

2nd ROUND INTERVIEW TRANSCRIPT: COLIN MONTGOMERIE
Saturday, May 3, 2014



PHIL STAMBAUGH: Colin, you had 66 today.

COLIN MONTGOMERIE: I did.

PHIL STAMBAUGH: Five better than yesterday and you're right in the thick of it.

COLIN MONTGOMERIE: I did. I putted better today. I didn't putt well yesterday at all. I hit the ball super through the green and I didn't get the rewards yesterday. Today I did, you know, having five single putts in the first six holes which got me to 3-under and I dropped a shot at 7, unfortunately and then played around -- the round really got going at 13 when I hit a driver, 4-iron onto the green and holed it from like 40-foot and that's when the round really got going. Then I managed to birdie the par 3 afterwards, 7-iron to 10-foot, and then birdie the par 5 after that. Then unfortunate 17, I got myself in a mess really, the second shot was poor but very difficult pin at 17. I made a bogey there. Then a good birdie at the last, driver, 8-iron to like six foot at the last and that was super to finish off. To try my best to beat my good friend, you know. I've been trying all bloody year to do it and I've not done it yet. Not many people have, to be honest. But he's playing some superb golf and it's nice to have an opportunity anyway tomorrow to give it another go and see if I can get a win out here. I would love to try to get a win on this Champions Tour somewhere, sometime.

PHIL STAMBAUGH: Did you have any shot at eagle at 15?

COLIN MONTGOMERIE: I didn't, no. No, I had to lay up. I missed the fairway on the right and it was into the wind, I couldn't reach, so I had to lay up to 90 yards, managed to get up and down from there.

Q. I've been waiting for years to ask you this story. I covered a number of Opens back in the '90s, and of course at the Open those kind of questions get shouted down. Can you just, for Houston people, tell us in some detail what brought you to HBU and what your memories are of those years?

COLIN MONTGOMERIE: Yeah. I was in the Scottish under 21 team, the youth team they called it, and managed to -- it's not one of these things -- it's not what you know to get into university in those days, it's who you know. I managed to know, believe it or not it was the priest of all things. It was a priest to the NASA astronauts that used to come over from Houston to train with our RAF as well and our pilots, so he knew of HBU. So it was a friend of a friend of a friend that got me there in the first place and I had a great time, I really did. I had four great years there. I managed to graduate in '87. I came in '84 and I had a great time. It was a great learning experience, not just in the classroom but in life. It was the first time I had to budget and the first time I was

actually in debt and all sorts of things that go on as a student, but it was a great time. Everyone that said to me in the past said if there was an opportunity to go to an American university set up, take it because it really is a superb way of life and a start to life. It taught me how to win. One, to try and qualify for the team, and then trying to be No. 1 on the team and trying to win college tournaments against good guys. I was playing against Davis Love and Billy Mayfair, Scott Verplank. These guys are my age, good, good players. And Brian Watson, fantastic. So they were better than I was and I had to learn how to improve, and the only way of doing that was learning and practicing and playing hard. So I came back from university ready to go. So I turned pro about three months after I came home.

Q. You played four full seasons?

COLIN MONTGOMERIE: I did indeed, yeah.

Q. Who was the coach in those days?

COLIN MONTGOMERIE: Dave Mannen was the coach, M-A-N-N-E-N. Dave Mannen in was the coach all four years. We did okay. We finished 4th in the NAAs one year. Very small school, as you know, HBU is as compared to the bigger U of H's and Texas A&Ms that we were competing against.

Q. You know, rumor went around for years that you went to HBU thinking it was the University of Houston. (Laughter.) I assume that was not true?

COLIN MONTGOMERIE: No, I understood, yeah.

Q. Did you not come with a full scholarship?

COLIN MONTGOMERIE: I didn't. I was a walk-on the first year. I was a walk-on the first year but the last three years I had a scholarship. The first year I was a so-called walk-on, yeah.

Q. Is it true that the first round you played, I think I read you shot a 71 and you made the traveling team based on that round?

COLIN MONTGOMERIE: I did indeed.

Q. Is that correct?

COLIN MONTGOMERIE: I did indeed. Yeah, you're very -- you read up, well done.

PHIL STAMBAUGH: He's been here a while.

Q. It's an amazing chapter in your career. The people in Houston really don't

understand it.

COLIN MONTGOMERIE: Well, most people think you're British and you play for the European Ryder Cup team and stuff. People tend to forget that I really enjoyed four years in America very much. Every time I come back here and come to Houston, I now am coached sometimes by Paul Marchand down at Shadow Hawk, who also looks after Freddie Couples and so I come into Houston quite a bit. Every time I come in, I go down to HBU and walk around the campus and see what's what.

Q. They have a good football team now?

COLIN MONTGOMERIE: Yeah, they have, it's amazing. They've grown, I know.

Q. There's a story also about you had an old wreck of car but you had a custom plate that had "Monty" on the license plate. Is this true?

COLIN MONTGOMERIE: I did. I had a wreck of a car, you're dead right. It was \$1,500. It was a complete wreck. It was a Mazda GLC, an old thing, an ancient thing, but I found that I could get a registration number plate for \$10 here in Texas and got "Monty" on the registration plate. You can't do that at home. We can't do that in Britain. It's more regimented. Over in Texas I could get "Monty," so I did. I bought it for \$10.

Q. You bought the car in Houston?

COLIN MONTGOMERIE: I did indeed, yeah.

Q. Of course you were driving on the other side of the road for the first time. I'm sure that was also an adventure there.

COLIN MONTGOMERIE: That was always an adventure, of course. America's not difficult to drive on, especially if you know -- as long as you know never to be next to the curb. If you're next to the curb, you're on the wrong side of the road, right, whatever country you're in. So whenever I find myself next to the curb, I know I'm making a mistake. It's not him, it's me that's wrong.

Q. You couldn't find a place very much different than Scotland. Did you enjoy being in Houston?

COLIN MONTGOMERIE: I did indeed, I enjoyed the whole thing. We used to go to the Houston Rockets games, which was in Summit, which is now a church. I believe it's now Lakeland Church. So I took my family this time and we went down for the Rockets, for the fifth game, we went down to the Toyota Center. We watched them win the other night, which was a great atmosphere. We've been to the Astros game as well. We went down to Minute Maid Park.

Q. This week?

COLIN MONTGOMERIE: This week, yeah. We went on Sunday to Minute Maid Park and Wednesday to the Astros game. Great. So it's nice to see what goes on in the town as well. And we've eaten well. Of course, I always eat well, so we've done that well. We're home tomorrow, we're home tomorrow night. My wife and daughters are here, so we're here tomorrow and we fly home tomorrow evening. So let's hope if I can score 66 again we have a chance, we have a chance.

Q. You never played the Houston Open?

COLIN MONTGOMERIE: I did.

Q. One exception?

COLIN MONTGOMERIE: I played the Shell Houston Open here.

Q. The last year?

COLIN MONTGOMERIE: Yes, it was, the last year it was here, before it moved to Redstone.

Q. But of course you cast your lot with the European Tour, so it didn't really fit your schedule?

COLIN MONTGOMERIE: It didn't really fit in. No, it didn't fit in, unfortunately. I used to take this week off. This was the week before the Masters sometimes. I used to take the week off. After having played Bay Hill TPC as it was in those days, then the week off and then the Masters so that was my month. Unfortunately, Houston was just too much to fit in. I have played here. I remember it briefly. God, it was a few years ago now.

Q. 2002.

COLIN MONTGOMERIE: 2002, so you're talking 12 years ago.

Q. You can't say you drew on anything you remembered today?

COLIN MONTGOMERIE: Not at all. I wish I could. Not at all. I remember it being a very tough and a very good golf course and it stood the test of time, this golf course. This is one of the best courses we played.

Q. Now that you're on this Tour and since you seem to enjoy Houston, we can probably count on you being a regular for a while?

COLIN MONTGOMERIE: I will be here for as long as this tournament is here and as long as I'm healthy enough to compete. This is a super place. Being an Insperity ambassador myself, I think they run a great, great show with the pro-ams and the two dinners that we've had, Huey Lewis entertaining us royally. When you saw that stage of the night with those six legends of the game on stage, that doesn't happen very often, I can tell you. That doesn't happen often at all. So Insperity has done a fantastic job here and this is more like a PGA TOUR event really out there today. I mean, the way that the stands are all done, the way everything's set up, this is very PGA TOUR event, never mind Champions Tour.

Q. Can you get us up to speed on the wallet? When did you discover that it was missing?

COLIN MONTGOMERIE: Yeah, too late. Did I find it was in her purse, yeah, yeah. It was a very -- I would rather lose it. It would have been cheaper to lose it.

Q. Did you discover -- it was about --

COLIN MONTGOMERIE: I discovered it late that night, late that night. I'm going, wait a minute, did I give it -- because I sometimes give it to her because it's bulky in pockets and all sorts of stuff. It would have been cheaper to lose it.