

3rd ROUND INTERVIEW TRANSCRIPT: MARC LEISHMAN
Saturday, January 25, 2014

JOEL SCHUCHMANN: Marc Leishman, thanks for joining us. One off the lead entering the final round of the 2014 Farmers Insurance Open. You won a couple years ago at the Travelers Championships so I know you know how to win out here. Maybe some opening comments about your week so far and maybe your game plan for tomorrow.

MARC LEISHMAN: I've been playing pretty well all week, just today had a bit of a rough patch in the middle there where I couldn't hit the fairway. For the most part hitting the ball really well and putting well, but it's not going in, so hopefully they can drop tomorrow and we'll see what happens at the end of the day.

Q. You mentioned the rough match but you had a run of pars there, you were able to save a lot of pars with clutch putts. You must be happy with how you're doing on this tough track?

MARC LEISHMAN: I left myself in some good spots. Off the tee I was in good position to hit it to where I wasn't going to make a double, that gave myself a really good chance to make par and managed to do it. I think if you make a mistake off the tee you've just got to not make another mistake and that's where the problems come in I think. I managed not to do that. Just had a bogey there on 16, but the way the course is playing, you're going to have bogeys out there. To limit it to one was pretty good the way I played, like I said, through the middle there.

Q. Compared to most TOUR conditions, how would you describe it out there?

MARC LEISHMAN: It's very fair, I wouldn't say it's unfair at all. It's tough. The greens are running fairly quick. They're getting firm, especially if you're coming from the rough or if you're coming from the fairway, but it's tough especially if you miss the fairway. If you're playing from the middle of the fairway all day, it's not too bad, you can hold the green, but if you're in the rough, it's virtually impossible.

Q. Is this the kind of conditions and kind of golf course that you would expect yourself to do well on?

MARC LEISHMAN: Yeah, I love this golf course. I've done well here in the past. The second year when it was playing quite firm, I had one other Top 10 here and I think that year it was soft. So it's different than what it normally plays (inaudible). I figured if I played well I could be in this position.

Q. We saw on TV it made it look like the scoring averages each day compared

with the '08 US. Open were not a ton different. Does that surprise you at all?

MARC LEISHMAN: Not really, not with how that rough is. It's some of the longest and thickest rough I've seen. In patches it's probably like similar to what it was at Merion last year. You get in there and you go sand iron if you can find your ball. It wouldn't surprise me if there's a few lost balls out there. It's long and it's damp, and if you try and get greedy, you can make yourself look like an idiot really quickly.

Q. What is it about this place that you love? Is there any sort of relationship to Australian courses or anything? Obviously the ocean's right there. Is there something you can put your finger on?

MARC LEISHMAN: I think it's all the grasses I grew up on as a kid, kikuyu fairways, poa greens and there's gum trees everywhere, eucalyptus trees. It's long and tough, I like it when par's a good score. I mean, there's probably not one thing that, you know, clicks that I'm going to play well here but I always have a good feeling when I come here.

Q. This week always coincides with Australia Day but this year it falls tomorrow. Is there anything like maybe it's time for Australia to win?

MARC LEISHMAN: I hope there's something in it. It would be great to play well tomorrow and win on Australia Day, but there's a lot of golf to play, especially on that course out there with how tough it is. But it's a great opportunity to play in the last group and hopefully I can make the most of it.

Q. I know we love the country, but what the hell is Australia, Day?

MARC LEISHMAN: It's like July 4th I guess, same sort of thing.

Q. Do you almost have to go into tomorrow expecting not to get rattled by a bogey or dropping shots early on just because it's going to happen out there?

MARC LEISHMAN: Definitely. I think if you let bogey worry you on that golf course, it's going to be a pretty long day especially since you don't have to do a whole lot wrong to have a bogey. On Friday I hit my first bad shot of the day really was on the 5th hole and it cost me a double and I never looked at making bogey. If you get a little bit of bad luck from not a terrible shot, it can cost you. You have to play really smart and hopefully take the bogeys off the card. If you can do that, I think it will go a long way.

Q. Have you played much golf with Gary Woodland and how would you describe his game?

MARC LEISHMAN: Yeah, he hits it extremely long off the tee. He's just a solid

player. He had an awesome year I think it was, what, two years ago, where he won once, once or twice and it seemed like he was in the Top 10 every week. He's just a solid all around player and he's going to be tough to beat. But we've all got to get the ball in the hole and there's no reason why I can't have a good day tomorrow.

JOEL SCHUCHMANN: Marc Leishman, thank you. Good luck tomorrow.