether it's the Top-50 in the world, which gets you into Bay Hill, TPC, tournaments like that. It's great to play an actual schedule where you are playing a good bunch of events in America because at the end of the day, the courses are incredibly exciting over here and a fun course to play. And other than the guys in Europe, guys I look up to, we watch and see what happens in America for sure. It's nice to be in that position here.

Q. Is there a line that you have to walk in order to satisfy both -- do you feel there is a certain amount of loyalty you have to add to the European Tour?

A. Yes, Europe has been fantastic to me. Obviously there were times when I was struggling in Europe, and the Tour looked after me with sponsor exemptions and things like that. So there is no doubt, Europe has been good for me, and I still call London as my home. I will definitely continue to play in Europe into the foreseeable future. But I just felt like it was too good an opportunity to miss. I felt like it was a fresh and new challenge, and I felt it was going to (inaudible) my game, and that's why I made the decision.

Q. So people over there understand that obviously?

Justin Rose: Yes, exactly. I think there is a lot of guys coming over and playing well this year from Europe in America. It's just the way the ball is going here in the states. It seems to be the place to play right now.

Q. Justin, what would your reaction be to the news (Inaudible) for '08?

Justin Rose: (Inaudible). It would be incredibly exciting to go back there. There will be good memories for me to draw on that week. I can't wait for '08 to roll around. Is the U.S. Open going to be at Torrey Pines? Yes. One of the guys told me, I'm not sure I will look forward to that one. Yes, obviously that will be something that (Inaudible). That's what people remember me for is that shot at 18.

Q. Justin, did you think back then when you turned pro that it would take you this long to make it in the PGA TOUR?

Justin Rose: Well, when I first turned pro, I didn't really have any conception of how long it would take. I know, you know, there was no plan that I wanted to be a PGA Tour player. When I was a kid growing up, I always followed the European Tour and stuff like that. That is what I focussed on. And then obviously I turned pro, all I was concerned about was being able to play well in Europe.

So I think obviously being 23, I'm pretty fortunate to be playing on the PGA Tour. Although I turned pro very early -- obviously there is bloody young guys coming through, but being ahead of the game where other guys come out of college, and it takes them a good three years to get out on the course.

Q. Would you recommend other young players to turn pro early and play some minor league tournaments before they get out here?

Justin Rose: I think it's difficult. There is so many different ways you can do it and no way is the right way. Look at Ian Polster (phn), he also finished school early but he never had an amateur career. He was an assistant pro in a golf shop and basically sold

Mars bars or chocolates for a couple of years. Everybody does it a different way. But also college in the states, look at Luke Donald, he did it that way. There is plenty of right ways to do it. I think you have to believe your way is the right way. That's the trick.

Q. Did you know that your way was the right way?

Justin Rose: Yes, I just followed my heart actually. I left school, I guess, relatively early. It was an easy decision for me because my amateur career had gone really well and I was performing well. It was the next logical step. It was either come to America and go to college or turn pro. I felt like I achieved what I wanted to achieve in the British Amateur circuit, so those were my two decisions. And the first one I feel (inaudible.)

Q. I guess the perception is that you have that great British Open and you base your whole decision on that?

Justin Rose: Yes, when I failed to win the British Amateur, that June, that's when I decided to turn pro. I already had sponsor exemptions to play. That's a funny thing. I was planning on turning pro quietly, slipping in the back door, get a little bit of competition under my belt, a little experience under my belt, and The Open kind of changed all that.

DAVE LANCER: Anything else?

Q. What is your schedule going from here and then Match Play, what's your schedule in Florida?

Justin Rose: A week off, Doral, play Honda, Bay Hill, TPC, a week off before The Masters, play The Masters and then MCI, Houston, New Orleans, I believe.

Q. Did you put anything new in your bag this year?

Justin Rose: No, still the same old stuff.

Q. If the Ryder Cup system hadn't changed in Europe this year, would you still have made the choice to make a change?

Justin Rose: Yes, definitely. You can't base your whole year around one week, you know. That's what the Ryder Cup is. I think that's a big reason why I made this decision. It helps my game for the future. It enables me to spend more time with Leadbetter. I think it's the right place to play now to accelerate and progress my game.

DAVE LANCER: Thank you. Good luck.

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