

Chrysler Championship  
The Westin Innisbrook Golf Resort  
Copperhead Course  
Tampa Bay, Fl

October 28, 2006

Third-round tournament quotes

### AN INTERVIEW WITH TROY MATTESON

**TODD BUDNICK:** We thank Troy Matteson for stopping in after a third round 64 puts you in contention heading into the weekend again, once again. It seems like you've had quite a few great five weeks.

**TROY MATTESON:** It's been pretty good just to play the way we have and to have the opportunities that we've had has been really good. So the ball is kind of left in my court a lot of times, which is good when you are playing golf.

**TODD BUDNICK:** Talk about today's round, just the one bogey there, a the nice round of golf.

**TROY MATTESON:** I just got off to a hot start made a good putt on 1, after hitting a wedge in there.

On 2, kind of chipped in, had a very short chip but a pretty good lie in the rough which is not easy to come by out here.

Then made a great birdie on 3, hit a 6-iron in there which is a difficult, difficult pin because the pin doesn't even look like it's on the green today.

5, went for the green in two after hitting a pretty good drive. I got a pretty good bounce, even though we got some rain last night. Luckily it rolled up nine feet from the hole.

Usually you just don't get balls on that green. I was just hoping for the front bunker and made a good putt there for 3.

The only mistake I made all day was I missed the green right on the next hole, No. 6, and just failed to get it up and down. I hit a good putt, I just didn't make it.

The back 9 was really solid. I birdied 12 after hitting 2 kind of average shots, just made a long putt.

The par-5, 14th, hit a real good wedge in there and had pretty much my first straight 7 or 8-footer I've had all week out here.

18, I just stole one from the field there. Out of the bunker, under the tree, kind of a deal, got it turned over a bit and just luckily made a long putt there.

Q. What club?

**TROY MATTESON:** I hit a 8-iron. I think we had 147 yards to the hole. I wasn't

trying to get it all the way to the hole. I was happy with anything around the green to be honest.

Q. Troy, when you looked at how you played in the last few weeks, how much are people recognizing you now out there; do you think people know who you are?

**TROY MATTESON:** I think what the greatest thing is, is that you go in the locker room and some of the veteran players come up and pat you on the back, or say good playing, some of the guys maybe you didn't know before. So what's nice is, it's always nice to be the guy that's playing well because I would do the same if somebody was playing well, I would come up and make it a point to congratulate them. It feels good to be that guy for once, and not be on the other end of it like I have been all year.

It's just nice to get all of the phone calls from family and friends and to get all of the support that you get. Not that I didn't get support, now they are calling about, you know, it's not always a pick me up, pick your head up, keep going. Now it's, hey, man, great playing. Keep it up, so it's been fun.

Q. The money is good too, right?

**TROY MATTESON:** Yes, the money is good. That helped out quite a bit. We had a big mortgage on a motor home we've working on paying off. So a lot of that is taken care of. But I would take the win over the money.

Q. I'm sure you came in thinking Masters first, TOUR Championship hopefully, going into today, did winning ever really cross your mind, how odd is that now to be tied for the lead?

**TROY MATTESON:** I hadn't looked to be honest, so I didn't know. It's a little odd today, just with this golf course, it's just very hard to get more than 2, 3, 4 shots at a time. And 4 is incredible. I was out fishing with my buddy, Shane Bertsch, this morning, and I knew he had shot 4-over in his first round. We got to talking. I think he said he missed one fairway. I thought, man, he must have played pretty good. I didn't look at the board or anything. He is one of those guys that's around the Top- 120. He said he shot 4-under. I just looked at him like, I played pretty good yesterday to shoot 1-over, and you're shooting 4-under, and I just thought 4-under was a great round. So today, you know, getting away with a few things, and to shoot a round like that, and the conditions the way they are, it's got to be one of my best rounds of the year. I still would not guess I would be tied for the lead. Things still may happen, they got a lot of holes left to play.

Q. Your at least close any way?

**TROY MATTESON:** Yes, it's nice to be up there close, to not have to make up a bunch of ground. At the same time I got to figure somebody out there is going to play well. You got a lot of big names up there at the top, guys that know how to play and compete well under a lot of pressure and a lot of bad conditions?

Q. A lot of those guys too haven't had their backs patted in a while, I think to put it in your words, how much of an advantage would you have going into tomorrow riding what you are go through right now?

**TROY MATTESON:** I think it's definitely nice to feel like every one is in your corner. It helps you keep your momentum. It helps you keep your confidence up, and that's just something that's crucial for this game.

You know, Tiger is a great player. There is a lot of people that are in Tiger's corner. I've

got to think that helps him a little bit. And I think that anybody that gets going on a run, what was it a couple of years ago when Vijay went through his spell, maybe it was last year, he had 9 Top-10's out of 10 tournaments or something. When you are doing well, it's easy to keep doing well, so definitely the support helps.

Q. Is this your last tournament of the year if you're not in next week?

**TROY MATTESON:** If I'm not in next week this will probably be my last tournament of the year unless I play something to warm up for next year. I don't know how much of that I'm going to do. My off season was looking like second stage of Q-School, final stage of Q-School, if I get past second stage of Q-School. So it's was looking pretty booked up with Christmas and Thanksgiving and all of those other things going on. I think we're going to take some time off. It would be nice just to have a couple of weeks that we're not doing anything.

Q. Where would you play to warm up?

**TROY MATTESON:** We had talked a little bit about playing the tournament, The Callaway.

Q. At Pebble?

**TROY MATTESON:** So we talked about maybe doing that. But like I said, things have changed so much for us that I don't know how much of that I'm really going to do.

Q. At what point were you really thinking, man, I might have to go back to TOUR school? Was there a tournament or a down time when you were saying if I don't get going.

**TROY MATTESON:** Pretty much from my third of the year on. I just haven't played well. I was missing cuts. You know, I mean when you're not playing good you feel like you may never play good again, and everybody goes through it. It's just a matter of if you get yourself out.

But really, where it hit me, I guess I picked up my Q-School application in Reno, or maybe the event before Reno that I played. It was probably before Reno. I picked up my application, and I was filling it out. I was thinking, gosh, what are my criterias? And I started looking down. I said, I'm lucky I'm going to second stage. If I'm not mistaken, you have to be in the Top-150 to do anything on this TOUR. I don't think there is any Top-200 or anything like that. The only reason I was in second stage is because I won on the Nationwide Tour.

I thought, man, I'm pretty lucky I don't have to go back after this year and play all three. I felt like at least the way I played probably warranted forcing me to go back to first. But, you know, it's just been so different. I just kind of set myself that I have to go to Q-School and figure out what I was going to do the next year. And to come from that mentality, and be where we're at now is shocking, for at least me and my wife. It's really changed our lives and turned everything kind of upside down. So it's been a lot of fun.

Q. How much during your struggles and thinking about second stage, how much was the FedEx Cup on your mind? Was it at all? We talked about this at Sony, having your card is one thing this year and quite another next year as the schedule constricts?

**TROY MATTESON:** Well, I think that was on a lot of people's minds. It just wasn't on guys up here. It's obviously on the guys of the Nationwide Tour, or guys that are going to Q-School, just to figure out how much they were going to play. Me, I was thinking, gosh, I figured out a way to get on the TOUR, and now I'm going to lose my card and have to go back to Q-School to get it back and how much harder is that

going to be to get through the new system.

At the end of the day I just kind of resolved that your play dictates everything. If you play good, everything is good go to be fine. If you don't play good, it's going to be tough.

For me, I try to stay out of a lot of the politics side of our TOUR just because I'm a young guy, and I don't know enough to really get in and talk about it.

That's something that's probably better left for the guys that have been out here 10, 15, 20 years. They're going to get in there and make good decisions. Like I said I'm probably just not the most qualified person to get in that argument.

So like I said, if you play good, the FedEx Cup will take care of itself.

Q. Zinger can help you out with some of that stuff?

**TROY MATTESON:** I'm sure he can.

Q. Are you sorry you can't ride this wave longer, that the year's coming an end?

**TROY MATTESON:** Yes. But at the same time I'm getting a little tired here towards the end. I'm looking forward to the break. There is some things I'd like to do when I get home. I would like to go fish. I would like to go do some things with my family, and my wife's family, that I haven't gotten to do this year because we've been so busy.

When you don't play well you force yourself into playing a lot of events. That's just kind of where all of our off time has gone is playing golf.

If there were three or four more events, that would be great, I would just keep playing.

But at the same time it's kind of good that there's not and it forces me to take some time off.

Q. A lot of guys have a hot streak and then sort of drift back, what gives you the belief that you can do this long term?

**TROY MATTESON:** You know, that's a really tough question. It's more of a question of looking inside yourself to see what you can do,

And seeing if you can do it.

You know, like I said, we have been extremely lucky to do what we've done. I consider myself very lucky to have been where I was on the Money List and to get to here now.

As far as, you know, will it hold up, will it keep on going, will I always be able to compete? I don't have the answer to that one.

Q. Anything about last Sunday that might help you tomorrow being on the side of not winning, but being right there, anything you took out of that?

**TROY MATTESON:** You know last Sunday was probably a very different situation than most times when you're in the hunt on Sunday and I will tell you why.

When you play with Joe, he is just such a nice guy, and you have such a request time playing, you kind of forget you are playing a golf tournament. It's just two guys out playing at the club or something, just having a good time. And he really is that kind of guy. Just a super guy to hang around.

So at the end of the day when he won the tournament and I didn't, I was really happy for him. I wasn't sad that I didn't win. I wasn't upset that I didn't win. He just shot 7-under. It's very hard to chase down a guy that's shooting those kinds of numbers.

This course might be a little bit different situation where it's going to be a little tighter coming down the stretch, and it's very hard to break away from the pack, just with how tough this golf course plays. So it will be very interesting to see what happens tomorrow coming down the stretch. .

**TODD BUDNICK:** Anything else? Thank you, Troy.

