

CHRYSLER CHAMPIONSHIP
The Westin Innisbrook Golf Resort
Copperhead Course
Tampa Bay, Fla

October 27, 2005

First-round quotes

AN INTERVIEW WITH DEAN WILSON

TODD BUDNICK: We thank Dean Wilson for joining us after a 4-under 67 today. Dean, you finished T -30 last year. Talk a little bit about the course.

DEAN WILSON: The course is in good shape. The only thing we had to fight today was being second off and it being cold and that's about it.

TODD BUDNICK: You made your run down your back 9, the front 9, with those five consecutive birdies. Talk about that stretch.

DEAN WILSON: Yes, I just kept making putts. On four, I hit a 5-iron in there about ten feet and made that.

Next hole had a bad tee shot and had to pitch out, hit a 6-iron up there about 20 feet made that.

Next hole hit a good tee shot, 7-iron to about 30 feet and made that.

Next hole hit a 9-iron to about 12 feet and made that.

Next hole hit a 5-wood to about 12 feet and made that.

TODD BUDNICK: Last year you finished just outside of Top-125 but this year is more comfortable for you, looks like pretty much since July on, you have been in a good spot, talk about how much easier that was to play then.

DEAN WILSON: Yes, I keep thinking about last year's round, having to shoot a good round that final day. I thought I calculated somewhere around a 69 or something, 3-under the last day and didn't do that.

Walking around this course, and not having to stress about it, it feels a lot better.

TODD BUDNICK: Questions? Doug.

Q. Do you have any idea how white your face looked last year walking out of the locker room on Sunday?

DEAN WILSON: (Laughter). I was probably a little upset, wasn't I?

Q. When you left here, this would have been the end of October, what you did for the next month before going out to Palm Springs?

DEAN WILSON: For Q-School?

Q. Yes.

DEAN WILSON: You know in the middle of the year I switched swing coaches and so the last part of the year is when I made the majority of my money and I just had a couple of things that I am always trying to work on in my swing and what I did was I went back and we just grinded on it and just tried to clean some things up and get ready for Q-School.

And fortunately, I like desert golf and that's where I made it through Q-School.

Q. You worked for a month, four weeks, just working on your swing?

DEAN WILSON: Yes, I'm really bad at taking time off. That's all I did. I just played and practiced a lot.

Q. In Vegas, who was your Coach?

DEAN WILSON: They are on the East Coast, Mike Bennett and Andy Plummer. They came out a couple of times over there and we just grind it out there. Too cold in New Jersey.

Q. And then went to Q-School. You going to Southern Farm next week?

DEAN WILSON: I think so, yes.

Q. Before the season ends then, what do you do? I'm trying to draw a contrast of where you were.

DEAN WILSON: I still have an exemption in Japan. I still have exemptions until the end of 2006. I'm thinking about playing two over there because I haven't been there since I've be on the TOUR here. So I would like to go do that if can I get my visa done. Same thing, the off season for me, I don't like taking time off. I like to play and practice and try to sharpen up some things so I can be in a better position the following year. I will do just much of the same.

Q. Which two Japanese events?

DEAN WILSON: The Visa Taiheiyo and the Dunlap Phoenix.

Q. You will be ducking Michelle at Casio?

DEAN WILSON: I will clear out of town for the Michelle Wie show. I think that the Casio is the week right after that.

Q. After Dunlap?

DEAN WILSON: Yes.

Q. You were gone by the time Miyazato showed up?

DEAN WILSON: Yes, I think she is still in college or high school.

Q. She is doing the Okinawa thing?

DEAN WILSON: Really.

Q. The smaller ones I think.

DEAN WILSON: I think so, yes. No, I didn't know about that. I have been out of touch with that tour, unfortunately. Fortunately, unfortunately. I heard that tour is getting more popular than the men's tour. The women's Japan tour.

Q. She won. I forget the tournament she won last year but the ratings were tripled than when Tiger won wire-to-wire?

DEAN WILSON: Amazing.

Q. 3-putt on 9?

DEAN WILSON: Yes.

Q. We get the good and the bad in this room?

DEAN WILSON: Yes. Thanks a lot that's why I like you so much. You know I hit a good shot in there and I guess we just misjudged the wind or the yardage or something. But ended up on the back of that green and that's where you don't want to be.

Q. Straight down green?

DEAN WILSON: Straight down green. I kind of misjudged that slope. I thought it would break hard left to right. But then I misjudged the speed too so I left myself about 12 feet. I hit a good putt there exactly where I wanted, but, I guess, I read it wrong.

Q. 12 and 13?

DEAN WILSON: All of the bad stuff again.

Q. Birdies on 12 and 14?

DEAN WILSON: Let's see 12. 12 I made about a 20-footer there. I hit a 6-iron in there. The par-5 laid up and hit an 8-iron to about 15 feet maybe. 16, I drove it in the rough, laid up and made bogey there.

Q. Which hole?

DEAN WILSON: 16. 18, I actually hit a pretty good drive there and I shanked one. Shanked it into the bleachers. Made bogey, straight off the hosel.

Q. What did you hit?

DEAN WILSON: 8-iron.

Q. How do you stand up to the next tee after that?

DEAN WILSON: I don't know. Luckily --

Q. You shank what, once a year?

DEAN WILSON: I probably shanked five this year because, the thing that I've done with my swing is I'm trying to pivot the arc of my swing a little more to the right rather than cut across. So if I'm not careful, just actually throw my hands out and shank them. I've shanked six in competition this year, five or six.

Q. Most memorable is what?

DEAN WILSON: 7th hole of Pebble Beach, wedge right in the ocean. Is that unbelievable? (Today) Luckily my next shot I hit a driver. I didn't have a hosel. Thanks for bringing that up, Doug.

Q. What did you make on seven?

DEAN WILSON: Hit on the green, and I think I 3-putted. I was left though.

Q. I was asking someone last week, someone who was doing well what kind of goals they set for the year? I think it was Lucas Glover talking about trying to get into THE TOUR Championship which I found interesting in that the guy barely kept his card.

DEAN WILSON: I heard that.

Q. What kind of goals do you set beyond the obvious? I would imagine your best finish is probably in the 80 range, 80 to 100 keeping your card?

DEAN WILSON: Two years ago 90 something.

TODD BUDNICK: 93.

DEAN WILSON: I lost my card last year, you know I've never sat around and put goals down. I've never been one for that. I don't know why. It's hard to work. I like what Bob Rotella said, he says goals are just something some adult says you have to achieve. I just want to win tournaments. But I wouldn't say my goal is to win. If I don't win, I'm going to be dissatisfied with it. I like putting myself in contention. That was a big goal of mine this year - to actually get in contention for a tournament because I only had that one time in my rookie year. Where in Japan I put myself in that position a lot. I did that maybe two times this year. Actually more than I thought. I was thinking about Lucas a lot. He played right behind me last week. I think we started at the same score and he ended up winning. I think.

Q. 15?

DEAN WILSON: 15, yes. The other time he almost won in Atlanta. We played together.

Q. In Atlanta you did?

DEAN WILSON: Yes, and he bogeyed the last hole to miss out in that. It's funny, I don't even think I'm in contention, you know what I mean. But then Lucas proved to me we are in contention, just go out and shoot 7 or 8-under. So maybe I have been in contention a little bit more often than I thought.

Q. Did he do the damage early last week, front 9 or back 9, Lucas?

DEAN WILSON: He did it at the end. I thought he was 4-under the last six holes last week, I thought.

Q. It's a good lesson then?

DEAN WILSON: Yes, definitely. I think sometimes I always -- I thought with those guys at 19-under that one of them is going to shoot 6, 7-under. They are 4 or five shots ahead of me means I got to shoot 61 or something like that. But as we all know, when you get into contention, things tighten up a little bit. Not as free wheeling.

Q. What's your take on the new schedule?

DEAN WILSON: I didn't take a look at it. How does it differ. I saw a couple of tournaments on the West Coast differ. I didn't see too much.

Q. Just the idea of packing everything in between the PGA and THE TOUR championship for a huge payout and then coming back after THE TOUR Championship with five or six tournaments for 125, 70, 40, that kind of stuff?

DEAN WILSON: It doesn't make sense to me. I guess they are doing it for TV ratings, I guess, right? I don't know enough about the PGA Tour, and as a business, it seems that it's doing so well. We have so many tournaments, and those tournaments like Reno and like Texas, those volunteers love it. They always talk about how important it is when we come, and they always thank us for coming because a lot of the bigger names don't show up to those. Those tournaments, as far as I know, and from what those people tell me that they still donate a lot of money to charities and those communities love those tournaments.

So I don't like the idea of taking those tournaments out, and I hate when I hear players say that we should just take them out and we should have less tournaments, so there is more focus on the big 3 or 5 or whatever, not taking so many weeks off. It just don't make sense to me because I look at that the PGA TOUR as a whole. How much money you're generating, for not only us, but for the communities and the charities. It seems that why would you want to wipe out a third of those tournaments just to have Phil Mickelson, Tiger Woods and Vijay at a higher percentage at our events.

But again that's coming from a guy who is 100th on the money list, so it's a different perspective, I think.

Q. I think the latest, what you are hearing is Texas or Reno might not go away, but they would put them after the Big Bang finish? Leave Disney where it is. I imagine the purse would maybe be not so high. Or put on it the Golf Channel.

DEAN WILSON: I don't know. I hear it's so funny because I hear a lot of people. I know that the ratings, they love it when Tiger is in contention or Vijay and Phil. But it's funny. From my point of view, I hear a lot of people always say, you know, we're tired of watching Tiger walk, walk down the fairway. We want to see more shots. We want to see more things.

Even when I watch golf I would like to see more shots and see what's happening because a name like myself, I finished third I think at Barclays.

TODD BUDNICK: 6th.

DEAN WILSON: 6th. I think my friend says they saw me once hit a putt. That was it. And so it's hard for those people. They follow, and the guys that follow individual people, they never see them, but they see Tiger eating a sandwich walking down the fairway. I guess that's what brings the ratings. I don't know. I love Tiger, I love when he is in contention. I love all of the attention he brings. When I turn on the golf, I don't want to see him walking up the fairway all the time. I wanted to see shots. I want to see different things.

When I think about it way back when, when I used to watch The Masters, they would have 4 minutes an hour of commercials and you saw everybody. Every shot, exactly what they were doing, you knew it. Nowadays, I remember watching the U.S. Open, was it this year, and I was traveling on that Sunday because I wasn't in a tournament, and I caught the last four holes of the tournament. All I saw was Michael Campbell and Tiger. I didn't know where anybody else was. I didn't know what happened to Retief. I couldn't hear it at the airport. They didn't have the volume. I'm like, when are they going to show a score? I don't even know what's happening in this tournament. It was interesting to me.

Q. That's when they showed Michael Campbell run into the bathroom.

DEAN WILSON: Exactly. That's my point of view. I love golf. I want to see more shots. I love the Thursdays and the Fridays of U.S. Opens and PGA's where they are showing everybody.

Q. PGA now they start coverage at 8 o'clock in the morning and go through whenever?

DEAN WILSON: Yes, it's awesome I like it.

Q. Did you hear Van der Velde today said he was going to try to enter the women's British Open in protest of the R & A decision?

DEAN WILSON: Really. It seems like it's all semantics, isn't it? Women can enter our tournaments because we've never put down you have to be a male. The LPGA has that rule, we can't enter theirs because you have to be born a female.

Q. They have that term, or you just have to be a female now?

DEAN WILSON: I didn't know that.

Q. What's that word?

DEAN WILSON: Transsexual. In growing up in Hawaii, and being from Hawaii and watching Michelle grow up, I watched her push that line at every different level and at every opportunity she can get, she pushed that line. Well your entry blank doesn't say you have to be a man, so I want to enter it. So they would let her go. It just seems interesting that you can't go the other way. I'd love to play the LPGA tour. I'd make a lot of money on that TOUR.

Q. Small purses.

DEAN WILSON: Well, I can take my chances.

Q. Someone argued that, I mean it's obvious that women don't have the strength and the skill and what not, and the women's tour is for the women, and the men's tour is for the best, most of which are men. So if want to challenge The Open or the PGA Tour, whatever, it's up to you, but it's still going to be based on performance.

DEAN WILSON: Right. And then we just have a girl for the second time enter tour school, right? (Izzy) Beisiegel. She finished last both times, right? It seems interesting. It's funny when I was reading the story on her, when you enter TOUR school, and if you post really bad rounds they don't let you enter next year.

Q. Is that right?

TODD BUDNICK: I think so.

DEAN WILSON: And I think her average is in the either the low or mid-80s all the way around and again this year.

TODD BUDNICK: You have to go to that prequalifying tournament. There is a prequalifying tournament now, but there wasn't enough entrants this year so they didn't hold it.

Q. That's for the people who shot 90 would go or whatever.

TODD BUDNICK: Yes.

DEAN WILSON: That's a whole different thing. I guess that's a good path, I guess, for Michelle on a marketing side where you know she signed for a lot of money and she is playing tournaments. I'll stand behind my thought before, was I like Tiger's example by the time he was 16 he had won 200 times. He won amateur events, junior events. So he knew how to win by then. From my experience, when I had a chance to win tournaments in Japan, or a state open, or just a section event, when I wanted that victory, my nerves were exactly the same at a college event, as they were in a state open, as they were on a TOUR event. That's something that you just have to learn how to win.

So I'd like to see someone like Michelle. I would like to see her win more tournaments. As far as I know, she has only won one. She always has those top finishes which is great. I would like to see her win.

Q. Those tournaments they have in Hawaii, the Jenny K?

DEAN WILSON: The thing with that, they would force her way into it because they had an age requirement, you had to be 16 or 18, or something like that. And they would get in somehow, or B.J. and her would talk to the director and they would get in. She would play. I think she might have won that tournament one year. But then she would never play it again. Then she would push the rules to go play in the Pearl Open over there, which was the second biggest event other than the Sony. And then no longer plays that. She never played junior golf over there. And she never played high school golf, because she wanted to play on the men's high school team. I'm not playing with the women. I don't want to play junior golf. I want to compete against a higher level, which I guess maybe she will prove me wrong in the long run. I like victories. I like collecting trophies and I think that's what it's about.

Q. Where does Stephanie go to school?

DEAN WILSON: I think she goes to Punahou also, the same thing. Stephanie plays and wins tournaments. I'm kind of more for that. Obviously, Michelle has got the money in the bank now.

Q. Did you go to Punahou?

DEAN WILSON: No. I couldn't spell Punahou.

TODD BUDNICK: Thanks, Dean.

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