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**84 LUMBER CLASSIC**  
**Nemacolin Woodlands Resort**  
**Mystic Rock Golf Course**  
**Farmington, Pa**

**September 22, 2004**  
**Pre-tournament quotes**

**AN INTERVIEW WITH DAVID TOMS**

THE MODERATOR: We have David Toms making his first appearance at The 84 Lumber Classic. **Error! Bookmark not defined.**

We welcome you here. David is coming off the Ryder Cup appearance, and having played very well this year, having defended the championship at the Fed Ex St. Jude Classic, another win in the column this year.

Let's talk about first, you came off the course and you had a chance to see it, what do you think bit?

DAVID TOMS: Obviously, I wasn't here last year so I can't compare it to that. But I know that they have a lot of new tees and changed the greens I guess. I thought it was pretty difficult. I thought I played pretty good. I was under par until I lost the ball on the next to last hole. I didn't see it. I don't know. But that was a tough golf course. It has a lot of links because the fairways are very soft out there, not getting very much roll off the tee, so you are playing the true length of the golf course. By far the hardest greens that I have played on in a long, long time as far as not being very receptive to shots.

Q. You came off surgery earlier in the year, the wrist?

DAVID TOMS: Yes.

Q. Does that surprise you then to come back and win and three other Top-10's?

DAVID TOMS: Not really. I felt if I could physically get back to where I felt good, and I felt like my game would hold up just fine. So it was tough to miss the first couple of months. I'm playing a lot of golf the rest of the year. I think I'm playing six of the next seven just to get my 25 events in or so. I look forward to trying to get on a roll.

Q. Everything is good?

DAVID TOMS: Yes, I feel good. Everything feels good.

Q. David, does that knock the score up a little when the greens are that firm because you just can't totally control where the ball is going to stop?

DAVID TOMS: Yes, absolutely. Even though a lot of these greens are open in the front where you can bounce the ball in, you still have -- the fringes are soft, just like in the fairways. So you land them short, and you know the ball doesn't even get on a green. And you land it 10 yards into the green, it will go all the way to the back. I think it's going to be a pretty difficult test of golf out there depending on what they do with the pins, and what they do with the tee placement. They have a lot of options as far as they could move a lot of the tees up on some holes and give us a shorter shot in, especially on some of the greens that might run away from you. I hope they take that into consideration and set up the course accordingly as to how it should be played.

Q. You guys are used to playing on firm greens, because these are new, it's a different kind of firm?

DAVID TOMS: Well, I don't know that I have ever seen bent grass greens this firm when they are brand new. Usually, the bent grass greens that I played were soft in the beginning. Bermuda grass tends to be the opposite. You know, when they are brand new, it's very hard to stop a ball on them. I don't know what they have done. I don't know if it's in their mix or what. But you go down, you know, a ballmark, the bottom of the ballmark, it's hard to even fix them, that's how firm they are. It will definitely affect the scoring this week for sure.

Q. David, how tough is it to come off such an emotionally charged event like the Ryder Cup and then come back to a regular TOUR event?

DAVID TOMS: You know, to me it's a lot like winning a golf tournament the week before, having a chance to win like in a Major championship, or a really big golf tournament to try to get yourself up for the next round, a competitive round. You know, the Ryder Cup takes so much out of you mentally and physically. It's a long week. You have a lot of activities early in the week, a lot of practice, a lot of people out there, and then the matches themselves.

If you play all of the matches, that's five rounds of golf in three days and it's all pressure packed. So it's tough to be able to come back and to refocus.

I think physically you're okay, but mentally you got to be able to get back into, you know, hitting each shot. So it's a difficult task. But I'm glad I'm here. I'm glad I'm playing. You know, I look forward to a good week.

Q. You have had a few days now to get past the weekend?

DAVID TOMS: Right.

Q. When you look back, what comes to mind?

DAVID TOMS: What comes to mind is, you know, the fact that we got beat so bad. It's a great week. It's a great honor for all of us, and you feel proud to be there and you enjoy the whole week until you know you start to get beat. Even the first day is when it started. You feel kind of deflated at nighttime. You try to figure out what can we do right the next day to try to get back in it. It was tough for us. Every day we were kind of second-guessing ourselves the way we were playing. So it was tough. You know, you want to enjoy the week, because there is so many fun things about it. But when you are getting beat so bad, it's hard to sleep at night. It's hard, you know, to really

enjoy the team, the atmosphere of the team room, and everything that goes along with it. There are so many fun things you get to do, but when you are getting beat so bad, it's like playing in an individual tournament and playing bad. Every day you just don't quite feel up for the next day like you should. You are not as confident as you should be. That's a pretty similar feeling.

Q. There are all kinds of reasons and questions about why things have gone the way they have recently.

DAVID TOMS: You know, I don't know, what can we do any different to make it. First of all, we can play better. Why haven't we played well, I don't know. I wish we could play our best golf and see how that stacks up. I don't think we played really good enough to be able to have a measure of who is the best team really because they putted so much better. I think if you go back and look at the tapes and look at the amounts of putts that were holed by their side, I don't know why they did this. I really don't. Maybe they don't put as much pressure on themselves. A lot of times when you feel the pressure, your expectations are so high, it really affects you on the greens, to me, more than anything else. I don't think they hit it in the fairway anymore than we did. They were in the roughs just as much and probably missed as many greens. But it seemed like when they had to make the key putt, they did it. Colin Montgomery did it to me every day Sunday. Every time I expected him to give me something, he just didn't do it. The only hole he gave me anything at all was on 15. Everything else it seemed like he made the putt when he had to.

Q. Do you take exception when people assume that you guys don't want it as badly as they do?

DAVID TOMS: Yes, I think so, until someone is able to experience it, and put on one of our team uniforms, and to be with us the entire week -- I guess if they let a reporter to cover the inside look at what takes place, and the speeches that are made, and the guts that are spilled, until somebody could actually document that, I think that's unfair. I really do. And me, if somebody is part of it, and they still felt that way, and they wanted to write about it, that's fine. I don't buy into that at all.

Q. David, how has that whole experience changed you or your game, or has it changed you?

DAVID TOMS: You know, it's such a different event, you know. You've got teammates. You know, you got teammates that you never played with before sometimes. You know you got an alternate shot format. You have so many things that are so different than what a normal TOUR event is like that I don't think you can really take anything from it. I don't think if we would have absolutely drummed the other team, that all 12 players would come out of that tournament saying that we're the greatest players in the world and we can't be beat for the next six weeks. I don't think so. I think it's such a different event that you have to approach it as it stands alone. And then whatever you do for that week, and after that week, is totally separate.

Q. Do you think the U.S., the next time the Ryder Cup is played should be or would be the favorites?

DAVID TOMS: You know, I think Mickelson said it perfect there on Sunday evening in the pressroom. He said we will have to be considered the underdog the next time. I don't know who is on the team, or who is on the other team. When you gotten beat as bad as we have the last couple of times, why in the world would you be considered the favorite?

Q. Can you talk about the field that's assembled here this weekend, the competition you are going to face and also the year Vijay is having?

DAVID TOMS: I haven't seen the field. I haven't looked top to bottom to see who is playing here. I don't know the numbers. All I know is any week you play on the PGA TOUR you have to play well to win. Somebody is always going to shoot a good score. Somebody is always going to be better than you think they can on a particular golf course. I just told you that I thought the golf course was going to be difficult and somebody will shoot a good score. It just happens all the time.

As far as Vijay is concerned, I think he is by far the best player in the game right now. He has proven that. He is the hardest worker. He is probably the most prepared every single week to play to win. My hat is off to him. I think he deserves every bit that has come to him. I think it's great for the game and what he has been able to do.

Q. Dave, is there an element of his game that maybe you noticed in the last, or during this time that he has raised?

DAVID TOMS: He has always been a powerful player. He has always been a wonderful ball striker. But I think that in the last few years I have seen him hole a lot of putts, and I've seen his play around the greens be incredible. I have been impressed. I thought it was just the belly putter, I thought that's what got him to the next level to where he seemed to behave consistent, making all of his medium range putts and not missing the short ones and now he has gone back to conventional, and continues to do it as good or better. To me, that's the most impressive thing.

TODD BUDNICK: Thank you, David.