

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

May 24, 2008

Third-round Interviews

## AN INTERVIEW WITH STEPHEN AMES

CHRIS REIMER: Stephen, thanks for coming down to the media center. Bogey-free 64. Just talk about the day today.

**STEPHEN AMES:** Bogey-free. If you notice I made the same amount of birdies the first two days. I hit the ball consistent, golf balls. You got to get the angles into greens into the holes to have an opportunity of a chance to birdie. The first hole was driver, 3-iron. I hit it right out of the trap on 1, which was a great place to miss it in that trap. The pin was tucked left and in. I almost chipped it in. It actually lipped out. I went through the fairway so I can get the angle to the pin. I hit it 15 feet and made that. 4, I almost holed it. Probably a half a roll from being in the middle.

Q. First ever hole-in-one on that hole?

**STEPHEN AMES:** Apparently, I just heard that today.

10, 7-iron to about six inches.

11, I hit it to about 4 feet, made that.

16, got a lucky break, hit it right of the flag thinking the wind was going to bring it back. Never did. Caught the fringe, kicked it onto the green to about 20, 25 feet, and I made that for birdie.

Overall it was a solid day. I putted very well. I had some good iron shots which you got to do out here if you are going to shoot that kind of number, I guess. But overall it was a fun day.

CHRIS REIMER: Questions?

Q. Do you like these tournaments separated or would you prefer they go back-to-back?

**STEPHEN AMES:** I think back-to-back would probably be better without a

doubt. I think.

Q. Next year it is.

**STEPHEN AMES:** I think it is back to that. It makes sense. It doesn't make sense going from Dallas to Charlotte, Charlotte back to wherever it is in between at all. Next year it will be better. I'm sure. Not that it isn't bad already.

Q. Stephen, can you talk about how you can go low on this course but it's like you can get one extreme or the other; can you talk about that and how that shapes up for Sunday, it kind of depends on your position, where you are on the leaderboard, how you attack?

**STEPHEN AMES:** Depending where the pins are on certain greens. Obviously certain pins you don't go at. You take the middle of the green and get out of there. I think that's probably where you get the high numbers, if your short game is not sharp enough to get it up and down going at those flags.

Probably where Phil has the advantage to an extent. That's not a golf course where length is a big factor. Maybe on some holes.

But overall, if you want to attack this golf course, you can attack it and not put it in the right spot. If you got the short game you can get it up and down. You take the opportunity of doing that. That's probably why feel Phil is where he is right now.

Me, I'm trying to play middle of the fairway, middle of the green, make the putt and get out of there. The short game is not bad but it's not in the category of Mr. Mickelson.

Q. I'm reminded of that third round you had here two years ago which was so insane you just gutted your way back on Sunday to finish fourth. I mean this is a much better position I guess going into Sunday.

**STEPHEN AMES:** Yes, it is actually. I started off with a triple or quadruple bogey eight. Eight on the third day. Finished 77 for the day and I shot 64 and finished fourth. Geez, even 2-over par, I would have won by 4. What happened there?

I'm trying to think back on that day now. I forgot about it. Let's put it that way. I don't want to think about it again. I have learned a lot since that experience. It's a good experience you have, shoot 77 and finish fourth. Maybe not on a Sunday. Saturday, all right, and coming back on Sunday and playing well.

It's a great golf course. I enjoy playing here every year. I have had two Top-5 finishes here all of the years that I played it.

I'm in my domicile here. I'm very happy being here in this place.

Q. Stephen, how many different ways are there to play this golf course? We are hearing about Mickelson, you talk about angles. He seems to obliterate the angles.

**STEPHEN AMES:** To some extent he is doing that. A lot of tees he is not hitting driver on. He is hitting 2-iron or 3-wood.

Q. He is hitting a lot of drivers. More than you would think he would.

**STEPHEN AMES:** Maybe on the bigger holes. The smaller holes like 2, for example, one for sure. Probably 3, I don't know. I'm not sure.

Q. He hit a driver everywhere but 5. That's what I was going to ask you about.

**STEPHEN AMES:** Every hole?

Q. I didn't see the last two holes.

**STEPHEN AMES:** Not 16. 15, yes. 17, 18.

Q. I took his 3-wood out of bag?

**STEPHEN AMES:** Didn't I just state that? You can attack it. He is attacking it with the second shot. If he's got 5 wedges. He has a 70 degree wedge in there. He has a 64. Is the next one 70?

Q. He has the Phil degree?

**STEPHEN AMES:** Phil degree. I won't comment on that one. Phil degree, I never heard of that one before. He is playing to his strength which is his short game and bombing up there as far as you can. I don't blame him.

Q. It seemed like just walking around the golf course a lot yesterday and today that more guys are hitting a lot more drivers than I ever remember.

**STEPHEN AMES:** The golf course is running, the ball is obviously going further. There is certain holes where if you fly it 270, 275, yes, the hole becomes obsolete. You got a lob wedge in there. That's the unfortunate thing with this golf course. Some holes have become that way. You can take the trouble out of the way by bombing the driver over. It's not that kind of golf course where you have to shape it off the tee and land it in between the traps. That's the unfortunate thing.

Back in the old days it must have been a hell of a golf course, playing with a Persimmon head. It must have been real fun.

Q. What was the difference today? You said you made as many birdies today as you had the first two days; were you putting it better or hitting it better?

**STEPHEN AMES:** Probably keeping the ball more in play today than I did yesterday. My first six holes, which was the back 9 yesterday, the swing felt really out of whack.

After the sixth hole, from 16, 17, 18 onwards, I figured out what I was doing wrong, and I only had bogey on the last hole which was a 3-putt, because I put it on the wrong side of the hole.

From then on I figured it out. And today was the same thing again. I got a momentum going in from that second 9 onwards which has helped me.

I've been putting very well since THE PLAYERS Championship. That's been a nice thing. That's always been a bit of a nemesis for me. I've been very consistent this week as well as TPC.

Q. Is it more fun to play in the last group? Trying to win, is it better to play in the last group or play before that and post a number on this golf course?

**STEPHEN AMES:** I think it's good to post it, put the pressure on the guy from behind, knowing what he has to do. If he succeeds and does it, then good job on him, which is fine with me. I'm actually in the second to the last group now. Rod Pamplung gets the mayhem that's going to be following him. I will be quite happy being in front of them posting my number.

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