



May 24, 2007



The Ocean Course ~ Kiawah Island

Table with 21 columns (Hole #, 1-18, Out, Total) and 4 rows (Yardage, Par, Score). Total score is 72.

QUICK QUOTES FROM:

LONNIE NIELSEN
JOH FIEDLER
JAY HAAS
BILL BRITTON
CRAIG STADLER
MARK O'MEARA

LONNIE NIELSEN

Q. How did you find it out there today?

LONNIE NIELSEN: Well, I don't think that there's an inch of my body that's not covered in sand. It was really blowing out there. And you get a little break in the middle of the round and then you have nine holes in a row downwind and then hang on to your hat coming in.

Those last five holes are killer. I played them 1-over and I'm thrilled with playing the last five 1-over. They're really tough.

Q. Do you think it made any difference your tee time you had today?

LONNIE NIELSEN: Well, I understand that it was calmer this morning, but by the time I got out, I'm sure even the early groups played nine holes in the wind. So it all evens out. We'll get it in the morning tomorrow and obviously they will have to play in the afternoon. About you -- obviously it would be better not to play when the wind is blowing like this. But they gave us a break the last few holes there, the last five there coming in. I think they moved us up on four of those five holes

substantially, maybe 30, 40, 50 yards. But it at least gave us a fighting chance to make a par.

Q. And if there's one thing that you learned today that you need for tomorrow?

LONNIE NIELSEN: Patience, I guess. Yeah. You got to have a lot of patience. You're going to get in trouble and you got to take your lumps and get it back or you can make a double or triple or worse here so fast. So you're going to hit some bad shots and then take your lumps and try and make a bogey and move on.

JON FIEDLER

Q. How did you find the conditions out there?

JON FIEDLER: Really rough coming in. You got the first five holes there downwind starting out on No. 1 and then the next seven or eight are downwind. So that kind of helped out a little bit. I kind of played crappy those first five. Played good in between and then bogeyed my last three.

Q. How about tomorrow? Do you prefer to go off early or?

JON FIEDLER: I prefer to go early the first day and then late the second day. But I mean we all got to -- it depends on what happens tomorrow. If it blows late tomorrow, we'll see what happens.

Q. And if there's one thing that you can take into tomorrow from today what would it be?

JON FIEDLER: Hang in there no matter what. Absolutely. I bogeyed the last three holes coming in and I really shouldn't have. I just -- I

don't know, they were hard holes coming in that I kind of put that in the wrong mindset.

So for tomorrow it will be just go hit one shot at a time and see what happens. No matter how it blows.

**Q. Are you confident of making the cut?**

JON FIEDLER: On Kiawah Island you're never confident about anything. But, yeah, I hit the ball pretty good. Hit my driver pretty good today. I made some putts in the middle of the round. And I just maybe ran little out of gas on the back nine, the last three or four holes.

JAY HAAS

**Q. Talk about your round?**

JAY HAAS: I really did some good things today. It was a really tough day, I thought. We were probably at the height of the wind, especially on our back side or playing the back nine, our front nine. I probably played some of my best golf of the year through that stretch. I was a couple under through eight holes. And 14, 15, 16, 17, they're just brutal holes into the wind. And I turned 1-under and then felt pretty good. And not that the front nine is any easier, but the wind seems to be a little or the holes seem to be protected there from the wind on those first few. And then I 3-putted from the fringe at one and hit the wrong club at 2. And then made another bogey. And all of a sudden I'm 1-over par.

And I'm just thrilled with even par. I hit a lot of good shots, did a lot of good things, and happy to get away with that today. Playing in the afternoon.

**Q. (Inaudible.)**

JAY HAAS: I hit a 4-iron. Hit a really good shot, probably 25 feet right of the hole.

**Q. (Inaudible.)**

JAY HAAS: 178 was the yardage.

**Q. (Inaudible.)**

JAY HAAS: I didn't hit a great drive, but then I hit a poor pitch shot and kind of misjudged a little bit. Thought the wind was going to take a little off of it.

2, I hit probably my best drive of the day, the best 7-iron. It landed right next to the hole and just trickled over. And I putted it back to about five or six feet and I missed that. I hit a real nice putt. So basically hit four really good shots and I was still not in the hole yet. So that was frustrating.

And then 2, I felt like I gave one back or gave one away there. I had it 92 yards and was trying to hit a real low burning gap wedge in there and I just didn't keep it low enough. It hit the front of the green and came down and then hit a poor pitch there to about eight feet and missed it.

So that stretch there hurt me. And I felt like I, if I would have played those holes even par, it wouldn't have been that big of an upset with the shots that I hit.

So that was a little frustrating, but then I -- you expect to hit bad shots out there or off line shots. And in this condition, but I held in there pretty good.

**Q. Looked like the wind, 18 it looked like the wind really, I mean right about that time it really kicked up for you guys.**

JAY HAAS: It seems like that if there is a high point here, that seems to be it. Nothing to stop the wind right there. And it did, you're right, probably -- when we turned at 14, back into the wind, from there to the clubhouse, to me, it was about as strong as it was going to get all day.

**Q. What did you do on 9?**

JAY HAAS: Nine 9 I hit a nice drive and pitching wedge to about four feet and made it for birdie. It was a good way to finish and the meal will taste a little bit better.

**Q. How did you like 14 today?**

JAY HAAS: 14 I made a birdie. It was probably the highlight of my year. Highlight of my career basically. I hit a 5-iron to about 12 feet and one of the best shots I hit all day. All year. And played -- it was probably the putt should have broke about two inches and because of the wind I played it about a foot. And it somehow, a gust hit it just right and it went right in the middle. So that was a steal there.

**Q. How about 7. You rolled in, I want to say a six or 8 footer?**

JAY HAAS: It was probably 10 or 12.

**Q. (Inaudible.)**

JAY HAAS: I hit a good drive and -- oh, you mean the par-5. Okay. I was over in the sand dune and then didn't come out like I wanted it to and it was in the rough and then hit a really nice shot, but it kind of jumped a little bit. Hit on the front part of the green, just never stopped, went over the green and pitched that to six inches. So that was a nice save there. A kind of hole that

most guys will be making birdies or -- I'm sure that hole is probably playing under par today without question. That hole and No. 11.

And so to, I was on my way to a 6 there and I was pretty upset about that. But to get away with a 5 there and birdie the last hole kind of even par, I would have certainly taken that before I teed off.

**Q. You've been in this game a long time, was there any different nerves or any other anxiety, given you're the defending champion?**

JAY HAAS: A little bit, but I guess I didn't really have time to think about that a whole lot. I think prior to the round and coming in here for practice rounds and things like that, yeah, I was, I won't say I was uptight about it but I was definitely thinking about wanting to do good for the South Carolina people and for myself. And but once I got into it and started hitting some pretty good shots, then I really didn't give it another thought.

**Q. You had the biggest gallery, I think, of anybody?**

JAY HAAS: I hope so, yeah. And hopefully that will continue. Hopefully that will continue.

**Q. Is putting an under rated, difficult thing to done a course like this?**

JAY HAAS: Well I think to the players it's not. We realize how difficult it is. But I don't think people realize how, when you get a crosswind putt, do you play the wind, do you not play the wind. The first time you don't it breaks a bunch, the next time it doesn't break. And so, yes, putting is probably one of the most difficult things to do. Downwind it's not easy because your pace has got to change all together. Into the wind you just got to slug it. Yeah, so it's, when it's blowing this hard, the ball's kind of quivering a lot of times and even a putt a couple feet, Curtis had one there on that par three where I made a birdie, he hit a beautiful chip shot up about two feet and downwind kind of down cross wind and just kind of hopped left on him and he, man, he ran that by four feet. So.

**Q. Do you sole the putter in conditions like this?**

JAY HAAS: I do. But if these greens were another foot and a half, two feet faster, the ball would be rolling off the greens on every hole just about. Once they settle in there I'm pretty comfortable that it's not going to move. I told -- Curtis tried that on one hole he had about a four

footer and he was just kind of barely keeping it above and I told him on the next tee that his nerves were way better than mine. I would have hit that thing about three or four times doing that. But, yeah, you have to watch it. You can't just walk up and put your putter down, because it, you never know what might happen.

**Q. Who is here?**

JAY HAAS: Hailey was here, Jay Junior, and that's it in my family and then some friends were with me.

**Q. Do you have any trouble, you had a couple or one person that had a penalty a two shot penalty for the ball moving?**

JAY HAAS: No, I was pretty cautious of that. Just because you have seen this before. And you just have to watch it. And we were all pretty aware of that. A couple times the ball kind of oscillated a little bit and but, no, it -- and I could certainly see that. I would think it would happen more than once. It just kind of -- a guy goes up to tap a putt in and doesn't think about it and then it's moving and it's a penalty. But I didn't. I was pretty fortunate.

**Q. (Inaudible.)**

JAY HAAS: I haven't even looked at the leaderboard. The cut I would think would be 7 or 8 over. I don't know what the scores are like, but.

**BILL BRITTON**

**Q. Talk about the round and the weather and how that kind of affected play.**

BILL BRITTON: It's very tough. I played Sunday and Monday and it was breezy, but not near that breezy. And then yesterday it seems like today was tougher than yesterday. And it's just very tough course here. Very tough putting. Very tough hitting. I played really good. I screwed up a few times, but mostly with the putter, but I played really good and it's just a really hard course, hard conditions.

**Q. What can you take from today into tomorrow's round and hopefully the wind will be less in the morning for you.**

BILL BRITTON: Well I think the more -- I don't think anybody's played here a real lot. So I think the more we play it the more familiar we become with it. Especially in the different conditions, where you get to know the course. And to me, like I said, I did a lot of things really good. I

screwed up putting a few times. But all in all I'm very encouraged with the way I played. Not necessarily the score, but the way I played.

## CRAIG STADLER

**Q. How did you think the course played today?**

CRAIG STADLER: It was all right.

**Q. Did the wind or anything seem to affect you a lot?**

CRAIG STADLER: On the back nine, of course it was our second nine. But, yeah, it was there. It wasn't easy.

**Q. How did that start, how did that, did that -- just tell us about the start this on 1 and 2. You had the birdie and the eagle.**

CRAIG STADLER: Well, yeah, I hit it about 15 feet on 107 and then chipped in on 11 and gave it right back with a double on 12. So easy come, easy go.

**Q. And how do you feel about going even for the round and finishing up the day pretty far up the leaderboard?**

CRAIG STADLER: It's all right. I played probably played a couple under. I gave away two or three shots that I shouldn't have. But no complaints. Got done with it.

## MARK O'MEARA.

**Q. (Inaudible.)**

MARK O'MEARA: A little rusty, I haven't played in a month. I could have hit the ball better for sure. But even par is not a bad score. It was gusty out there, but I thought the PGA of America did a pretty good job setting up the golf course today.

**Q. Talk about making your debut here. Was it more exciting, less exciting, was it more --**

MARK O'MEARA: It's not my debut, I played a couple Champions Tour events already.

**Q. I mean in a PGA Senior Championship.**

MARK O'MEARA: Yeah, it's always nice to come in to play in a major championship or a tournament of this importance on a golf course such as Kiawah. But we played here last time in '91 and I have fond memories of that. The golf

course, it really makes you think out there. It's not going to lay up, it's going to be interesting Sunday afternoon. I just hope I play a little better tomorrow afternoon to have a chance on Sunday.

**Q. Is it still the same as 1991?**

MARK O'MEARA: I think it's easier, to be honest with you. The greens don't have as much slope in them. They flattened them out a little bit. Around the greens is not quite as difficult as it used to be. But you can't really take anything for granted on this golf course at Kiawah. You got to play some good shots.

**Q. How did those final four holes stack up compared to '91?**

MARK O'MEARA: Tough. The wind was blowing harder today than it was in '91. But certainly they adjusted for that with the tee position out there. Which was good. But still, 165, 170 yards, you're hitting knock down three irons about 15 feet in the air just trying to keep it out of the wind. And there's not much margin for error on this golf course. So you have to be very precise and your short game has got to be good.

**Q. Is the challenge still fun on or about do you feel like you're really working out there?**

MARK O'MEARA: No, the challenge is still fun. I wasn't happen Pete way I played today. I'm okay with the score I shot, but I should have played better.