

## WALMART FIRST TEE OPEN AT PEBBLE BEACH

### Notes & Quotes From Teleconference With Defending Champion Jeff Sluman

Aug. 6, 2009

#### Tournament Notes:

- Sept. 1 is the 5<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of The First Tee of Monterey County chapter
- There are now 3,200 active participants in the program
- The Walmart First Tee Open at Pebble Beach is the primary fundraiser for the chapter
- It costs \$2.5 million a year to maintain the level of programs the chapter has been able to establish
- Playing in the amateur field, Bill Murray has had the winning touch at The First Tee Open. In 2006 he played with eventual champion Scott Simpson; in 2008 he played with Jeff Sluman.

#### Quick Bio

- Jeffrey George Sluman
- Birthdate: Sept. 11, 1957 in Rochester, NY
- Residence: Hinsdale, Ill.
- Family: wife Linda, daughter Kathryn (4/22/98)
- College: Florida State University
  
- Joined PGA TOUR: 1982
- PGA TOUR wins: 6
- Career PGA TOUR earnings (as of 8/6/09): \$18,165,266
- Winner of 1988 PGA Championship
- Joined Champions Tour: 2007
- Champions Tour wins: 2
- Career Champions Tour earnings (as of 8/6/09): \$2,475,920
  
- Moved to the Chicago area in 1992, becoming big fan of the Cubs, Bulls and Bears
- Played with former Cubs first baseman Mark Grace in the AT&T Pro-Am numerous times (normally in the same foursome as Simpson & Murray)
- Serious wine collector, with more than 2,000 bottles (dating back to 1957)
- Complete stats and bio information at [www.pgatour.com](http://www.pgatour.com)

#### JEFF SLUMAN QUOTES

##### (On Pebble Beach):

"My love affair with Monterey and Pebble Beach really started in 1982, when I was second in both events (Crosby Pro-Am and U.S. Open). Later on in my career, I always thought I would never have a chance to win at Pebble Beach. But, low and behold, I got out there last year and was fortunate enough to win. For me, it was a dream come true ... walking down 18 ... with a large enough lead that Mr. Murray could heckle me."

##### (On Bill Murray):

"He truly loves the Monterey Peninsula and the format of The First Tee Open. He called me right after he played the first time to tell me how much fun it was, how great the kids were. He loves it."

"It's great fun playing with Bill. He is truly a unique individual. He is so funny, and will say something different on every hole. But you have to understand, he really wants us (pros) to play well and compete and win. Everyone asks about Bill and the distractions, they he is so crazy. But it's not him. It's the people in the crowd who are yelling at him. It is so much fun."

"I think it shows when you are having fun, you can still play well. Golf is our job, but everyone else is supposed to have fun at it. And when you combine both, you can do better than you think."

**(On Tom Watson's runner-up finish at this year's British Open):**

"There are so many guys who can play on the Champions Tour; it's an amazing thing to watch when you first come out here. My game was not very good and I knew I had to up my level of play to be competitive. The older players took pleasure in seeing the younger guys struggle a little bit."

**(On competing at the Champions Tour level):**

"It's a different game. My game got better after turning 40. I got most of my wins when I was 40 and older. I felt comfortable with what I was doing. Physically, I could do about everything that I could do when I was 25, and experience overrode any physical limitations. There are one or two types of shots I can not play as well as I could when I was a young man. Golf is a game of experience. Tom's experience showed at the British Open."

"Some of the (Champions Tour) guys can probably still play OK at the Masters. At the U.S. Open next year at Pebble, if conditions are hard and fast, the (older) guys could do very, very well. I would not be surprised. Look at Fred Funk winning last week at the Senior Open, on a very penal Pete Dye golf course (Crooked Stick in Carmel, Ind.), with firm fairways. I think there can be some surprises under those types of conditions."

"In Milwaukee three weeks ago, I went into the round Sunday in the hunt (finished T18). Just because we are on the Champions Tour, doesn't mean we can't play. People are starting to realize that. I sense that every week when we go to a new city. People are amazed that the guys can still hit the ball. Working the golf ball and strategy, that is the equalizer."

**(On playing with the juniors in The First Tee Open):**

"At first, they are intimidated, afraid to show their personality. You have to work on them to open up. I have been around long enough that I can talk to kids. You talk about a lot of things; the type of music they like, things like that. And you try to set an example for them. It's a pleasure to play with them."

**(On the PGA Championship being golf's "overshadowed" major):**

"That has always been the pink elephant in the room. I don't know what they can do about that. It's the fourth major, they play wonderful venues, and it has a great history. But you have the baseball pennant races, college football starting and pro football. The attention on golf is certainly diminished, with everything else that goes on that time of the year. But it certainly gets the strongest field in any major in the world. The best thing would be for Tiger to win the first three (majors), and everyone would notice it."

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