

**Zurich Classic of New Orleans
TPC Of Louisiana
Avondale, La
April 27 2005**

Pre-Tournament round quotes

AN INTERVIEW WITH VIJAY SINGH

(Taped interview.)

THE MODERATOR: Questions?

Q. Vijay Singh with me now. And, Vijay, I don't think anybody in the game has the ability to turn the switch on or off like you do. I mean, last week a huge week, Hall of Fame, defense of your title, but now it's trying to defend here in New Orleans.

VIJAY SINGH: Yes, I mean, it's a different golf tournament, a different venue. You come here focussed on a new tournament. That's the way to go about the business. If you just start thinking about what happened last week, you get other elements involved. But this way it's a new tournament and I'm looking forward to this week.

Q. What about this golf course?

VIJAY SINGH: It's a good course. It grows on you. We just have to play and get used to it. There is a lot of places out there that, you know, a lot of holes that it's very hard to really figure out where to hit it. But once you get the line right, you know, by the time the tournament comes, I think we will be all ready.

Q. Vijay, can you compare the four par-3s?

VIJAY SINGH: It's all different. They are very long. They are very demanding. The greens are very firm right now. If there is a 215 yard shot, you are only playing it to about 200 yards and letting the roll takeover. The greens are tough. And missing the greens in the par-3s is very hard to get up and down. It's going to be a challenge, especially with the wind.

Q. Is this going to be high scoring tournament tomorrow?

VIJAY SINGH: I don't know. It depends on the wind. Yesterday we played, it was pretty difficult with the wind. I don't think, you know, most of the guys have not played in different wind

conditions over here. We just have to wait and see. I think, you know, average 4-under. A winning score, I would say will be, I don't know, 10, 12, somewhere like that. I may be totally wrong.

Q. Overall you find it a pretty challenging venue, and you got to think a little bit more than maybe normal when you come out here?

VIJAY SINGH: It's difficult to get yourself set up on the tee shots. There is a lot of cross carries out there and you got to know where to hit it. The more we play, the more used to it we are going to get. The conditions are great. The greens are in great shape. So there will be a lot of putts made out there. You just have to hit good shots to give yourself chances for birdie.

Q. Vijay, you had a lot of girls on your bag today, can you talk about that?

VIJAY SINGH: They are fun. They are a great bunch of girls. I had a great time. I think one of the best times I had on the Pro-Am. I'm sure my caddy enjoyed it more than anybody else. But they are a great bunch of girls. It's good to see them out here.

Q. Are you going to like this tournament better, it kind of grows on you?

VIJAY SINGH: I don't know. It's difficult to say. It's a different golf course. I'm sure they are going to start, you know, more guys, after this week, there will be more guys saying things about it. Just like what happened in Boston. Come next year, there will be a few more changes made to this golf course for the better. Every golf course that you build, there is always changes to be made. It's all for the better, I guess.

Q. Are you a fan of the TPC courses?

VIJAY SINGH: They kind of look all the same, you know. I think, you know, it's about time something different on the TPC golf course should be done. The fairway bunkers, they are good for some reasons. But, you know, if you see 18 of them, there is no fun seeing them anymore. I think it's harder for the amateurs to play out of there. They get upset hitting out of the bunker. One of my teammates was tired of hitting out of the bunkers. You see too many of them. It's no good. I see the purpose behind it. But after a while it gets kind of boring.

Q. When you design your course, you will have to keep that in mind?

VIJAY SINGH: Yes, that's true. If you see all of the traditionally good golf courses out there, you see it right in front of you. I love those kind of golf courses. There are a lot of them out there. I think the newer design groups coming out should take a little more example out of the old golf courses.

Q. You have been quoted in a couple of places saying you think your playing better this year than you were at this time last year?

VIJAY SINGH: I think so. I'm striking the ball better. I'm driving the ball extremely good. I feel like I'm putting good as well. So my whole game is a lot better this time around. But I had more wins last year but that was more towards the end of the year. So you just have to wait and see what happens.

Q. Do you know about the precedent for back-to-back defenses?

VIJAY SINGH: No, I don't know.

Q. 1975, Johnny Miller?

VIJAY SINGH: We will just have to wait to see until Sunday.

Q. How many putters did you use last year in your nine wins, how many different putters?

VIJAY SINGH: I used a long putter for the first two wins I think, or first three wins. And then the next six, I think I used a short putter. They are all single putters. If I change them, it's just the same thing with a different look.

Q. Did you ever meet Hogan?

VIJAY SINGH: I never did.

Q. Did you look at film of him?

VIJAY SINGH: I seen a lot of film.

Q. Anything impressed you from looking at film?

VIJAY SINGH: Just an incredible player, incredible speed through the hips. Those are the things that I watch.

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