

**59<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL BANK OF AMERICA COLONIAL**  
**Colonial Country Club**  
**Fort Worth, Texas**  
**May 18, 2005**

**Pre-tournament-round interviews**

**AN INTERVIEW WITH MIKE WEIR**

**THE MODERATOR:** We thank Mike Weir for joining us for the 2005 Bank of America Colonial. Mike, you played here five times before. You haven't missed a cut yet. Do you want to think about that? A best T-8 in 2000, and two top 10s this season. Why don't we start with your success as far as cuts go here at Colonial.

**MIKE WEIR:** Well, you know, I look at this golf course as similar to you Riviera where I had success. The first few years I played Riviera I didn't play well, and I started to play pretty good down there. That is how I kind of see this place I love the golf course and I love the place. You know, like you said, I haven't missed the cut, but I haven't played up to where I wanted to in this event and hopefully it will change this week. It's a tournament I love and hopefully I will play well.

**THE MODERATOR:** This season to date you have a second at Pebble Beach and then you have the two 5s at the Masters?

**PLAYER:** It's been a little consistent. I took a long off season and worked kind of hard on my game. And it's been a little sporadic and inconsistent. And feel like I am real close to good things, hopefully it's a good start for a good stretch of tournament. I have been playing good for the last few weeks and leading the U.S. Open and I feel like what I have been working on is finally starting to feel comfortable.

**THE MODERATOR:** Now for questions.

**Q** Mike you placed in Riviera ,is there a learning curve involved in both of those courses in your mind before you break through and do something special?

**MIKE WEIR:** I think there is a little learning curve there. I think now that, you know, I know the golf course very well now. I know where I should hit it. It's a matter of executing it and doing it. There is definitely a learning curve with both golf courses in figuring out how to shape the ball and I will concentrate on hitting the ball straight and not working it too much. It's similar in that regard where you have to hit, for me, off the tee. And a couple of holes you have to draw good and the par 3 s are solid. It's a good solid golf course and the greens are perfect this year.

**Q** Steve Flesch was in here and he indicated maybe this course is set up good for left-handers as well like No. 5 and several others. There anything to that? Is this course set up better for left-handers for an advantage.

**MIKE WEIR:** Possibly. I think it's set up for anyone that shape the ball both ways. I think No. 5 you mean. We can stand up there with 3 woods and draw maybe a hole like No. 3 may be a righty to draw and swing around there. I think anybody who is in control of their game and shaping the ball. And you have seen guys that are really solid ball strikers win at this tournament. Nick Price is the world and guys that really used to strike the ball really well.

**Q** How many guys out there now do indeed shape the ball and is that an advantage on fewer courses now and particularly with the equipment, the ball now?

**MIKE WEIR:** I would say less and less guys, you know, work it now and I think partly due to the game becoming -- it's such a power game and partly due to the equipment. The ball don't curve as much. And it's harder to work the ball than maybe before. I think the players that are coming out nowadays are, you know, pretty straight players. You know, they seem to hit these straight towering shots and not working it around very much.

**Q** In weeks when have you won out here on the tour has there been a consistent thread where it's been your week early or late or does it vary? Run through your victories and tell us about when you find out "it's my time"?

**MIKE WEIR:** My first win in Vancouver I got off to a slow start. I was middle of the pack after two rounds and shot back-to-back 64 s and it came out of -- not come out of no where, I felt I was playing good for the first couple of rounds and then it came to me and the putter started flowing. And then other times the Bob Hope where I won few years ago in 2003, all week I just struck it and putted okay, but hit it so good I felt great all week all the way through. And the Masters was a bit of both. I hit it good. I didn't hit it nearly as good as I did at the Bob Hope. But anything inside of 10 feet felt good. I was putting well. There is a number of different ways. When I won the American Express the first couple of days I was struggling actually, and the second day I shot 75 or something and worked on some things on the range that night. And I came back and got it figured out and shot a 65. You never know when it's going to be your week. That is why you try to hang around and just try to be in it and grind it out so if you can stay within ear shot of the lead. You might be able to shoot a good one to do it.

**Q** (Inaudible)?

**MIKE WEIR:** Yeah, I would say there is usually one thing that is really on for you. That is what I have noticed.

**Q** Score-wise this course has held up well. But yet there have been guys that have gone really low, 61 the last couple of years. When you look at it do you see a chance to go low at this course at all depending on the weather?

**MIKE WEIR:** I think a little depends on the weather. The greens are so good you get hot with the putter you can roll some birdies in. I played with Chad last year when he shot a 61, and he played great. He fired it right at every flag and rolled every putt right in and made it look easy. Those are fun rounds when have you it going like that. Definitely not easy to do it out here, but you can see how you can get it going if you get momentum going and take a advantage of the couple of par 5's out there. And like I said, if you hang around the greens are so good out there right now. That you can roll some putts in.

**Q** Mike, you were talking about how you get a stretch where you play a lot and I wonder what your mind-set is about Pinehurst, and how it struck you. That was your first open, was it?

**MIKE WEIR:** It was my first major. I went through the qualifying process. And I remember the whole experience being bigger than any tournament I have ever played. The huge grandstands and the huge crowds and the golf course being more difficult than anything I have ever played. It's a really complex golf course. Especially around the greens. Off the tee it's right there in front of you. Any U.S. Open you have to hit fairways. But on the greens, you have to be pretty savvy on the greens. You have to be creative around the greens.

**Q** Did you like that.

**MIKE WEIR:** The ball was rolling up the side and you can play a number of shots. We play most U.S. Opens on the green-side. If you miss the green you are in the bunker or in the deep stuff or a flop shot. At Pinehurst you can play that, but you have to play 7-iron and roll it up the hills and roll it to the pins. I remember at Pinehurst it was tough to get the ball close to the hole. Very difficult to get the ball close to the hole. It's crowned off all the way around and they tuck the pins. And it may say on the pin sheet 7 from the right side, really it's about 2 because the slope is four steps of slope going off. So the pin is, you know, it looks like they are teetering right on the edge of the green. And so it's tough to get close to the hole. So a lot of the time 30 or 40 feet is a good shot and that is where the putting comes in if you are putting well you may make a couple of those, but you are lag putting well and that is what Payne Stewart did so well that year he won. Even when he didn't get a fairway. He hit it on the smart side of the green and rolled it up there and followed it along.

**Q** So I take it you did watch the ending?

**MIKE WEIR:** Oh, yeah.

**Q** What struck you the most.

**MIKE WEIR:** I forgot where I was. I missed the cut I believe I was at home. Yeah I remember the coming in on 17 and Payne hitting great shots on 17 and 18. It looked like Payne had a perfect drive and it hopped in the right rough and I remember his composure and playing it up to the smart shot and rolled it up to the spot again underneath the hole, not as close as he wanted. He left himself a putt he could make, the putt of his life. And it was a great moment.

**Q** This year in the Masters Chris DiMarco was the runner up. Can you talk about what he is doing well right now and how he was able to get through Augusta so well?

**MIKE WEIR:** You have to ask him what he is doing. I think one thing he is right at the top of the putting stats. He is going to take that with him. He is putting very well. Chris is steady he hits it down the middle of the fairway and hits all of the shots. And Chris' game is similar to my game. We're not going to over power golf courses, we have to play solid golf and he is doing that right now. He is hitting it seems like he is hitting it straight and putts very well, and he seems composed and he is calm under the situation. It's tough at Augusta to do and with Tiger chipping in on him he finished the last hole well. And he is playing well right now.

**Q** Mike, Steve Flesch was in yesterday talking about how he changed his putters all the time he used two -putters during last year's tournament?

**MIKE WEIR:** Yeah.

**Q** I'm wondering what is your approach. How are you with putters are you loyal to putters? Do you change them all the time?

**MIKE WEIR:** I'm loyal to putters. I switch them around a little bit. I get a kick out of Steve. He switches equipment he says come grab and see what I'm using. It's funny. It's comical. He switches balls. You have to change anything to get a good feel. It works for him. For me it doesn't work for me. I need a club that I need that made some good putts and that I can trust. But you know Vijay has switched putters a number of times and there is a lot of guys that switch around, and Steve is one of the best.

**Q** What are you using now, and how long have you had that in your bag?

**MIKE WEIR:** Putter? Putting-wise.

**Q** Putting wise?

**MIKE WEIR:** I used Scotty Cameron for a while. A similar version I have had in my bag my whole career. This one I am using right now I have used four or five months.

**Q** How long did the one you won the Masters with last?

**MIKE WEIR:** A couple of two years. Three years.

**Q** And what caused you to retire it?

**MIKE WEIR:** I guess you know, the way it putted at the Canadian open last year I retired it. You know the way I putted there was awful pretty much all week. So and then the end of the year I never got a good feel with it all year. So I retired it for the time being. But it's still in the basement ready to come back.

**Q** So did you retire it right after the Canadian Open?

**MIKE WEIR:** No, I used it.

**Q** (Inaudible)?

**MIKE WEIR:** And I like to go into his bag and see what he has in there because we don't get a chance to, you know, on the range. Guys have 100 other pro guys out here to see what everybody else is using. Even when I played at Wachovia I was fishing around in each other's bags to see what was in there, different wedges and that kind of thing.

**Q** Early in season I know you were up happy with your putting, has that turned around? Is that why you played a lot better last month or two months?

**MIKE WEIR:** I think so. Yeah. I mean it started to feel better. I think getting off the, you know -- I basically putted well on West Coast greens, but this year I didn't. I'm not using that as an excuse. It was wet and more perfect out there and I lost my confidence a little bit maybe. Like I said, these greens out here are perfect and the Pro Am and the ball rolling through and nice on those greens and starting to roll a little better.

**Q** Thanks?

**MIKE WEIR:** No problem.