



INTERVIEW TRANSCRIPT: BILL GLASSON

Thursday, June 7, 2012

PHIL STAMBAUGH: Billy, bogey free 6-under par 66 to start the 2012 Regions Tradition. Very nice round. You and Fulton Allem were the first group out and got around quickly. A couple of thoughts about the round. Looks like you hit every fairway but two, and only 24 putts, so good round, right?

BILL GLASSON: Both of those things, especially the putting part. My driving's been pretty good this year so far. I'm on my -- how many tournaments have we played this year?

PHIL STAMBAUGH: 11.

BILL GLASSON: Nine tournaments, probably? I had a long putter last week, I went back to the short putter this week. Used the short putter in Michigan. Because the greens were so big, I didn't think I would have a chance with the long putter. I could see myself all (inaudible) the way around that golf course, but throw the short putter in this week, see what happens.

Twenty-four putts is good. I think I missed four greens maybe, including a couple fringes, so my ball striking overall is pretty good, my distance control is good. The greens were very receptive, as you can imagine, at 7:40. And I noticed you weren't all there, thank you very much, but it was nice. First out, Fulton Allem's the fastest player in the world by far, and so it was nice. Unfortunately, we're not going to be able to do that tomorrow. We're going to be in the middle of the pack in a twosome, so it's different. You don't really think of things like that, but we went from a three-hour round to four-plus, four-and-a-half hour round tomorrow. That's a lot more time for old guys to be out there. A lot of (inaudible) can kind of sneak up on you at four and a half at 7:30.

PHIL STAMBAUGH: Can you give us details on your six birdies and any good saves you may have had along the way?

BILL GLASSON: First off, I was first off of the tournament, I was the first player on the first tee, which is kind of cool. So I actually hit the first fairway for the first time in my life and just that in itself. I had an easy par on 1, driver-wedge, you know. That's big. When I played last year, I played terribly, didn't like it, didn't look right to me, nothing. So it's just getting off the tee and playing that first hole.

I hit a good drive on 2, hit a wedge in there 10 feet and made that for my first birdie.

Then 4, which is arguably the hardest hole out here -- one of the three hardest holes, I think, at least distance-wise -- I hit a good drive and a 6-iron to the back right pin, which I didn't expect to see that until later in the week. Hit it in there probably six or seven feet, great shot, and made that putt.

So getting past 4 -- I missed No. 5 green. On No. 5, instead of being right-to-left pin on 5, the par 3, which last year they used the left a little bit more, so I really didn't expect that also. Hit a decent shot and the wind switched from right-to-left to left-to-right and I hit on the right fringe and made a good solid up-and-down, which again doesn't sound like much, but my round -- my short game has been not good.

Anyway, and I made solid pars in, hit all the greens, missed a relatively short birdie putt on 8, probably 12 feet or so. And 9, they had the tees up on 9. I assume maybe there might be some wind this afternoon or something, but I was kind of surprised at 9. 9 was up today, which made that a much easier hole, 30 yards shorter, 460 from the back or whatever, but I'm sure it will be back for the rest of the week.

10, I drove it in the left first cut of the rough and hit a decent shot about 20 feet past the hole and made that, which was the longest putt I made.

PHIL STAMBAUGH: What did you hit there?

BILL GLASSON: 9-iron on 10. Then hit a poor -- laid up on 11, it was into the wind. That's a risky hole anyway to hit at. I've never, during the tournament, hit at it. I did in the practice round just to see if I can, but during the tournament it's a three-shot hole for me. I just can't get it out there far enough. It's a fade tee shot and that's not -- my long ball's not a fade, so I ended up laying up there and made par there.

Then 12 again, you know, the second of the par -- third, I guess; 4, 9 and 12 are the longest holes. Hit a good drive on 12, hit 7-iron. Never hit a 7-iron in there before. Made a nice 20-footer there from right of the hole, which was kind of a surprise. All these things are kind of unexpected. 12, I don't think I've ever parred it, let alone made a birdie, so I was just kind of cruising around.

We had the wind switch on 13. It was playing 195 I believe today, around that area, 188 to cover the bunker, and at the time we were a little bit -- it was slightly down left-to-right, so we had 6-iron to try to just cover the bunker and there was a little wind switch and it ended up in the front in the bunker and I made a great up-and-down from the bunker. Not that it was that hard of a bunker shot, but any up-and-down is great for me nowadays. I've been messing around with how much bounce on my 60-degree or my lob wedge is my bunker and I just can't seem to get the right amount for the ball to come out the way I want. Anyway, that was one of those momentum savers at that point.

Drove it good on 14, missed about a 12-footer. 15, drove it well. 16, just hit it right of the pin. I played short of 16 because the pin's back where, if you hit it pin high and just

a little bit right, it goes off in that area you can't play from. And they added another layer of rough there, I don't know if you've seen it, but it made it kind of interesting where you can't run the ball up from right of 16, so they put about a two-foot wide thick rough, and then it's shaved on the bottom and then rough on the back side, so if you get in there you have to lob it because you can't play it through the rough. It's imperative this year that you play short of the pin, you know. And the wind, it swirls down in there and it ends up being left-to-right a little bit. It was 202 today, that's minus -- it's like 211 and it's about eight yards down or nine yards down. So I hit a 5-iron to play short and hit it on the fringe right of the hole about 30 feet. So, you know, it's a play all week for me is just try to hit the middle of that green. I made bogey there, I think, most of the time last year. Get the feeling I made a lot of bogeys last year? Yeah, I did.

But you know, it's good to have a year -- let me finish the round then. 17 was one of those holes again that sets up for fade and that's not my length shot, but I hit a pretty good hard fade down there and I had 247 to the hole, actually 249 to -- I think 232 to cover the front and get over the water, so I actually hit a 3-wood. I thought if I could hit it over the green with the pin way left, if I could hit it toward the grandstand, I would have plenty of green to play. Hit it up there next to the grandstand on the right and was able to chip across the green and made a five-footer for birdie.

Then on 18 I hit my best drive of the day and only had 128 yards in on 18. That's usually my third shot. I hit it three or four feet and made that.

So finishing birdie-birdie was nice. My par 5 play this year is really terrible. That was the only par 5 I birdied today was 17, so it was nice to get a par 5. So I had a lot of little victories, if you can call it that. I made a couple decent up-and-downs, got a bunker shot up and down, birdied the par 5, going to have to do better on those. So overall -- and I'm done, so that's the best part.

PHIL STAMBAUGH: Questions? John, start us.

Q. We always ask about scoreboard watching when you're on the round come Sunday, on the course come Sunday, but it's 11:00 in the morning and you have really -- you know you're going to be in a decent spot, but you don't really know where you're going to be. Do you pay attention or do you relax and forget about it?

BILL GLASSON: Well, my philosophy is I need all these birdies to make up for the impending bogeys I'm going to make. So it doesn't do any good for me to watch. I just need to make as many birdies as I can. This course will get you, there's no doubt about it. It's about one of the best courses in the country. It's still wet because of the rain. The scores are going to be low today if the wind doesn't blow, so I won't be the only 66. I would be shocked if there weren't lower scores. This is so receptive still. It's still playing wet, the greens are holding, they're rolling, you know. It's just there to score, and it will dry out and get faster and get all those nasty things that everybody likes to watch, but right now it's just not quite there. And the fairways are soft enough where the

balls aren't going to go through the fairway or off the fairway, and they're just -- but also they're not picking up mud, so they're kind of right in between. I didn't have one mud ball today, which I'm always afraid of the mud ball. Last week I had mud on every tee shot, I think. That's my biggest fear, is getting mud balls, especially at 7:40 in the morning. I thought it would have dried out a bit, but it's just at the perfect scoring stage of a golf course where it's dry enough and not mudded up, but it's soft enough where everything's right there for you.

Q. Just to update my scorecard, as of 2010, the last score I saw, you had 25 surgeries?

BILL GLASSON: I haven't had any since then. I'm holding.

Q. In listening to you describe your round, you sounded surprised a lot of times when you would describe things. Was this round kind of unexpected for you?

BILL GLASSON: Well, after last week, yes. It was a miserable experience. I played fairly well in Michigan, which was the Senior PGA two weeks ago, and hit decent shots and actually played fairly well tee to green, enough to get me some confidence. I was kind of going in the right direction.

Then I got to Des Moines last week. I don't know if it was from the course and the walking, it was a hard walking course for me, and I just never got loose, tightened up. I mean, I couldn't hit it on the clubface last week. It was really sad in a way, but it was pretty humorous, too. So yeah, I've been working on it, and last week -- or early this week we played Tuesday and I sent some pictures to my teacher and he says, well, it looks all right, it looks all right. I said, well, why am I shanking it?

Anyway, I think I just feel a little bit better this week is the bottom line what I'm rattling on about. I think my swing is all right. I feel better this week typically. We're all hurt out here, face it; some not as much as others but everybody's hurt. Also, that being said, you know, I think our scores indicate -- are a big indicator of how we feel because everybody plays well, it's just who doesn't hurt quite as much that week. Same thing on the regular Tour, people are hurt, so it's -- and a lot more so out here. My scores are an indicator of how I feel more than how I'm playing.

Q. So, Bill, when was the last surgery you had and what was it?

BILL GLASSON: I started out here in May of 2010, I believe.

PHIL STAMBAUGH: I think in Birmingham was the first event, right?

BILL GLASSON: Right, at the other golf course was my first tournament. I had three to get ready to come out here. I think they started in '08. I had a neck fusion, a back fusion, and at the end of '08, which -- actually, end of '09 I had a surgery that was kind of unexpected that they had to go back into my back and take out the rods they stuck in

there and the hardware basically, which set me back about six months. So that was, I want to say, middle or late '09. That set me back. Based on the timing of everything, I should have been good when I started here two years ago, but I wasn't because it took me another four months to recover from that last one.

Q. You sound fairly philosophical about having been through so much, and everyone hurts, but I mean, it's extraordinary what you've been through in your career. Do you look back with regret and wonder what might have been if you had been able to stay not even totally healthy but just healthier?

BILL GLASSON: You know, I don't. I mean, there's no point in it, for one, but every time -- it actually -- sometimes it can help, believe it or not. I'm a person that gets bored very easily, so if I felt good all the time, I would have been so bored I would have probably quit. But being hurt and having limitations, it was always a challenge to come back from a surgery. It was almost self-motivating to a point where a person like me needs that. Like I said, I get so bored that I would have changed my swing just to do it, just because I was bored.

At each point, even though I got to a place where I was almost to the next level, whatever that means, and then I would get hurt or have a surgery, then I would climb back up because I was motivated to do it and challenged to do it. Then I might have another surgery or something. So every time it was -- so I challenged myself to try to use what I had left to play at a decent level again.

And the interesting thing is I always had to develop a swing around what worked. What body part was dysfunctional, I had to leave that out and do other things. I think that was to me the biggest accomplishment of the whole thing, the whole 20-whatever years, was every time I came back, it was a totally new swing based on what I could do. So that in itself was kind of fun and I never got bored that way, that's for sure.

Q. Are you pain free this year?

BILL GLASSON: Oh, no. Are you kidding? What's that? No, I'm better than I've been, but I still have to take that Percocet every day when I play, my Advil and everything else. I'm trying to cut back, but I'm just not there and I don't know what the answer is. It just continues to be lingering. Like I said, we're all hurt out here, we just try to get through.

PHIL STAMBAUGH: Bill, continued good luck this week. Oh, wait, one more.

Q. Bill, am I correct you live in Stillwater?

BILL GLASSON: Yes.

Q. Are you an Oklahoma State fan?

BILL GLASSON: By default, yes. My son goes there.

Q. Did you try to chase down Coach Saban yesterday to tell him why the Cowboys should have been in the championship game last year rather than --

BILL GLASSON: I didn't, first, to answer your question. I heard he went racing down with a motorcycle escort anyway, so I couldn't have caught him. You know, the Cowboys had their chance, they lost to Iowa State. There was circumstances that I think needed to -- what should have been kind of considered with (inaudible) but I'm just glad (inaudible) he was at Oklahoma State for a while, too.

Q. I understand why you said that.

BILL GLASSON: He bailed on Oklahoma State and it was the most enjoyment I had out of that game, was watching him just kind of fold his arms and not be able to make any adjustments, kind of like, what do I do now, what do I do now, it's not working, I'll do the same thing, it didn't work. Anyway, it was a good game. I don't know how we would have done. I think we could beat LSU. I don't think we could beat Alabama.

PHIL STAMBAUGH: Thanks, Bill.

BILL GLASSON: They would have had to play LSU, right, so it wouldn't have been what I would have liked to see. I think the great game would have been Bama and Oklahoma State, I think.

Q. (Inaudible.)

BILL GLASSON: I don't know. My daughter played on his wife's softball team, so I have to be nice.

