

**PODS Championship
Innisbrook Golf Resort
Copperhead Course
Tampa Bay, Fl**

March 9, 2008

Final-round tournament quotes

AN INTERVIEW WITH SEAN O'HAIR

PHIL STAMBAUGH: Sean O'Hair, earns his second career victory on the PGA TOUR today and wins for the first time since the John Deere Classic 2005.

Sean, you played your way into the events in Doral in two weeks, the CA Championship and also earn an invitation to the 2008 Masters.

SEAN O'HAIR: That's awesome. Sean earns 4500 FedExCup points, and moves from 162 to No. 13, a season long list, and you become the youngest champion in PODS Championship history. Congratulations on your day.

SEAN O'HAIR: Thank you very much. This feels so good, and I think when I won the first time at the John Deere Classic, obviously, it was overwhelming and awesome, and especially with me going to the British Open and everything. I felt like winning would happen all the time and it doesn't work that way. This is just so nice to be back in the winner's circle.

PHIL STAMBAUGH: Can you take us through the day? You make four birdies and two bogeys, one on the last hole, it really didn't matter, take us through your day.

SEAN O'HAIR: You know, today was a nice day to get a pretty good score or chase down the leaders. You know, I felt like the beginning was key, especially the first five holes. Those are probably the best scoring holes out there.

So having that birdie on 1, I hit a great drive down the right and then I hit a really good solid 3-wood, but the wind caught me and it was short of the bunker there, and I kind of had a tough little lob shot over the bunker to a tight pin and the greens were firm and fast already and just kind of came out perfect. I made the putt. It was a nice way to start off the day.

I hit a lot of good quality shots today. I just really did a good job focusing on my target, committing to my target and committing to my club and just going through the process of good alignment and worked on what my coach and I worked on this week.

So I just hit some nice quality shots on two, pretty easy par. Kind of the same thing on 3 and 4.

5, was a little bit disappointing. I hit a huge drive right down the middle and hit a push, kind of a push, skank, a little bit, 3-wood, I didn't quite get the kind of distance that I wanted on it, but I had a really tough pitch shot. I couldn't ask for a better pitch shot. I had a 15-footer left and misread it and it was a tough putt to read.

The sixth hole was kind of a little weird. I hit a pretty good drive. The wind didn't catch it the way I wanted to. The wind was off the right into me, and off the right, and I expected it to take it left and hit a straight shot where I wanted to and the wind just didn't get it and it was in the right rough and I had a nasty lie and somehow got a 5-iron on the green.

When I got up there, it was like I was in kind of a nook, so I couldn't putt the ball, because the pin, I would have had to putt it through the rough.

I was on the green though and obviously the greens were very firm today. So I had a chip off the green and it was just a really difficult shot. That was pretty much a bogey, but it wasn't a mental error, which I didn't really take too much of that.

7, I hit two great shots. I hit a great 54 degree wedge in there. I think I had 104 yards, hit it perfectly and made the putt. That was a nice comeback. I think that kind of kept me in there and kept my positive side.

8, hit a great shot, barely missed the putt.

9, was a great par, missed it left in the rough and that was huge, too.

I think that was one of the key shots of the tournament for me was the 6-iron. I was in the left rough on 9 and had a 6-iron, a nasty lie, and I didn't think I could get to the front and I just muscled it out and got it actually pin-high and made a great 2-putt. That was huge for me.

And then we just kind of went to business on the back 9. You know, made a great putt on 10. I felt like I made it, but I hit it a little too hard.

11, was huge, a nice drive right down the middle. I hit a really nice 5-wood. I thought I had a chance of being close. It was pin-high and just released over the green. I hit a pretty good little chip shot. Just kind of one of those soft shots that you had to hit almost like a half chip, half flop. It almost went in, just a little bit short.

12, 13, just pretty basic pars with some up and downs.

14, was a little is surprise to me. I hit 2 quality shots, a huge drive. I think that was the biggest drive I hit all week.

I think it was kind of those you pull it a little bit and it runs forever type shots.

I hit a nice 3-wood to a perfect area just short right of the green and had a pretty easy, I shouldn't say easy, but fairly simple up and down, and I just picked the wrong shot. I tried to hit a mid-high pitch shot and it kind of checked on me a little bit. I made par there.

15 was probably the best putt I ever hit in my life. Right when I hit it, maybe 15 feet to go, ten feet to go, I knew it was in the hole. That was awesome.

And then from there on I'm just trying not throw up on myself. I'm just trying to kind of hang in there.

I did a good job on 16, kind of hit a putt on 16 a little hard. I thought I made it, but it went by 3 feet, so that was a gut check putt there.

17, was a tough little 2-putt. I was happy 2-putting that.

18, I hit 2 nice shots. My second shot I didn't want to -- I was actually in the same position there yesterday, and I hit a nice 6-iron in kind of the same type of wind that I had today. It kind of upshot on me, I was pretty lucky it didn't plug in the bunker. So today I took a 5-iron and just say, hey, if we are on the right part of the green long, it's no big deal.

It went a little bit further than I thought. I hit a great chip. That was probably the fastest chip I ever had to deal with.

Then I looked at the leaderboard and saw where I was. I was like all right, just don't fat the putt. That was the deal.

Q. What kind of pep talk did Steve give you last week? Were you at all starting to feel sorry for yourself. You weren't getting results?

SEAN O'HAIR: I think when you work as hard as we do out here. I think this year, I should say ever since last fall, I got a new caddy on the bag Paul Tisori (phn.) Ever since he got on the bag I kind of just told myself, I'm really going to just dedicate myself to working hard and harder than I ever worked before. I played well in the fall, obviously. Coming back, I'm a slow starter. When you are working so hard you are beating a ton of balls. You are spending 8 plus hours on the golf course. You are leaving in the morning. It's dark. You're coming home and it's dark. And you are missing cuts. You just sit there and say, what in the world am I doing? I might as well not even be practicing.

We sat down, Steve and I last week after missing the cut. He came down to watch me at the Honda. We rented a house and we sat down and we had a lot of time to talk. We talked about a lot of stuff; just how he believed in me, how he felt like I was on the right track and that if I just start believing in myself, everything will happen. He was right. He said I was right there. I didn't believe him. I didn't believe him. But I guess he was right.

Q. Was there ever a chance that there could be lasting ill effects from Sawgrass last year and is there anything today positive as a result of that experience?

SEAN O'HAIR: To be honest with you, my next tournament I think was

a 5th or a 6th at the Memorial. So I don't really think it affected me. You know, I think, you know, as a player you learn something new. I think the most I learned from anything was the fall of last year. I think the last 4 tournaments in the fall that I played, I put myself in a position to win three times. Somehow I kicked it in the bucket, and I learned from those mistakes, whether I was trying to force it. I was losing my focus, or I wasn't committing on shots, or whatever it may be. You know, I've worked hard on my mental side with Rotella (phn). We talked a lot. And Steve, Steve is a huge. Steve Lucas is a huge influence on me with my mind and we've talked a lot about that. I just did, when I put myself in a position, all I was telling myself was, you know, let's stick with the process and not get result oriented. Let's not look at the leaderboard. It's play shot-to-shot. I know that's cliché. Everybody says that. I was really doing it out there today and that was a good feeling.

Q. On '06 you were concerned about the sophomore slump, to keep working through that?

SEAN O'HAIR: Yes.

Q. Was there any feeling, let's say last year, and even the first month or two this year, of wanting to back up that first victory?

SEAN O'HAIR: Yes, I think when you work hard, and you are not winning, and you feel like you are good enough to win, you always some times kind of feel like you are pushing it a little bit. I think that was my problem last year. Even though last year was a successful year. When you put yourself in a position to win, players, some of the fall season events, even the Memorial, I put myself in a position to win, I didn't put very well that final day. You start to think to yourself, what is wrong with me? Why can I not pull it out? Am I too chicken? Do I not have the guts for it? I don't think that's ever been the case. Am I not hitting the right shots? Is it just not my time? There is so many different questions that go on in your mind.

Last year, you know, that fall season, even though I had a nice fall season, in a way it almost felt like a disappointment because I put myself, like I said, three times, and I didn't pull one out, and I played some nice golf.

But I think the thing that I'm working on most with my mind is accepting who I am as a player and as a person.

You know, you sigh these guys like Tiger, or Phil, or whoever, that come out here and play and win and it's almost like men amongst school boys in a way. And you are just, what are they doing differently than me, and you try to learn from them.

Then all of a sudden you get caught in this vicious circle of trying to be somebody that you're not. I'm not a Tiger. I'm far from Tiger. I'm far from Phil.

And the thing is, I play had great in '05. I think the one thing I thought about in '05 was, I just played golf, you know. I was a scrawny runt. I still am scrawny. But it's amazing how much

scrawnier.

The last time I was home I watched the Byron Nelson film of '05, and my win in '05, John Deere, and I watched what I was doing. I was just playing golf. I did what I do. And it didn't matter what anybody said about my golf swing. It didn't matter what anybody said about how I played the game. I believed in it and I had a good year. So the last two weeks is what I've been working on.

Q. How good can that be; whoever you are?

SEAN O'HAIR: I don't know, we'll see. Obviously I'm good enough to win. I don't know if I'm good enough to win, you know, on a consistent basis. I would like to think I am. I definitely work hard enough and this is not going to hurt my confidence. That's for sure. I'm looking forward to the rest of the year.

Q. Did you watch those videos intentionally to learn from them?

SEAN O'HAIR: Yes.

Q. When was this?

SEAN O'HAIR: This was the last time I was home, which was I guess the week before Honda. I missed the cut in LA, came home, and I guess I made three out of four cuts. But I think I finished like 50th, 50th and 49th in the first three cuts I made, and I just sat there and I told myself, I'm working harder than I ever worked in my life, and I just feel like I'm so far away from playing good golf, what's going on?

And I didn't really have a game plan. So I called my coach. I tried everything. I looked at film. I did this, and I did that. I looked at my videos from '05. What was I doing different. If I saw anything. I saw some swing differences a little bit. But I think the main thing is that I didn't really care. I'm not saying I didn't care about winning. I didn't care about failing. You know, I was like fearless. And in a way I kind of felt that way today. It was nice to have that feeling again. You know sometimes you step up to an important shot and instead of saying well, I hope I pull this off. When you are walking into it, you know you are going to pull it off and that's kind of what I've been working on, and I had a little bit of that this week.

Q. John Deere got you into St. Andrews and this one gets you into Augusta National?

SEAN O'HAIR: That's awesome.

Q. You don't need a passport either. That's pretty good (laughter).

SEAN O'HAIR: I was reading this morning, I guess in the golf week, Boo Weekley, how he was planning on taking two weeks off after the Shell Houston Open. He said, I guess I will fit The Masters in my schedule. And I am thinking, that lucky I son of an -- And so I mean this is obviously, I wasn't planning on this. I wasn't planning on playing in -- what's the World Series.

Q. CA Championship.

SEAN O'HAIR: Thank you. I'm not used to playing in those events, sorry. I wasn't expecting that and I wasn't expecting The Masters and this is just awesome. I got to tell my wife to book a house for Augusta. That's awesome.

Q. I know it's a tough subject, do you expect at all to hear from your dad?

SEAN O'HAIR: No.

Q. Would you want to?

SEAN O'HAIR: I don't know how to put that. I don't expect to hear from him.

Q. When you were at the academy which is why I get those mixed up, Bradenton?

SEAN O'HAIR: Yes, Bradenton Academy.

Q. Did you ever get up here much? Did you ever think 10 years ago you were really scrawny at age 15, was it weird to say 10 years later here I am?

SEAN O'HAIR: It is a little weird. I didn't play here as a kid. It was more like the target type golf courses I played. I didn't spend too much time in this area. But, you know, I've spent a lot of time in this area. I was here from 15 until I was about, you know, 18 years old. 18, 19 years old. It almost feels like a second home a little bit. I feel comfortable here. I love the golf here. And this is a great golf course. It's always nice to come back to this area.

Q. Are you the kind of golfer, you are steadily going along today, the guys were coming back to you a little bit, are you the kind of golfer that looks at the scoreboard?

SEAN O'HAIR: You know, sometimes I have, and that's kind of when I've gotten in trouble. One thing, I was really focused on this week is -- I had a talk with Rotella (phn) last night. He said really be in the process.

I don't know if you know what that means. It's just like preshot, picking a club, committing to the club, picking the target, committing the target and fire away. And not really standing over the shot and saying, don't miss it right, or hit it right, thinking about where you need to hit it.

And I think this week and last week I felt really comfortable with the putter. So today basically I didn't look at the scoreboard. The only time I looked at it was on 17 green and 18 green. It just kind of put my mind at ease on that last putt there. I could have hit that 3 feet by. I could have lagged it short, or whatever. I was trying to make it. I was making sure I didn't have any headaches.

Q. So you don't know you had the lead when you had it?

SEAN O'HAIR: I don't really know when I got the lead, let's just put it that way. When I looked at 17, I saw that I had a 2 or 3-shot lead. And that was pretty cool.

Q. Only 25 years old, does that time at that time Bradenton Academy, when you first turned pro, seem like another lifetime ago?

SEAN O'HAIR: Yes, it seems so long ago. I mean I can't remember when I turned professional, what it was like, 17 years old. Bradenton Academy, it felt like a different life. '05 feels like a different life. I mean it really does. Because I have had my daughter, Molly in '05, and I had my son, he is a year old. We have had a lot of things happen in our life. My wife and I talk about that all of the time. It wasn't too long ago we were kids without kids, and now I don't know with you call us now, but we got two kids now.

Q. Just some quick details. You kind of brushed over the pars, but it looked like on 12 and 13 you had testy [ones|once]. That four or five foot range that you put in. I thought that would have settled you a little.

SEAN O'HAIR: Yes, 12 was huge for momentum because I just made may that birdie, I can't remember. What was that to go 4-under or something? And I hit a great, great 3-iron and hit a pretty good 8-iron. I hit it a little bit fat. And I thought it was going to be okay and the people behind me clapped. And I was watching by the green nobody clapped and I am like that's short.

I was hoping that wasn't in the rough. When I got up there, it was on that first cut there and a pretty makeable chip. So I didn't feel comfortable putting it. I didn't feel comfortable hitting that 5-wood putt either.

So I was trying to figure out what do I feel comfortable hitting the shot with. I felt like hitting a putt chip, gave me a chance to make it, and I didn't think it would run too far away from the hole if I missed it, and I think I picked the wrong club because I hit it exactly the way I wanted to. It just released. It almost went in. It released like mad, and I think I had a four-footer coming back. So that was testy one.

And it was downhill, fast and left-to-right. Those are the type of putts that you don't want to have to have to make.

I just did a good job on some of those gut check putts just to -- I was telling myself, you know what, don't worry about missing this thing, this thing is going in the hole. Just focus and commit to the putt. I did that every single shot today and that's a huge part of the reason why I am here.

Q. Was your group put on the clock at all?

SEAN O'HAIR: Yes, I was playing awfully slow today. I was backing off a lot of shots. I felt bad for the guys I was playing with. I was kind of holding the group up a little bit. But we got timed on

15. And I made a putt and I was just like, you know, I would like to be timed more often. It worked out.

Q. What iron did you hit? To 15?

SEAN O'HAIR: I hit a 7-iron. I was in between clubs, a 7 and a 6-iron. I felt like a 6-iron was going to hit pin-high and release. I felt like the wind was helping. I think I had 180 carry, and 191 pin, and I felt if I hit kind of a back foot 7-iron, hit it real solid, the wind was going to take it and it should be perfect.

I guess the wind just died, but it was the right club and the wind didn't really take it to the right at all, so I kind of had a little bit longer putt than I liked.

Q. There is a perception that the difficulties that you went through early in your career might make anything you go through now seem easier, the pressure sure that you go through now, is there any truth to that? Is it not the same?

SEAN O'HAIR: I don't know how to answer that. I mean, you know, I don't focus at all on the past when it comes to my family. You know, I try and learn from experiences as far as the game is concerned. I don't know if that makes any sense. It is not easy under pressure. I wouldn't think it's easy for Tiger Woods under pressure, and he does this every week it seems like. I think it's easier for some people. I'm sure it's a heck of a lot easier for him than it is for me. But I don't think you come out, and anything is easy when you are leading a golf tournament, or you are chasing somebody down. That is not easy mentally. And I think I just try and learn from the mental mistakes that I've made, and I think I'm starting to do that. I've learned a lot. I guess you could say. I went through a lot from 17 to now. I've been a professional for how long?

Q. Eight years.

SEAN O'HAIR: Since '99. Geez, where has the time gone? It's crazy. But, I think, you know, when I was 20 years old? 22, I was a lot more seasoned than say at 22 out of college just because of my experiences. I try not to focus too much on the negative stuff.

Q. You put Paul on the bag last fall?

SEAN O'HAIR: Yes.

Q. Was that an attempt to put a guy on, be more professional, a professional caddy on the bag, or in response to not having won for two years?

SEAN O'HAIR: No, it wasn't a response for anything. My caddy in the past has been my father-in-law. He has done a heck of a job. He came out for a certain reason. That was to get me comfortable on the PGA TOUR. And I felt like when Paul came around last year, I was comfortable on the PGA. I was comfortable with myself. I was comfortable with being out here. And we talked, and he and I

both felt like it was time for me to move on. So it wasn't a negative thing.

It was like, you know, what, I think it's time for you to move on. So we talked about who we should ask. We talked about it for quite some time. The first person that came to mind was Paul Tisori (phn). He was available.

Steve Lucas, my father-in-law, turned into a great caddy. But that's not what he does. He was there for a reason and needed a great job. I definitely would not be on the PGA TOUR if it wasn't for him.

But it was just time for me to get somebody, this is what they do. This is what I pay them to do. It is just like a family business. Sometimes when you mix family and business it could be a little tougher sometimes when it's just a business relationship. Obviously Paul is a friend of mine. But when it's strictly business, it's a lot easier to do your job, I think.

Q. I would like to get your perspective on players coming on early or coming out a little bit later from your point of view, whether anybody asked your advice?

SEAN O'HAIR: Well, if my son was, or my daughter, was a good junior player, and they were contemplating turning pro or going to college, I would highly recommend them going to college. I think there is a lot that college has to offer. Not only as a player but as a person, relationships, things you experience, I just don't really see anything negative about going to college. I see a lot of negatives turning pro.

Q. Is it maturity to a certain degree?

SEAN O'HAIR: I can't tell you how many times at 17, 18, 19 years old where I wanted to quit. If I didn't have this feeling inside of me that I've belonged on the PGA TOUR, I would have quit a long time ago.

And a lot of kids, I have seen a lot of kids with a ton of talent who thought about turning pro, and they have turned pro, that they probably would have done better had they gone to college.

Who is to say I might have been better if I went to college, I don't know. I would highly recommend college over turning professional.

I just think that there is a lot of things you are exposed to, pressure, traveling around by yourself. There is so many different things that really a 17-year-old, 18-year-old doesn't need to go through unless you are a very special person.

PHIL STAMBAUGH: Congratulations.

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