

**60th Annual Bank of America Colonial
Colonial Country Club
Forth Worth, Texas
May 18, 2006**

First-round Quotes

INTERVIEW OF BUBBA WATSON

THE MODERATOR: Bubba Watson making your first appearance here at the Bank of America Colonial. Good round today, 5-under 65. There are still some players out on the course, but as of right now you are one off the lead of Stewart Cink. Maybe some opening comments on a very good day for you.

BUBBA WATSON: Yeah, it was fun. I had two or three putts - well one of them was - one 3-putt I guess in stats. Two 3-putts I failed and I made two bogeys. And then I just kept some good drives. I hit on the front 9. I started on the back where I made two bogeys, but.

THE MODERATOR: Okay. Questions?

Q You talked about the driver obviously it works to your advantage. Can you tell me how it worked to your advantage and how many you hit today?

BUBBA WATSON: It worked to my advantage that I hit it somewhat straight today. So I didn't hit a lot of fairways. I don't know how many I hit. I hit a driver on 11, 12, 13 -- I don't know that is par 3 -- 14, 15, 18, 1, 2, I hit a lot of drivers. I hit it on 7 and 6, yeah that's it.

Q How about 3 and 5?

BUBBA WATSON: 3 and 5. 3 I hit a 2-iron. And 5 I hit a 2-iron. I played those three holes 1-under today so that probably helped out a lot.

Q (Inaudible)?

BUBBA WATSON: Should have stopped for the green. Made my 8-footer for par.

Q (Inaudible)?

BUBBA WATSON: I got one at 6 that was good. Yeah, I didn't want to embarrass myself. I had to make that par.

Q Bubba, hitting all of those drivers seems to go against what they say about Colonial that you have to shape your shots, and stuff like that. How does that work for you?

BUBBA WATSON: Well, again today I hit the ball really well. I had the 2, 3-putts. My rounds would have been two shots better with two putts. I had to hit the ball where I was aiming. Tomorrow I can come out here and look like the worse golfer out here. Right now you all want to talk to me. I hit it straight today. It could go against and I will it could work wonders for me this week.

Q You are not changing --

BUBBA WATSON: There is a couple of holes that I could change if the wind is switching over on me. I know for a fact on 3 and 5 I'm never hitting driver.

Q Your second hole today, the 11th hole, I think it was 361-yard drive. Did you know then that you would have a pretty good day driving the ball?

BUBBA WATSON: You know what I didn't hit any drivers on the range today because the range is so short. I didn't want to kill anybody on the other side. That was my first of the day with my driver. It felt good. I loved moving right to left with my tee ball. So the golf course sets up good for my eye on a lot of the holes. And so I knew it was possible to play good out here, but until you do it it's not a given.

Q How much golf have you got going forward to follow it up one round 65 (Inaudible)?

BUBBA WATSON: It gives me, you know, if I was going to win one this is would be the one to win just because they say long hitters can't play around here. It would be more fun for me just for that reason. It gives me a lot of confidence. I never really lacked in confidence. You play bad once in a while and I miss a few cuts here and there. But I never lose my confidence. I never think I have to get a swing coach or anything like that. It helps me out. Just that much closer for being here for the hot weekend.

Q Did you initially have any trouble talking to yourself, I know when you are playing the practice round do you talk to yourself into hitting drivers? You always hear before you even come here you can't hit any drivers or you can't do this. Why did you even try hitting drivers out here?

BUBBA WATSON: They say if you hit them say like No. 6, 293 to get over the bunker or something. But to me it's not that big of a problem. A lot of guys are hitting different clubs. But if you can hit it far enough some of those holes open up. Even though you are hitting it out of the rough. Like 2, even though those bunkers are not into play. You take it up to the corner on No. 2. Some of those holes open up to you. Some holes are really tight. There are a couple of them that open up the farther you hit it. It didn't affect me or change my decision.

Q You said you didn't hit any drivers on the range. Did you hit more than ten balls today?

BUBBA WATSON: I hit a few. I got here early. So I was worn out in between balls. But I practiced my sand wedge and 8-iron and hit a couple 4-irons. I loosened the ol' back up.

Q Just a follow-up on that. I wonder if you felt you were at a disadvantage because you can't hit your driver on the range?

BUBBA WATSON: No. No. It probably helps me. I don't see the bad ones on the range.

Q You started great this year. The two top 5s and you hit a lull in the last month and a half or two. Any thoughts on what contributed to that?

BUBBA WATSON: If you look at my three years on the Nationwide tour I did the same thing. I started out good and then I hit a lull right in the middle. Maybe I'm out of shape and the heat gets to me. But I think so far ahead, I think what am I going to do for Christmas. I can't stay focused the whole time. I start thinking about two weeks from now, Jack's tournament. How that is going to go. And how the clinic is going to be. I start thinking about something that doesn't mean anything when I'm trying to make a 5 footer for birdie. And today I have to stay focus and work on it. And I want to prove to myself I can play on a tight golf course, and an old style golf course. It's more of a challenge for me. Not just the tournament, to show that I have other aspects of my game. Right now my putter is working better.

Q Do you think that is why your concentration is sharper?

BUBBA WATSON: I think so. The tougher the golf course the more you have to work on every hole. When I go out there and bang the driver I get where I'm just joking around and goofing around and I forget what I'm doing. So this is a good one for me. And in Charlotte I missed the cut by one. I made some real bad mistakes. But I missed the cut by one, and that was another challenge for me at Wachovia this year.

Q (Inaudible)?

BUBBA WATSON: They are going good right now.

Q You are certainly going to be well ahead of the crowd, start filling that list out.

Q What is the best swing today?

BUBBA WATSON: The best swing today was the last one. The wedge at 150 to the hole. And I hit a wedge in there to 4 feet or 5 feet, and, you know, over the water where if it comes up short it could spin back. And I hit it perfect, and knocked it 5 feet and I wished it into the hole.

Q What was your best drive of the day?

BUBBA WATSON: Probably No. 11. I like to cut it. No. 11 with the trees the bad spot is over there. I had to start it there and barely missed the fairway on the left by 3 feet. And the first swing of the day was the driver and I kept it in play and that made me loosen up for the rest of the day. The one I hit hard was on No. 1. No. 10 for me, but No. 1.

Q Are shots like those wedge tend to be the ones that excite you more. All of us drool at the idea of the hitting 391. I have been there and done that for you, I guess. Are wedges and different shots --

BUBBA WATSON: Putting. If I can get my putter halfway decent I can compete. And today it showed. I made some good putts inside 10 feet to 5 feet and I stayed down on them. And didn't rush them, and that is what kept me in there. Last year at the Nationwide I was putting inside top 20 putting and leading in distance, and that is a good combination to have. And this year I'm way down there.

Q What kind of expectation did you have. I'm sure you knew if you could go low if you hit the ball straight. Did you have a number in mind? Did you see the numbers early and say, hey I want to match that? What went through your head?

BUBBA WATSON: The sad thing is I look at last year's tournament every time I got to a tournament to see what the numbers were. And out here except for the winner last year, there was a good tournament for second at 12-under. I figured 3-under every day and then maybe throw one 5-under somewhere and shoot good scores. And shooting in the 60s and under par and I know even par is not too bad around here when the conditions get tough. I would try to stay out there and stay under par.

Q People see you and the way you drive they say he found the secret to golf. Do you believe there is a secret? Or where do you stand on that?

BUBBA WATSON: I don't like swing coaches or coaches or anything. I don't think there is a secret. If you look at the new top 5, the new top 5, there is so many different swings there. There is so many different teachers that they have and all of that stuff. There is no secret in being long. It's obvious. I swing at it harder than most. And John Daly swings it back like I do, or I swing like him. And Jeremy Holmes swings at it pretty good. There is no secret. We hit it close to solid every time and that is what gives you the distance. It's one of those things you can't teach it, you either hit it long or short, I mean it's one of the two, so. Just straight is what we're all looking for. Fred Funk over there. That is what we want to do is sail with him.

THE MODERATOR: Anymore questions.

BUBBA WATSON: Okay. Bubba thank.

BUBBA WATSON: Thanks guys.