

Office Depot Championship
Trump National Golf Club
Los Angeles, California
September 30, 2005

First round Interviews

An Interview with Wendy Ward

THE MODERATOR: Wendy, thanks for coming in today.

Currently in the lead at 6 under. Would you like to go over your scorecard first? Sure. I started off with a birdie on the first hole. I had an 81-yard I hit a 52-degree wedge to about a foot. And then par 5 No. 2, I 2-putted for birdie there. I had 247 in, and I hit a 3-wood to about 35 feet. Second putt was from about 5 feet, so it was a hard earned birdie. And then let's see, I birdied 3. I have to remember what 3 is. Some of these holes run together. Don't tell Donald we said that. What is 3? I'm trying to think, I had about a 135-yard shot, I think I hit a 9-iron to about 10 feet, made the birdie. And then No. 9, I went for that green in 2, 214 to the front, and I didn't quite get there. I hit a 3-wood. And had about a 35-yard shot, up and over. That is probably the toughest pin on that hole, well for the week there. And I hit it to 3 feet, and made that putt. And then 16, I had an 86-yard, I hit a 52° wedge to about 12 feet. And par 3, No. 17 I was playing 159. I hit a 7-iron to 15 feet. And then 18 I made par, but it was an interesting par. I ended up hitting driver, the hole was playing into the wind all week, and today it was playing downwind, and I hit a driver through the fairway. And he has that left side protected so you don't go off into the ocean like the hole did, but the rough is 8 or 10-inches deep right there. I hopped over that, but I had kind of a squirrely lie, and I tried to get as close to the front of the green as I could. And I was probably 5 yards short of the green. But I made like about a 4 or 5-footer, kind of a slider, left to right. It was a good save.

THE MODERATOR: Do you want to talk about your round everybody all.

WENDY WARD: Overall, I tell you what, I'm hitting the ball so well, and I'm not being arrogant with that at all. It's fun. I hit the ball well at Solheim Cup, and was disappointed to not get a point out of that. And I couldn't get the putts and chips to come together for me. So it never ceases that it comes another week later. But, I'm certainly pleased very pleased. I had 27 putts today, which is a big improvement.

THE MODERATOR: Any questions?

Q What is your impression of the course?

WENDY WARD: You know, the course from a shot-making standpoint is very interesting. Because the greens are big, but you need, it's kind of like U.S. Open greens, you need to be in certain sections to be able to make birdies. And the greens get a little tricky. And you have got to be creative. You have got not only some big undulations, but you have grain to deal with, and so you kind of have to allow maybe a few extra minutes to think out there on the greens.

Q Did today's round give you any confidence for the weekend or does it still feel like this is a whole new territory and a whole new course for you? Talk about your outlook for the weekend. Definitely. I think any time you shoot 65 it's going to increase your confidence tremendously. For me it was just a matter of finally putting a complete round together. I have had good rounds in the past where it's one hole here and one hole there. There's not a complete premium on driving, the fairways are generous, but if you do miss a fairway, you know, it could be a pretty stiff penalty. So, for me keeping it in play, and making the putts on the green, that was very rewarding for me.

Q What would you attest your ball striking to? What is the difference between now?

WENDY WARD: Today instead of say two weeks ago?

Q Yeah?

WENDY WARD: Well I started out with 3 birdies that always gets you off to a good start. Trying to set the tone for the round. I played with one of my fellow Solheim Cup teams members, Michele Redman and there is a lot of camaraderie that is going to carry over from that Solheim Cup, not just because we won, but just because of the time we spent together and the good times that we shared. And so it was almost like it was a carry over of that.

Q You made a little Trump joke. Is his personality so big there is almost a temptation for players to make a little remarks about the Donald?

WENDY WARD: Obviously, I didn't mean it that way. I mean it as far as his power and prestige. But, Donald has always been very warm, very gracious, very giving to the LPGA. And I think that shows just in him, you know, hosting us at another one of his courses. But, you know, Donald does things the way he wants to do things. And, you know, if he is going to give us a golf course to play we're going to go out there and play it to the best of our abilities.

Q What are the difficulties of this course?

WENDY WARD: Well I don't think I found them.

Q I believe that, but what would you think?

WENDY WARD: Today with the wind blowing just the opposite direction for me it was a little different course management off the tee. And from that everything just has a domino effect. If you manage yourself off the tee and give yourself the right angle in, and know when to go for par 5, and know when not to, to create the best angle, and make the next shot easier. And, you know, the greens are not, you know, incredibly difficult. They are at pace right now where you can make a lot of putts. They are not supper quick. And if they were quicker we would lose a lot of pin placements. And so, it's just a big course management type of week that I see.

Q Along those same lines can you compare it to a course that you have played before? Does it remind you of any place you have played anywhere else?

WENDY WARD: It reminds me a little bit of the course in Mexico City where you are working your way up a hillside. And, you know, you kind of feel like you are out in the middle of nowhere. The difference is you have oxygen when you get to the top of the hill versus with the altitude there, quicker recovery time. I'm not sure the caddies would agree with me on that. They seem to think that everything is uphill.

Q You had a good round and plenty of good things to think about today. Is the scenery any kind of distraction?

WENDY WARD: It can be. I love looking out there, you know, obviously when I'm not hitting a shot. And, even in the Pro Am two days ago for me we saw some -- we didn't know if they were whales or dolphins. It has a little resemblance at the Evian Masters when we play over Lake Geneva. This is a great office to be in this week. Most weeks are, this one is a little extra special.

THE MODERATOR: Any other questions? Thank you, Wendy.

WENDY WARD: Thank you.