

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

October 26, 2006

First-round tournament quotes

AN INTERVIEW WITH WILL MACKENZIE

TODD BUDNICK: We welcome Will MacKenzie, 3-under, 68 in round one of the Chrysler Championship.

Will, a big year for you. You captured your first victory at the Reno-Tahoe Open, can you assess the season for us?

WILL MACKENZIE: Yes, as far as making cuts, I looked at my stats, they are sort of the same as last year. I'm pretty inconsistent. But I had breakthrough win, I always thought I could. And, you know, that was huge for me. It was absolutely huge for me. It gives me some time out here the next couple of years to get my feet grounded, and yet it has been a breakthrough year in that fact. But I still need to clean up a lot of stuff in my golf game to compete, to start coming in Top-10's regularly which is what I would like to do.

TODD BUDNICK: Talk about today. You birdied your first hole (No. 10) and then a number of pars and then you got some work on the back 9.

WILL MACKENZIE: Yes, I made that one mistake. I had so many opportunities. I made a real good putt on the first hole and then I started hitting it fantastic and not getting anything out of it.

I couldn't make it from outside of ten feet. I couldn't even think about making it. It's something that I need to work on today.

The greens look so fast. It's tough to read the greens for me.

I just really struggled around the greens, but I hit it about as good as I've hit it for a while. I had the one hiccup at No. 5 which is just a rotten bogey. But making birdie on the last really makes lunch taste a little better.

TODD BUDNICK: Questions?

Q. Has your life changed since winning?

TODD BUDNICK: You have a new car.

WILL MACKENZIE: Yes, I got a new car. Yes, it really has. I'm sure my off-course contracts and stuff are going to be negotiated a little bit differently. I'm in a different

category on my first two days of play, the past champions category, which is an unbelievable pairing compared to the Q-School and the Nationwide Tour. Not to take anything away from those guys, but it's nice to play with Mike Weir on Thursday. I mean the guy is so professional.

And guys like that, I get to play with now, and I'm learning. I'm trying to take it as a great learning experience for me to play with these real seasoned players. They are just really professional on the golf course. They don't get in their own way so to speak. Things like that. But, you know, that was sort of yesterday's news winning, so now I've got to go out and try to perform.

Q. You seem real happy to come in here, I guess who wouldn't be, are you still like the kid in the candy store, so to speak, just being out here on a regular basis?

WILL MACKENZIE: Yes. This is my second year on TOUR, but I had to go back through TOUR school, so in a way I'm a rookie again. It's unbelievable coming to work at the golf course. And not only that, you're playing on the best TOUR on earth. You go out there and you shoot the breeze with Vijay Singh, you know, the greatest players. That's unbelievable.

The wealth of knowledge, and the skills that these guys have, they are the best players, so you get to learn a lot.

Playing on the mini tours, where I was, there is some great players out there, and some guys that are going to make it, and then there is a lot of guys that are not.

These guys have all made it. They are that top little echelon. So you get to learn a lot every day. I just love coming out here and shooting the breeze with those guys and playing great golf courses.

Q. You say you played the mini tours, is it less like a job out here than it was on the mini tours?

WILL MACKENZIE: Golf can be the most frustrating sport. A couple weeks ago I asked myself why do I play this game. It's like mental torture. You just have to look past that. You have to take care of business day in and day out. I guess it can be like a job. If you treat it like it's a job, and you let the bogeys get into your head, and the bad shots and the bad breaks, then it really is like a job and it will eat on you. It will be just like wearing a coat and tie and getting frustrated with it.

That's not the way I want to look at it, or I won't last too long.

Q. By winning you've guaranteed yourself being in the FedEx Cup mix the next two years. I wondered if you allowed yourself to think about that, or if you know what that's all about. It's going to be a big change for everybody next year.

Do you even know how it works, or do you not worry about it or just play?

WILL MACKENZIE: I definitely looked into it. I went to the player meeting a couple of nights ago and listened to the Commissioner talk about it. I know it's important to play well early in the season. And for me it's just going to be more how to manage my time, because I could play the whole West Coast, you know, it's still the Top 144 guys that are getting into that. You would like to be in the Top-70 it looks like to have a chance at the \$10 million prize. It's going to be tough to beat Tiger Woods, he's pretty good at golf, for the big one.

So all you can do is make your schedule out. I just want to allot some time. You know, Pebble Beach, I'm playing there for sure. Riviera, I'm playing there for sure. I got on the TOUR, Tucson, this was one of the better courses that I played. That's a tournament that a lot of guys take off. You have to just manage your time earlier in the year so you don't get burned out and when it comes down to the FedEx Cup.

But it sounds interesting, maybe it will be great. I know there are a lot of questions amongst players and probably the guys in charge of how it's going to work out. You know it's going to be our inaugural year of that, so I hope it's going to turn out great.

Q. What kind of car did you win for Reno?

WILL MACKENZIE: I didn't win a car, I just bought one.

Q. What kind?

WILL MACKENZIE: I bought an Audi. It's a little Audi sports car.

TODD BUDNICK: Can you go through your round please?

WILL MACKENZIE: Yes, I started on 10, I made a bomb, that was the great putt of the day. Each shot?

Q. Just birdies.

WILL MACKENZIE: I went on the string of pars earlier where I hit it really good and it could have gotten 2- or 3-under on that backside.

Then I hit a 3-wood into No. 1, but just landed in the bunker, just short of the green, had like 20 feet of bunker shot, knocked it like this and that was an easy tap-in.

And then on the par-5 I made bogey on just a total mess up. I don't understand that hole yet. I only played two rounds here and the second shot -- this is a really confusing hole to me. I can't get my bearings out there. I probably should just hit 3-wood and hit on it the green, but I had about 300 yards. I didn't know exactly. Big E, my caddy, was telling me what to do, but I didn't really believe him, and I should believe him, because he has 18 years of experience out here.

I said, are you sure that tree is on the right side of the fairway? So anyway, I hit it left, and hit a bad shot into the bunker on my third shot was dead. I didn't have a chance. I hit a really nice little bunker shot ten feet and missed it.

Where did I make that next birdie? No. 7, I hit a 3-wood off the tee and hit a great little 9-iron in there, but the wind caught it. The pin was on the front. The wind caught it, I was on the fringe, it was only about 12 feet and made it. But that was a very nice putt. Maybe 15 feet.

And the last hole, fortunately it was downhill, they say that hole plays pretty tough, I hit driver, sand wedge in. I hit it about eight feet and made it.

TODD BUDNICK: Thank you.

Q. Did you play any sports?

WILL MACKENZIE: Yes, I played soccer through high school. I kicked football for my football team. I played tennis my 12th grade year of high school. I played a lot of them. I played a lot of organized sports in high school. Then I moved to Montana and I did individual sports. I snowboarded and kayaked and rock climbed from like 1993 to '99.

Q. Did you get paid for all of that?

WILL MACKENZIE: Not really. I paid for it in my body. Snowboarding, my last two years I was on Big Sky pro patrol, which is ski patrol. They gave me a season pass and gave me a small sum. Kayaking, yes, I got paid. I was a video kayaker. I shot video. I'd sell videos. I'd get paid like \$100 per trip and sell videos for \$5.00 for each video I sold. I would do two of those a day. So I was making a couple hundred.

I also gave kayak lessons. I probably guided a thousand rafts down rivers all over. I did all of that. Now I'm a golfer.

TODD BUDNICK: Thank you.
