



Thompson: Dan Forsman backs up his great round with a Regions Charity Classic victory

By Ian Thompson -- The Birmingham News

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Regions Charity Classic champion Dan Forsman plops his visor atop his sparkling trophy on Sunday afternoon in Hoover at the Robert Trent Jones Golf Trail at Ross Bridge. (The Birmingham News / Tamika Moore)

There's a saying in golf that it's next to impossible to follow up a really low round with another really low round.

Dan Forsman was the exception. Following his Regions Charity Classic course record 62 on Saturday, he came back on Sunday with a 66 to close out a three-shot win.

Speaking after the second round, Forsman said: "10-under's great, but only if you back it up."

I'd say he backed it up.

The only two times he had ever shot 62 before, he didn't fare too well the next round.

In the 1988 Bob Hope Classic he went 62-75. In the 2003 Las Vegas Invitational he shot 62-69. His best ever sequence of back-to-back rounds was 64-63--127 to open the 2003 Valero Texas Open.

A common thread in all three events was that he didn't win any of them.

No such fade this week as he kept the pedal to the metal and went low, but he could have been a lot lower. He was 8-under through 11 holes before somewhat wobbling home in 2-over par for the final seven holes. But no matter, he's the 19th Regions champion.

The lowest back-to-back rounds in relation to par on the Champions Tour belong to **Gil Morgan**, who shot 63-62--125 at the 2006 Mastercard Championship at Hualalai, which was 19-under. The lowest actual total was **Bruce Fleisher's** 124 (60-64) in

the 2002 RJR Championship, which equated to 16-under on the par 70 course.

Forsman was 16-under par for the weekend, but he could have been headed for the rarefied air of 20-under before bogeys on Nos. 13 and 14 and a three-putt par on 16 derailed him in his final round.

He had previously owned the par fives (13 and 16), but a poor tee shot put him in trouble on 13 and he had to get up-and-down from a greenside bunker just to salvage a six.

He three-putted the next hole for bogey and his five-shot lead was down to three and he was starting to waver. However, four pars to finish was good enough to secure his second Champions Tour win.

"I think sometimes that we put limitations on ourselves," Forsman said when asked why it was so hard to follow up a low round with another low one. "When you are putting well, that myth should go out the window. We can do better than we think we can do."

He noted that after he blitzed the front nine in 30 that he wanted to keep it going on the back nine, but when a rain shower broke his concentration it suddenly became much more difficult mentally and physically.

"This is a great win for me as I wanted to shoot a low round, particularly after my 62. I didn't want to shoot even and get lost in the top 10. Twenty-under is a significant number too."

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