
HP CLASSIC OF NEW ORLEANS
English Turn Golf and Country Club
New Orleans, Louisiana
May 1, 2004

AN INTERVIEW WITH TONY WALLIN

JOAN vT ALEXANDER: Thank you, Tony, for joining us here again in the media center at the HP Classic of New Orleans. It's been a long week and I think you have some more information for us.

TONY WALLIN: Well, we have suspended play, as you all know, due to a storm system that's out to our west that is throwing some lightening bolts out there that were, you know, in the realm of safety of all of the spectators, players, et cetera, we made the decision to bring the players in.

After looking at the system, and the way it was moving, we determined that it would be better not to send the players back out. We weren't going to gain that much by playing one or two holes, and because we weren't going to be able to complete the play today as it was.

So, in that respect, we figured it's better to get them in early, and then once we saw the system was definitely coming this way to release them and bring them back at seven a.m. in the morning to hopefully complete the second round.

Q. Hopefully?

TONY WALLIN: That's right.

JOAN vT ALEXANDER: The third round?

TONY WALLIN: The third round right now, what we hope though do is get the second round done tomorrow, turn play around, repair, and then we'll go off of two tees as quick as we can, the approximate time in the 10:30 range, if everything goes as planned we can get everything started at 7. Get everything done. Make the cut, turn them around and go off one and 10 tees in the 10:30 range.

Q. Low 60?

TONY WALLIN: Low '70's and ties. We can back to a normal cut now because we didn't complete play today.

JOAN vT ALEXANDER: Fourth round?

TONY WALLIN: The fourth round, if we get there.

JOAN vT ALEXANDER: It's taken us four days to play two.

TONY WALLIN: That's right. What day is it? If we finish -- let's say we make the cut tomorrow morning, we get our third round in, we will start the fourth round on Monday as early as we can. Here again, two tees and, you know, go from there.

JOAN vT ALEXANDER: Questions?

Q. Hypothetically would be, I guess -- let's say we wound up in a same sort of situation, you start later, you play most of the third round, would that mean you would complete the third round Monday morning and play the fourth?

TONY WALLIN: That's correct. If we start the third round tomorrow, and we don't complete it, then we have to complete it on Monday morning and then start the fourth round on Monday whenever we complete the third round.

Q. You are a determined to play 72?

TONY WALLIN: Our regulations tell us that our first goal is to play 72 holes. And we abide by our regulations whenever we can.

Q. It was a pretty easy decision today considering that you didn't have that much time left as opposed to yesterday, right?

TONY WALLIN: Right. If this would have happened earlier in the day then, of course, we would have had time to try and get them back out on the golf course and complete some more golf to make it effective.

Q. The players seem to like the idea of going on?

TONY WALLIN: There was a lot of cheering when we announced it.

Q. Tony, at what point do you start thinking 54 holes?

TONY WALLIN: Well, I guess the only time we would think about 54 holes would be, you know, if we went into a situation where we didn't complete, you know, the third round tomorrow, or maybe didn't complete the second round tomorrow, or the second round might go into Monday even.

There is a lot of scenarios that could happen. There is a lot of different things that would have to happen for us to go to 54. Like I say the main goal is to do the 72. You know, 54, if that's all we can get in, that type of deal, then that's all we will be able to do.

Q. Is there a magic number like if you finish Round 2 and start Round 3, is there a certain point you have to get to?

TONY WALLIN: Well, the point that we have to get to as far as -- you mean as far as completing 54 or 72? We are going to play as much golf as we can basically through Monday and see where we are at. If we happen to get into the 50 percent of the field returning a scorecard on whatever round they happen to be in, then we could actually go into Tuesday in that scenario, and it could be to complete 54 holes. It could be to complete what we are in right now even. Or it could be to complete 72 holes. There is still a lot of different scenarios out there.

Q. The forecast is a little bit better?

TONY WALLIN: The forecast is a little bit better for tomorrow and Monday. Once this line comes through here it's actually looking pretty good, that's correct.

Q. Considering what we were looking at yesterday afternoon, do you think you were lucky to get in as much as you did today?

TONY WALLIN: I think we were.

JOAN vT ALEXANDER: Especially for what was out there. At one point it looked like we might even be able to get to 5 or 5:30, then that system started throwing lightening bolts out. We said let's not take a chance here with anybody's lives.

JOAN vT ALEXANDER: How long do they think the system might last?

TONY WALLIN: Well, this could probably -- Greg Quinn, our meteorologist thinks, what's going to happen, this is going to come through here and then this evening we are probably going to get rain. He thinks we might get heavy rain at times right up possibly through 3 a.m., and we could have some lingering showers that could go all the way to seven a.m., so we might get out here in the morning at seven a.m., and we might be getting showers. Hopefully, there won't be any lightening or thunder with it. We will still resume play.

Q. Having fun?

TONY WALLIN: Having lots of fun. Love New Orleans.

JOAN vT ALEXANDER: Thank you, Tony, for joining us.