

**TODD HAMILTON:** (in progress) played for a long time, I figured I would see some people I hadn't seen for a while, which I have. I'm surprised the golf course is in fantastic condition and I think that's a credit to the staff here at the club. I know all the players have been talking about how good the course is condition wise. And the Japanese people are very good hosts and I think we've been treated to a very good week, a week that's coming to an end here in one day but I think we've all had a great time here so far. This course will be our best conditioned course this year.

**Q. Yesterday you didn't play that good compared to today.**

**TODD HAMILTON:** What happened? You know, actually yesterday I felt my shots were better but my putting wasn't that great. My shots weren't very close to the hole yesterday but it seemed like I hit in the center of the club most of the shots. They were good, solid shots. Today I hit good shots but they weren't a good, solid shot. They were good direction but maybe the distance was a little bit off. I think I made a birdie putt on No. 12 and then from then on something changed and I played very well from No. 12 on. I think I made three birdies in a row. Yeah, three birdies in a row. Then I birdied the last two holes, so it's always nice to finish with a birdie.

I think the greens for us are very, very big and I think when you put the pin to the side of the green, it makes the green even seem bigger. So for me it feels like it's difficult to hit your iron shot close with a 6, 5, 4, 7-iron, something like that, because you just see the pin on the corner of the green and you have all this area here. Well, nobody wants to miss the green so they hit out to the right or to the left if the pin's on the other side, but then you have very long putts and it's hard to make long putts. I think it's difficult to get the ball close to the hole when they put the pins on the sides because the greens seem very, very big.

I think the greens are so big you could hit every green in regulation and shoot over par if you didn't putt very good just because you're leaving long putts all the time. But usually if a player hits every green he will probably shoot 3, 4 under par at least. But here I think if you didn't putt well even though you hit every green, you could shoot over par, which you might have to throw your putter in the pond after that.

**Q. You said you wanted to throw your club in the pond, did you say?**

**TODD HAMILTON:** You could. If you, the player, hit every green, par on and you shot over par, you would be very angry. But with a smaller green half the size, if you hit every green, your putts would be shorter so you probably would shoot better. But here you could hit every green and be a long ways away, maybe two three-putts, one three-putt, you could be over par.

**Q. Todd, you had your best finish of your year last week. Have you found something?**

**TODD HAMILTON:** Yeah, I started hitting the ball a little bit better last week. Maybe not great direction-wise all the time, but I started hitting it out of the middle of the club which is always a plus. When you do that, the distance you hit your irons is very consistent and the trajectory you hit the irons is very consistent and that lends to good scoring. If you know your 6-iron, you're used to it going 185 yards and you're hitting it solid and it goes 185, 187, 183, as long as it's somewhere in line with the pin, you're probably going to score well. But if you don't hit it solidly and you're used to hitting it 185, maybe you mis-hit, it goes 170 or you hit it 175 and usually when you mis-hit they go offline, too. Just the fact that you're hitting the ball solidly, usually it's going to go pretty straight and therefore you're going to play better golf. It's always nice to putt well, though, too, and today I did that.

**Q. You have been playing in Japan like for a couple years?**

**TODD HAMILTON:** 12 years.

**Q. And you say the Japanese people remember you and we're so happy you're coming back here. So any Japanese fans give any message during your round?**

**TODD HAMILTON:** No, I haven't heard from anybody. Like I said earlier, I was hoping to see some people that I knew and I have seen a few. Because I knew this place was not near the city, I wasn't sure how many gallery would come to watch, but today seemed like they had pretty good crowds. Hopefully tomorrow, the same.

Like I said earlier, I know all the players were very excited to come over. I know some had never been to Japan before. A lot of us have traveled around the world but some had not been to Japan and they were excited for themselves and their family members that came.

Is there a Japan men's or ladies tournament this week, regular tour?

**Q. Yes.**

**TODD HAMILTON:** The men are playing?

**Q. The men. It's a new one, it's a match play.**

**TODD HAMILTON:** Match play down here? They used to have a match play in Hokkaido.

**Q. And it ended in 2003 or 2004.**

**TODD HAMILTON:** 30 minutes only from here, really? How about the girls, are they playing?

**Q. They're playing in Iwate.**

**TODD HAMILTON:** Is that north?

**Q. Yes. It's a major tournament.**

**TODD HAMILTON:** For the ladies?

**Q. Yeah.**