

**Zurich Classic of New Orleans  
TPC of Louisiana  
Avondale, La  
May 1, 2005**

**Final-round leader quotes**

**AN INTERVIEW WITH TIM PETROVIC**

THE MODERATOR: We would like to welcome 2005 Zurich Classic of New Orleans champion Tim Petrovic into the media center for a couple of minutes.

This is your first win since when?

TIM PETROVIC: First win since never. My first win ever.

Q. You didn't win on Nationwide TOUR, you come close out here, was it the Golden Bear Tour?

TIM PETROVIC: Yes, I think I won -- I think, was it '01? '01 or 2000. Let's see, '01, I won four times on the Golden Bear Tour.

Q. So it's been a while?

TIM PETROVIC: It's been a while.

Q. How does it feel?

TIM PETROVIC: It feels great. It feels great. A lot of hard work. A lot of emotions going through me right now. That last putt seemed to take about 12 minutes to fall in. I saw every dimple rolling over and over and over. Then it went in. I don't know what to say really. The tournament went off great. I love New Orleans. I haven't played here since my rookie year. So I decided to make a trip back over and see the new golf course, and I guess it worked out pretty good. But a great sponsors, Zurich Financial. I want to thank them, the volunteers, everybody did a great job.

We had a little rough weather there, but the sun came out and I was lucky to make a couple of putts.

Q. How many holes did you play today?

TIM PETROVIC: I did play more than 18. I played fourth morning. I played 15, 16, 17, 18 this morning. I was thinking to myself coming in, I don't want to get ahead of myself. I know everyone was struggling a little bit. I got off to a fast start and the putter was working and it kind of woke up this week. I just wanted to play the last four holes even or 1-under and ended up playing them even. Actually I think I played them 1-over.

Fortunately things went my way.  
THE MODERATOR: Questions?

Q. Were you watching the last group in the scorer's tent, trailer?

TIM PETROVIC: I signed my card, and I wanted to spend some time with my family. I gathered them up and I walked toward the locker room and somebody told me that James had hit in there about two feet. And I said, oh, that's the end of that, I guess. Then I saw the camera follow me through the parking lot. I said, maybe he's not two feet after all. Maybe he's about five or six feet. I got in the locker room just in time. The guys were sitting there to watch him putt. I didn't see what Chris did. But I saw the birdie putt to win. I had to turn right around and go back out. No time to hit any balls. We were off in the golf cart and straight out.

Q. How different was 18 playing today for you guys?

TIM PETROVIC: Well, we've had both winds. We've had into the wind and downwind. Today you couldn't get home in two. What they did was, the way they set the course up, they put the tees up which brought the long bunker into play for the longer hitters and it brought the shorter bunkers straight into play. So you couldn't just bail left. You would hit into that bunker, into the wind, you would be hitting a mid-iron in for your third shot. With these greens how severe these greens are, and where the pins are four steps from edge -- I made a bogey this morning on 18 with a wedge. I pulled it about -- the wind was up in my face. It just quit enough and I hit it long passed the front pin on the left and I made a six. That's how easy it is to make a bogey.

Q. You had made a birdie on 18 just before the playoff, were you pretty confident?

TIM PETROVIC: My brother made a comment to me. He said, I like your playoff record. I don't think I lost in a playoff in my professional career. I don't think I've lost. I have been in a few but not -- this TOUR is my first one. He said I like your chances.

And I said, let's just give ourselves a putt and see what happens here.

Q. Tim, can you talk about your putt on the final hole of regulation, the birdie putt, it look like you went off behind the green like you couldn't believe what you just did?

TIM PETROVIC: The putt went in and I was so excited and I gave it a fist pump. I don't remember what I did. It went in and I was so excited and then all of a sudden, all of the emotion just hit me, and my eyes started to water up, and I had to go pull my hat over and gather myself so can I turn around and shake my playing partners hand without tearing up like that.

Q. Talk about the putt, did it have much break?

TIM PETROVIC: Well, it was uphill, as you saw from my attempt there in the playoff. I left that one short. But it was into the wind and it was uphill and it was kind of into the green also. It was a putt that you had to hit solid. I was confident with the read. I just needed to start it like in the right side of the hole because it broke left, and when it went up it could go to the right again. And I hit it really solid. When it climbed the hill it was right in the middle of the hole. I was praying for it to hang on. I gave it some good speed. I knew it was going to get there. Fortunately the hole caught it. I don't remember, did it go in the left center, around or in?

Q. Straight in.

TIM PETROVIC: It went straight in there. That's that.

Q. Tim, standing over the potential winning putt on the 73rd hole, what are you thinking? What's going through your mind? What are you trying to do?

TIM PETROVIC: Actually, James ran it by and my first putt I was saying, okay, let's just get it up there. I said, no, don't do that because he is probably going to make that putt. You can't lag it up there. And I tried to get myself to try to make the putt.

After seeing his putt, I came up short. But on that four-footer I had, it seemed like I kind of blocked everything out. I was pretty calm over it. I wasn't really that nervous. We looked at it real quick but I didn't want to walk around it for about five minutes. I just wanted to get in there and hit it before I started thinking about some other stuff. I cleared my mind pretty good. I was proud of myself because I was able to clear my head and step up and just hit it. I didn't think about anything. I said just hit it. You've made a million of these on the practice green, this one is a little harder, but it's still a putt, just go up and hit it.

Q. What did you think when it went in?

TIM PETROVIC: Like I said, it seemed to take forever for it to get there. I didn't hit it very hard because I read some break into it, and I didn't want to blow it through the break. I think I started it around the left edge of the hole and it went in the right center. And that's kind of how I have been hitting the putts.

I learned to hit the putts maybe just a little bit softer inside that four or five foot range.

Q. Give us your family reaction to the win.

TIM PETROVIC: Julie, my wife, I know she was going to breakdown. She was crying after the last hole of the tournament. But actually after I won I was okay. I think I let some of that go before the playoff. So when I was done I was okay. But it's great to have them out every week. I will have a lot of time to think about this because I went out and bought a bus, and I have to drive it about 12 hours over to Charlotte.

So it will probably sink in by the time I get there. I will probably get a little more attention next week. I am going to enjoy it. We get to spend three weeks in Hawaii next year instead of just one.

Q. Tim, considering your background, and the labors that you have been through, you must have dreamed of this moment for a very, very long time, and yet here you are sitting here saying-?

TIM PETROVIC: You know, you see it happen every week. You see somebody win every week. Most likely it is Vijay or Tiger. And I watch these guys. I watch how calm. It amazes me how calm Vijay is coming down the stretch. Last year at the Canadian Open, you almost had to give him a little elbow to tell him it's his turn to hit in the playoff. That's how calm he was. I try to take a little of that and watch these guys do it. Now that it's happened, I wasn't so far away. I kept telling myself I wasn't so far away.

It seemed like it was far away because I started out -- I started out very slow. I think I barely made \$200 thousand this year in the first 12 events. I have been playing a lot. And I just took last week off just to rest.

I'm glad Vijay kidded me about my pants the other day. He told me my pants were too short. I got some longer ones, so they worked.

Q. Did you watch the leaderboard? Who did you feel threatened by?

TIM PETROVIC: I didn't feel threatened. Chris is a good friend of mine. He is a real deal. He is not going to give an inch. He is going to fight for every putt and every stroke out there. So I knew it was going to be a tough day. It was a little windy out there. But that's good conditions for me because I was really able to control my ball flight and the trajectory of my ball flight. We have been playing in so much wind every week. It seems every week we get wind, cold. It's nice and warm this week. I'm glad we had warmer weather.

Q. Is there any way to explain that you had four guys near the lead, four guys on the back nine made birdies and six bogeys?

TIM PETROVIC: Yes. I don't know how it all panned out but I remember I missed my putt on 17, and I did hear someone in the gallery say, well, there is one more down, and two to go. And that kind every got me a little fired up. I said, well, we still have one hole left. That's not the last hole. If that was the last hole, he might have a point. We had one hole left. I know it's a par-5, not reachable in two today, anything can happen. I know where the pin is in a tough spot. If you make a birdie, you got a good chance. I hung in there and I didn't try to overpower the golf course this week. I just played my game. I knew if I could hit some greens, hopefully the putter would wake up and it did. Thank God.

THE MODERATOR: A couple more questions.

Q. Tim, obviously this is the pinnacle of your golfing career, what was the low point?

TIM PETROVIC: The low point of this year, I had been struggling. I had been putting so bad. If you ask anybody probably if they say what's the best part of my game, they will say oh, he is a great putter. So I knew something was wrong. If I think I'm putting terrible, I know something is wrong.

I think I finished out the 72-hole at Pebble Beach this year, and I just missed some short putts in the last two holes, and I actually finished on the 9th hole, which is about a mile from the clubhouse, and I missed the short putt there. I gave my putter to my caddy and I walked in. They left and I walked all the way in. That was probably one of the longest walks in my life. I didn't really say anything. I just wanted to walk. If the clubhouse was 5 miles I would have walked it. That was probably the low point of this year.

I have always been tough. I have been able, when I get backed in a corner, just fight my way out of it. I was just proud I was able to do it.

Q. What about in all of the tough times, did you not go broke in '93?

TIM PETROVIC: Yes, I think I played 11 or 12 events and ran out of money on the Nike Tour, and I had a sponsor pull out on me. I had no money. I ended up going to work. I think I worked for the YMCA and then I went to work making pizzas for about five years. That's washing floors and washing dishes. It's not just making pizzas. I did that for about five years. I was lucky enough to get someone to help me get back on track and able to hit some golf balls again. I was really out of game between '93 and '98. I didn't really do much.

Q. Sponsor?

TIM PETROVIC: Yes.

Q. From that area?

TIM PETROVIC: From up in Connecticut. He is a friend. I went to school with his kids up in Kensington.

Q. Is he looking for a franchise?

TIM PETROVIC: No.

Q. Tim, does this win surprise you in the sense was your game ready for this type of thing?

TIM PETROVIC: Well, you know, what, I went home last week, and I completely retooled my thought process for this week. Whatever I was doing in the first 12 events I did the complete opposite this week in terms of just letting go, just get back to playing Tim Petrovic golf and not trying to overpower the golf course, but hitting the ball close by hitting the ball into the pins and controlling my golf ball and making putts.

I have been experimenting with different -- things start going bad, and you start getting away from what you are supposed to be doing. And with putting, if I do that -- my dad will tell me, he said that's not the way to go for you. I kind of let everything go, and I just put the switch on auto pilot, and I said let's let me play. I'll stay out of the way, just let me go play, and we will see what happens. Yesterday's round was probably one of the best putting rounds of my life. I think I had 22 putts, and I 2-putted the last three holes. That is a combination of missing greens, one putting, getting up and down.

I think my putts per green in regulation, before I finish like the last four, it was like 1.1 something which is unheard of. I just got in the zone and let myself go.

Q. Anyway to explain why this hasn't happened before?

TIM PETROVIC: No, there isn't. You all know. You all play this game of golf. You know when you try to explain something in the game of golf, something will happen to contradict it the next minute. So there is no explanation for it. There is a lot of hard work, a lot of practice, a lot of golf balls, a lot of time on the putting green. My dad used to go play. I didn't go play golf with him, I would be on the putting green for five or six hours while he would go play golf and that's where I learned how to putt.

There is no one thing that I can say. Perseverance, that has been to be my word. Perseverance.

THE MODERATOR: Tim, congratulations. Great playing today.

TIM PETROVIC: Thanks.

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