



May 23, 2006



Oak Tree Golf Course

Hole #	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	Out	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	Out	Total
Yardage	437	387	592	206	590	370	440	165	411	3,598	388	465	471	171	439	434	528	175	433	3,504	7,102
Par	4	4	5	3	5	4	4	3	4	36	4	4	4	3	4	4	5	3	4	35	71

AN INTERVIEW WITH:

GIL MORGAN

KELLY ELBIN: Good afternoon, ladies and gentlemen, we're joined by Gil Morgan.

GIL MORGAN: How we doing?

KELLY ELBIN: Gil is participating in his ninth Senior PGA Championship, four top-10 finishes in this championship. *Gil*, you know this golf course pretty well and hear some comments on what you saw today and playing nine holes.

GIL MORGAN: Comments from me?

KELLY ELBIN: Comments, please.

GIL MORGAN: Windy out there. I know that. Well, I don't know. I think that I would like to say first that the club here has done an excellent job in preparing the golf course. They worked very diligently over the last six to eight months working hard trying to get the golf course in good shape. And everything looks like it's in pretty good shape out there. It's a little warmer than we anticipated this time of year, but at the same time it seems to, the course seems to be in marvelous shape. Fairways are great, tees are great, all the setting of the **PGA** championship for the chalets and everything looks great for the club here and also there's a chance for us to showcase the community here in Edmond and metropolitan Oklahoma City and the whole state.

So I think every one has been looking forward to having this championship over the last year and a half and it's finally come to a culmination this week. And so I hope everybody has a great time from the players standpoint. I know the golf course is very difficult out there,

especially with the wind situation, but hopefully I think it will be an exciting week. I think the fans from the state, I think they have done a great job of selling the championship and we're looking forward to having great fan support from our fellow Oklahomans and throughout the nation coming in to watch the tournament. The golf course today played, I thought it played fairly difficult. It was pretty windy out there, very kind of hard to control your golf ball a little bit, trying to get the ball to come down in the right spot. As you know, Pete Dye golf courses are pretty critical for a player and I think we're going to see that this week somewhat. If the wind stays up and from a standpoint I think it's going to.

KELLY ELBIN: Questions?

Q. I'm sure it's nice to play at home, but do you find that to be a distraction at all?

GIL MORGAN: Sure, I think that's the major consideration that I have is obviously we might have a little bit of local knowledge compared to some of the players, not a lot, because I don't really play day in, day out all the time here. But I come and practice and play a few holes from time to time when I'm off.

Most of time I'm trying to get away from it, but at the same time this week I think obviously we got a lot of friends and relatives that are going to stop by and say hello, that type of situation, see them for dinner and stuff. I got relatives coming in from out of state and a lot of friends coming from different places. So I think that aspect of it makes it a little bit more nerve wracking for our local players, plus the concept that we ought to be doing really well, I think that puts a little more added pressure on us to be competitive and to play well. So in some respects it's a positive and I think that

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then it kind of balances out with some of the other negative aspects.

Q. Are all your body parts working and do you feel you're a threat this week? What do you think the score might be to win?

GIL MORGAN: Tell you the truth, it's kind of hard. I'm sure the championship would like to see no more than 10-under or somewhere in that range, single digits would probably be an ideal situation for them.

I don't know, I have a hard time -- I never played very low here. I never shot very low here, even in playing around. So I think that it's going to be pretty critical in a lot of places, especially with the conditions this week, the heat a little bit and the wind a little bit. So I really can't put a number on it effectively. But I would say if you get in the high single digits you're going to be in pretty good shape.

Q. You lived here since this course opened and you've seen it through good times, bad times, and now good times. With the ownership situation here and the way this course is right now is it in as good a shape and as good a situation as it has ever been or maybe even better?

GIL MORGAN: Well, I think you're right. Obviously after it was first -- I think it was built and opened in '76, but -- and then the **PGA** championship was in '88. It was pretty good then. A little different situation being in the summertime, the greens were a little softer, a little, couldn't have the speeds that we're going to have this week. I think that overall the golf course from a conditioning standpoint is maybe as good as I've ever seen it. The overall condition is good. I think the only negative, if you could put a negative on it is and for us it may be a positive for the players, is the rough is not as consistent throughout the golf course as they would like it. It's really deep in some places and then there's not a whole lot of rough in other places. And that's just the time of year, couldn't do much about that at this point in time. But I think from a player's standpoint that will be a plus, a little bit. There will be a little bit of luck involved with whether you hit in a deep spot or a shallow spot, but at the same time overall I think the golf course is probably as good as I can remember ever seeing. Maybe the best shape it's ever been overall. So I think that's a very positive

thing for the club. I think that they have done a great job in getting -- our superintendent has done an excellent job, worked very diligently to make this kind of a showcase for the club and for the area.

Q. How do you feel about a Major tournament coming back here on your home course?

GIL MORGAN: I think all the players and myself are thrilled to have that opportunity to be part of a hosting of this type of event. It's always an, I think, a kind of feather in your cap to have a Major championship at your home course. Something that doesn't come around very often. Probably be the last time that in my career that I'll have an opportunity to play here in a Major championship. Unless we can get another one here pretty quickly, which you never know what's going to happen, but at the same time, you know. So we have a lot of pride in, I think there's a lot of pride in Oklahoma not only the players but fans and all the people that will be involved with this, that they have really gone over backwards. I listened to some of the marshals and they seem to be really trying to do a great job for the players on the range. They're going and getting your practice balls for you. Most of the time we don't see that too much. A little bit, but, you know, every aspect of the tournament and the volunteers and everybody have seemed to be doing a great job. So it's always nice to, for being a player from Oklahoma, that you can showcase this situation to all of the **Champions Tour** players.

Q. As a younger talent comes on TOUR, how hard is it for guys who are 57, 58, going on up, to win on the TOUR now days?

GIL MORGAN: I think it gets harder every year a little bit. My career in general has been, I did, I won a lot more in the first aspect of joining the **Champions Tour**. And then last year was the first year that I didn't win. And I'm still winless this year. So obviously it gets a little bit harder. I'll turn 60 at the end of the year, so I'm getting kind of at the end of my viable career kind of, I would think. And at the same time we have, the young players just keep coming. **Jay Haas's**, Loren Roberts' they keep coming and keep winning. But that's kind of a normal progression and that's what keeps the **Champions Tour** vibrant and alive, keeps a lot of interest going. The older players, like myself, we

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keep trying to hang on, but sometimes it's inevitable at some point in time that we're going to be down the road.

So it's just -- and that transition, obviously, is a lot faster than the Regular TOUR because of the aging situation at this point in time. Not only age, you got desire and injuries and all sorts of things that create different problems for you to keep your concentration and everything going. So, but I think that having the new players, young players come in a great for our **TOUR**.

Q. Having Southern Hills having its 7th Major, do you think that helps, hinders, has no impact on whether Oak Tree gets a Major and when and if?

GIL MORGAN: That's a hard call. Obviously Southern Hills is one of our great golf courses in the state. And having done multiple Major championships there has given it kind of a leg up on everything else. But at the same time, I think that we ran the, what? Here we run the **PGA** championship in '88 and then the Club Pro, we actually are going to do it again in '94 and we ran into difficulty with ownership and stuff. And then we had the Club Pro Championship and now this, the Senior **PGA**. So I think, I still think Oak Tree is a great enough golf course to either host the **PGA** championship or the U. S. Open. And I can foresee at some point in time that they might have an opportunity to do that.

Q. You talked about how windy it is out there today. If the wind remains the same for the rest of the week, how much does that have an effect on your club selection, how much will the club difference be in that wind?

GIL MORGAN: Well, it's significant out here at times. Like to give you an example, I played, last week I was playing and we had a couple days with no wind and it was, and I think I fell over from a heart attack almost on that day, we didn't have any wind, you know. But on the 18th hole, I hit driver, wedge. Which is actually the ninth hole for the tournament. I hit, from the back tee, I hit driver, wedge on that hole. And today I hit driver, 4-iron. So can you see how much the wind can impact the play here. And I think that it's going to be the most significant factor in driving, increasing the scoring, making the scores go up or whatever you want to call that.

Q. Any particular holes stand out here in terms of having a significant affect come Sunday afternoon?

GIL MORGAN: All of them.

(Laughter.) I don't know. I think that obviously what you're going to impact, what you're going to see the most will be the final holes. And I think 16 is a hole that could make or break somebody's championship. It's a situation where you can make an eagle or might be, you might make a big number there. And then so it would kind of be -- I don't know, I think all the holes on the back nine, starting with 11 make it kind of difficult, but 16, 17, and then 18 will definitely be, could definitely be a deciding factor.

On the front side the fourth hole is obviously a pretty good hole. That could change your round pretty readily. 8 maybe a little bit. And then the ninth hole is, it played really difficult today, I thought, with the wind situation. If the wind stays the same direction and speed, then and there's going to be a lot of holes that play either down wind or up wind. So it's a big concern as far as club selection is concerned. And then there's a few holes that got cross winds to deal with and then that will also come into play.

Q. Talk about family and friends taking up a lot of your time this week. What are the advantages of playing at home, other than local knowledge?

GIL MORGAN: Well, I think that's a big factor there. But at the same time the convenience of being able to sleep in your own bed somewhat, that's always a plus. And you don't have to worry about traffic coming in and out much. We're living here in the development. So that situation makes it -- we don't have to worry about traffic jams or you're going to have a flat tire or what's going to happen if you run out of gas or something, do something stupid, you know. But I think that you don't have to worry about going out and finding a place to eat sometimes. You can have meals at home, if you would like. So other than that, I don't see a whole lot of advantages.

Q. In '88 obviously you were one of the longer players on TOUR. But are you hitting it further now? Is this course going to actually play shorter for you 18 years later because of technology or is it about the same?

GIL MORGAN: I think it definitely plays

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shorter than it did in '88, from that standpoint with the difference in clubs. Kind of give you an example, I averaged probably around, in '88 I was probably averaging about, oh, somewhere around 270 for my driving average. And last year I averaged 291. So that was probably maybe 15 yards difference at that point. And that's a that's at least a club, maybe sometimes two club situation. I think that the fairways are, I don't think they're going to play quite as fast as they normally do here, so it may not be as quite as significant factor there, but even with iron play, you seem to hit the ball a lot further, 10 or 15 yards further today than we did in the mid '70s and mid '80s.

KELLY ELBIN: The golf course will play 87 yards further this year than it did in 1988. Questions.

GIL MORGAN: 87?

KELLY ELBIN: **Gil Morgan** began, thank you very much.

GIL MORGAN: All right. Thank you very much.

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