

**Samsung World Championship
Half Moon Bay Golf Links
Half Moon Bay, CA**

October 1, 2008

Pre-round quotes

AN INTERVIEW WITH ANNIKA SORENSTAM

MIKE SCANLAN: Welcome to Samsung, where you are the winningest player ever at this event in what will be your final Samsung. If you would just give us some thoughts on being here at Half Moon Bay and playing your last event here.

ANNIKA SORENSTAM: Sure, I'm happy to be here. As you said, it's been a great tournament for me throughout the years. I've done really, really well. You know, I haven't played here at Half Moon Bay, so it feels like a new tournament, because it's a new venue. I don't know if I can describe this place in the right words, but it's incredible. It's so beautiful here.

To be honest, I've never heard of Half Moon Bay before, and driving up here and seeing the ocean, and just the location, today was the second time I saw the golf course. It's beautiful. It's a great golf course as well.

You know, you have to drive it well. Some really tricky areas around the greens. So it's a really true golf course. I think it's fantastic that the LPGA is here and having a chance to stage the 20 best players in the world in a venue like this. So I'm really looking forward to the week.

Q. Annika, on your retirement, as much love as you have for Half Moon Bay and the golf course, would you think about buying property here and playing here?

ANNIKA SORENSTAM: I mean I hope to come back. It won't be through this tournament, but it's just an incredible place. I love the hotel. It's just really a nice resort, and good food, nice spa. So I can come here and not bring my golf clubs. Maybe then I can

really enjoy it's because I'm still in my tournament mode, and I am still working. I'm focusing on what I have to do. I'm sure I am missing a few pieces, so if I comeback I will get the rest.

Q. Annika, we're going to miss you?

ANNIKA SORENSTAM: Thank you.

Q. I happened to play with the architect here when the course opened, Arthur Hills, and he was a Donald Ross fanatic, so the greens, he said, wanted to be a lot like Donald Ross.

Do you see any similarities, quirks like that?

ANNIKA SORENSTAM: I see some, not maybe too much. But I mean, I would say that the greens is what makes the golf course.

Obviously, the view, when you play, you focus more on the ocean than maybe on the course, but it's really the greens that make the course.

You can hit good drives and good approach shots, if you are not on the right side of the green, or if you are long, if it's short, or vice versa, it makes it tricky.

So with this type of grass -- I don't know if you have had a chance to go out there, it's really thick in some areas, and it makes the chipping a little tougher and also what you feel. It's tough to control all of the grass. I don't know what he was thinking about that when he planed it, but it's really turned out nice.

Q. You mentioned you are still in tournament mode. When do you expect some nostalgia to kick in the next couple of months?

ANNIKA SORENSTAM: Well, I try not to think about it. I am still so competitive. This is what I have done for over 20 years. I don't want to give my age away too much. I've done this for a very long time. It's just something that's in me.

And I think it will be in me whether I'm playing or not the next few years. I know what it's like to stand on the tee, and I expect myself to hit a good drives, and approach shots need to be close to the pin. I don't know if that will ever leave me.

But when it comes to playing in this tournament, and starting to summarize my career and thinking, you know, this is the last time here, and there is two more tournaments, or this is my last on the LPGA, I know it's coming, and I will miss a lot of this. There is no doubt.

But I think, the great things is, you know, I can comeback if I feel like I'm missing everybody out here. If I'm missing the competition. So, therefore, I don't think that I'm going to be that nostalgic because within me I know it's still there.

Q. You have been very careful not to use the R word. Like you said, leave open that door for the future. In the back of your mind, do you see yourself four or five years from now coming back?

ANNIKA SORENSTAM: To be honest, I really don't know. I am pleased with my decision. I know it's the right decision. I have, you know, so many other priorities in my life, the timing is right.

My mind is set on this decision, and I am moving forward. I have so many fun things coming up that is going to consume my life. If it's five years from now that I want to return, I have the option. But I think the further you distance yourself, the longer the distance is back, so we will just take it as it comes.

Q. Is this your last Bay area tournament? Are you playing in the Longs?

ANNIKA SORENSTAM: No, this will be my last in the Bay area, yes.

Q. Let's think about maybe like a year from now, in your mind, you say you have fun things to do, a year from this week, what do you expect to be doing?

ANNIKA SORENSTAM: Well, it would be October of '09, I'm not really sure.

Q. What would you like to be doing? In your head you must have some sort of --

ANNIKA SORENSTAM: I have tons of thing I'm working on in general. I'm working on the Annika brand, The Academy, October is when we start the season, I might be playing with some guests. We are already planning a fund raiser out in this area the end of September next year. That will be my first Major fund raiser. I live in the Moor Valley (phn). Maybe I come here and enjoy this, maybe that's the timing.

But, you know, I mentioned The Academy, my foundation. I've signed a contract to design my sixth th golf course. That's in Korea. So maybe I go to Korea from here. I have a lot of fun things going on. I'm part of the USGA team. I'm part of the Olympic player panel. I know I'm not going to be bored by any means. I'm not answering your question.

Q. Say a year from now, this is what you're doing, we know what you're doing this week?

ANNIKA SORENSTAM: I'm getting married in January, and we want to start a family so who knows?

Q. So what do you most enjoy with a round of golf?

ANNIKA SORENSTAM: Today?

Q. When you go out and play golf, that you might end of missing. You said the competitiveness, of course.

ANNIKA SORENSTAM: Well, it is the competitive part. I'm going to admit I'm not a social golfer. When I have a day off, I don't go play social golf. I hope I get there one day. It's an amazing game. You can really play.

Like today I played with some gentlemen today that only play a few times a year. We were out there and had a good time. That's the beauty of golf. You can play with anybody. You can come to places like this and play.

So now when I'm not going to compete, I'm going to step away a

little bit. I'm not going to go out there and do the social game because that will take a while. I enjoy the game very much in the sense that I care about the game.

I'm going to give back to Junior Golf either through my foundation, or the USGA or the LPGA. I'm going to be involved. This is a game I think everybody should try it. It's a game that has taken me to all of these places. Golf is in my blood, and I will always be involved.

Q. You mentioned your last Bay area tournament. I notice you haven't played here that often. Any particular memory, either from the Longs a couple of years ago. I believe you won in Viejo. Any particular memory or moment in Northern California?

ANNIKA SORENSTAM: I love it here. I have had some great tournament memories. I've been to Napa a few times. I owned a home in lake Tahoe which is not too far. How can you not love it? The weather is nice. The people are nice. I love food and wine. This is it. So for me this is a wonderful place and putting all of these tournaments together is a great memory.

Q. Any particular golfing memory or the Samsung?

ANNIKA SORENSTAM: Let me try and think.

Q. There has got to be something?

ANNIKA SORENSTAM: You would think.

Q. You made that big comeback on Sunday at Longs. Karrie won, but you shot 64 or 65?

ANNIKA SORENSTAM: I guess it's not in the front of my mind. I have wonderful memories from golf. I can't remember if it was here. 15 years is sometimes is blur, but the memories are wonderful. But I can't single a particular round out here in this area.

Q. Hello, Annika.

ANNIKA SORENSTAM: Hello.

Q. Speaking about the difficult situation that this country is in about the economy. I don't know if you have talked with other players about this situation. I don't know if the players thought that how the purses is going to be affected next year or sponsorships, because the big companies support the Tour, I want to know your thoughts, and if you have talked to the players about this situation.

ANNIKA SORENSTAM: Well, I have not talked to really any other player about it. I've been gone from The Tour for three weeks, and then I was gone for another week when I was Europe. I will say that's kind of the time when things were going a little crazy on the market. I mean, I watch the market very closely. I think we all care where the economy is going. And for personal reasons we all care about where our money is and where it's going.

I've been following it closely. I haven't really spoken to any player about it.

When it comes to sponsorships in the future and companies, I don't really think anybody knows. I know that we have contracts running out and some are up for renewal. I'm not involved in those discussions by any means.

But, you know, I would think that this is the tough time for everybody, especially entertainment, and golf is a sport that a lot of people care about. Companies want to participate, but you have to cut some costs, and I would think that's an area that's going to be affected.

I mean the only thing we can hope for is that we have good partnerships with the partners, and they love the product, and they love the association and therefore it will continue.

Q. You said earlier this year that you want to finish the year as Player of the Year on the LPGA. Do you still have this as your main goal?

ANNIKA SORENSTAM: The challenge is a little tougher than I anticipated starting. You know, I got off to a good start, but haven't played really well. Pretty much since my announcement, I've been non-stop. I've been travelling a lot, been playing a lot of tournaments. The results haven't been there to put me in that situation. I have another seven tournaments to play in. Two on the European Tour. I can't get any points for that. The other one is the Lexus cup, which I will not be able to get points. I'm coming down to three tournaments. Four, this week, Hawaii, Lorena, and then I'm playing in China. I have to perform in those four tournaments to even have a remote chance. I still think there is a chance to win the Money List because at the ADT, the first prize is a million dollars. I will say anybody up there has a chance when the purse is that big.

Q. Annika, Lorena has 7 wins, 20 or 21 wins over the last three years. When she first started on Tour was there any way of knowing that she would one day be as good as she is?

ANNIKA SORENSTAM: You know, I didn't grow up with Lorena. I didn't play amateur golf with her. She is a few years younger than I am. I think we would all agree when she joined The Tour she was one of the players you looked at and say this young player has a lot of talent and a lot of potential. I don't think it surprises anybody.

On the other hand, she has done what she needs to do and she has risen to the top. She has improved in many areas. You know, it's fun to see success, to people that are nice. Lorena is one of those players that a lot of players like. A lot of the fans love her, and the sponsors do, too. It's great to see.

Q. How do you see the state of The Tour now compared to 5 or 10 years ago? You obviously emerged as a dominate player and helped The Tour grow. And now Lorena has emerged in a similar vein,

Paula, and some young players. Where do you see it going forward without you?

ANNIKA SORENSTAM: I think we are in a good position player-wise and playing-wise; just look at the caliber of golfers, and the play out here. In 10 years it has changed.

I remember joining The Tour 15 years ago, there were few tournaments, especially the Majors, if you shot level par you could win. I would say that would not happen today. The depth is getting there. We are getting so many players overseas, especially Asia, which is coming in with a lot of talent. It's more competitive here. That pushes everybody to work harder. The golf gets better.

From that standpoint I think The Tour is in great shape. I think it's tough, which is one of the things we touched on earlier in the economy. I know we are going to lose a few tournaments next year, but I think overall, considering the times, maybe that's the natural thing, but not the end of the world. When things bounce back, I think they will see the value in the LPGA, and we will get new sponsorships.

MIKE SCANLAN: Annika, thank you have much for coming in today.

ANNIKA SORENSTAM: Thank you.

- - - - -