

Chick-fil-A Charity Championship hosted by Nancy Lopez  
Eagle's Landing Country Club  
Stockbridge, Ga.  
May 15, 2005  
Final-round interviews

### AN INTERVIEW WITH ANNIKA SORENSTAM

Annika Sorenstam, 67-64-67-67=265 (-23)  
Scorecard: Hole 1, 400-yard par 4: birdie – pitching wedge to 12 feet  
Hole 7, 306-yard par 4: birdie – drive greenside, ship to four feet  
Hole 13, 515-yard par 5: birdie – 4-wood, chip to six feet  
Hole 14, 349-yard par 4: birdie – sand wedge to seven feet  
Hole 18, 466-yard par 5: birdie – 5-iron greenside, chip to three feet

THE MODERATOR: Annika, congratulations and thank you for joining us.  
ANNIKA SORENSTAM: Thank you.

THE MODERATOR: This is win No. 60 of your career, a nice 10-shot victory. It is also your fourth win this year in five starts and your eighth win in your last 11 tournaments. Maybe start by talking about the 10-shot win today.

ANNIKA SORENSTAM: Yes, it's a good start. Obviously, I'm very happy to finish it up the way I did. I thought I played pretty solid today. It seemed like the scores were maybe a little bit lower. I kept my distance and I thought I played very solid all day long. So, obviously, I finished the way I started, and to make this my 60th, it's a great Sunday. What else can I tell you? It's wonderful.

Q. Kathy Whitworth's record of 88 wins always seemed unapproachable, but does it seem a little more approachable now that you are at 60?

ANNIKA SORENSTAM: Well, I mean I never really thought that 88 was ever in my reach. It's never really been a goal of mine because it seemed like it was so impossible to do. You know I still feel that way. But then again I'm very surprised that I have reached 60 wins in my 11th year on tour.

I'm happy the way I'm playing. I feel like I'm in a lot more control in my game. I have improved a lot in all different areas. I'm able to scramble when things don't go well. I'm converting with a lot more birdies. I'm a better player today than a few years ago. And now I'm seeing the results in many different ways.

It doesn't really mean that I'm looking at Kathy's record saying that's something I want to achieve. Right now I just want to continue on the path I'm at, continue to play, continue to work, and we'll see what happens.

Q. Was today more like a professional day. You had the big lead and had to go out there and play still.

ANNIKA SORENSTAM: Well, you have to be patient. Obviously, I was very happy with the situation after three rounds. I'm teeing off with a 10-shot lead. That's really something you dream about, and thinking it will be great Sunday with no stress. But then again you just got to be patient, and play one shot at a time.

Like I said yesterday, if you look too much at the leader board, somebody will make a big charge and put you in an awkward position. So it sounds funny when you say it's just a regular day in the office. I love my office and it's great to come out on Sunday with a 10-shot lead.

Q. But were you eager for it to be over? Was it hard waiting?

ANNIKA SORENSTAM: Oh, you have to go through the emotions. Like I said, anything can happen. You don't want to get too overly excited because you still have to play today. Who knows? There is a lot of things that could go wrong. I was very careful signing my scorecard. I was very careful just making sure everything was perfectly right.

Q. Cristie said that maybe she made you a little bit mad last week when she broke your streak. Were you motivated by that at all?

ANNIKA SORENSTAM: No. I mean, I think last week I played pretty good, but I couldn't convert anything. This week I did convert. That's the big difference.

Once you started making some birdies, the momentum comes. I didn't have that last week, but this week I had it from round one.

Q. You were in a nice flow this week.

ANNIKA SORENSTAM: Yes, totally.

Q. With this dominating win and wins in four of your first five events people are going to start talking about the Grand Slam. To win it will take some luck and some good breaks.

ANNIKA SORENSTAM: Yes, I mean there is a lot of factors that needs to be right to do that. I'm just excited about the opportunity. Obviously, you can only do it if you win the first major and I did that this year, and now, I have a chance to do it.

So, you know, it's a long ways to go. I mean we really shouldn't talk about it unless I win three you head to the British Open. It's a goal of mine and I'm not afraid to share it. That's what keeps me going. That's what keeps me motivating, to set new high goals. That's what I need nowadays for me to get excited and really have something to look forward to.

Q. As you know, Chick-fil-A is going away as title sponsor after this year. What would you tell a potential sponsor to lure them here?

ANNIKA SORENSTAM: Well, I mean first of all, they should come out and see what the week has been all about. You got first of all Nancy Lopez. You cannot have a better host than here. I think you got great tournament staff with Torrey. You got a true supporters in Mr. Williams and Mr. Cathy. They are so with the LPGA.

Those are very big factors. So for a company to come in here and step in here, I think it would be just a great combination.

Q. Players like this event, this course?

ANNIKA SORENSTAM: I think so, yes. They have changed it to a 72-hole tournament, I believe that was player's advice.

And also they've raised the purse every year, and I think that shows commitment. I think players appreciate that and therefore they are respective.

Q. So breaking the LPGA's record for largest margin of victory never entered your mind?

ANNIKA SORENSTAM: Well, I mean we talked about it yesterday. Like I told you, for me, it's all about winning. Of course, it would have been nice. I thought I played well. But 5-under wasn't enough to break the record. You know a win is a win and I'm happy with that. I felt like I did it in style and that's all that matters.

Q. The telecast showed pictures from your book of you working out. What is your routine like and how often do you workout?

ANNIKA SORENSTAM: Well, I've been working with a trainer for five years. So this is a long term project. It takes six years to get into shape. You know I just continue to work with him. When I am at home it's four to five times a week. When I'm on the road, it's three times a week. We constantly change the program. I do a program between six to eight weeks. Sometimes it's a light program. Sometimes it's heavy. That really what I do. It's not something that I just did for this event or last week. It's something that's been continuously going on, like I said, for five years.

Q. Do you have specific physical goals and how they relate to how you play on the course?

ANNIKA SORENSTAM: Well, I have different goals in the gym. I would say I'm going to do so many pull-ups, so many push-ups. That type of stuff. For me, it's very hard to say that's going to translate into X yards on the golf course. I have no idea. But that's my way of pushing myself in the gym. If I can do bicep curls, then I say in six weeks I want to be able to get it to the upper rack or something like that. That's how we do it.

Q. How different did the course play today with the rain?

ANNIKA SORENSTAM: It was a lot softer. I thought the greens were holding a lot better. I didn't get as much roll in the fairway. It was a different course really from the previous three days.

Q. Is this win sweeter in a way at all after not winning last week?

ANNIKA SORENSTAM: I'm not really sure. I'm happy to win. It's hard work to win. I take it the weeks that I get it. It's really competitive out here. Cristie played excellent last week, and I couldn't get it going when I really needed to. I had some good runs in the middle and put a little pressure on somebody, but it wasn't really enough. So to come back here this week, just to make a few putts, obviously, made me feel a lot better.

Q. A lot of players said that they felt like they were playing for second place. If you were in their situation, what would have been your mindset?

ANNIKA SORENSTAM: Well, 10 shots is a lot of shots too, you know, catch up. I mean it really is. Especially on a course like this where you know the par-5s are reachable in two, and there is a lot of birdie opportunities out there.

But like I've said, I've come from 10 behind. I don't know what my mindset was there then, if I was thinking about playing for second, or if I was thinking about winning.

I've always felt like it's never over until it's over. Anything can happen. You just go out there and play your best and then you see what happens.

Q. Did those storm clouds scare you at all?

ANNIKA SORENSTAM: No, I wanted to finish today. I was looking at the Weather Channel all last night. Everybody wants a full and complete tournament. And when I heard the tee times were a little bit later, I figured maybe we will get it all in. Obviously, I'm very happy to play this tournament with no breaks. That's the first time in who knows how long.

Q. You said you were not motivated by not winning last week, but was something there? I am not sure if mad is really the word --

ANNIKA SORENSTAM: Well, you know, when I come to tournament, I'm always ready to play, and I always want to win. You know last week I had the same mindset. I wanted to go there and I wanted to win. I had a chance to win six in a row. You try, and you fight to the end. Nothing really happened.

But then you know I come here and it's a new week and I'm ready to play. I want to win the tournament. And you tee off on Thursday, and you kind of get a feel for what's happening, and I made some putts the first day, it was totally a different feeling than last week. These greens I could read. I had good flow this week. I was driving it really well. I thought I was playing aggressive and it paid off.

Q. Se Ri and Karrie used to push you a couple of years ago. Do you miss having somebody like that now? Or does that not bother you?

ANNIKA SORENSTAM: I'm pretty self motivated. I love where I'm at. It seems like every week there is a different player that's playing good golf. You know, for me, I try to mind my own business. I go out here and I play. And then I go home and I practice and figure out what do I have to do to improve, and I practice, and I come back the next week and see if it worked. That's really what drives me. I love the competition. It's not every week that you can win by 10. So I am going to enjoy this because who knows what's going to be in two weeks, I may be coming from 8 behind. It's always going to be a different situation. I don't need anybody to motivate me. I know what I'm capable of doing. I know my potential and that's really what I know, I guess.

Q. A lot of people are saying that you are transcending your sport. Do you feel that way?

ANNIKA SORENSTAM: Well, I think that people are recognizing my success on the golf course and all kinds of areas, and it's not just, you know, golfers or fans. But like you said, it's in other sports. It's in other fields in life. It's kind of cool, because I go to the grocery store and people recognize me. It's very positive. It's for something good. I'm very flattered when I hear comments, my daughter is going to pick up the game because of you. Or I hear a lot lately I named my daughter after you. To hear that, it is so flattering and unbelievable. Because when I really look at it, I'm just very fortunate to have my hobby as my job. And when you run into people like that, it definitely warms your heart.

Q. Is there a downside to it though? Is it tough for a shy person?

ANNIKA SORENSTAM: Well, you got to learn how to deal with it. It's just part of the whole thing. To be honest with you, it's something that I don't mind. I love to win, and I'm feeling more and more comfortable, and I wouldn't want to change anything.

Q. So 88 wins is not a goal of yours? But if you keep up your current pace of winning seven or so events every four years then does it make it more realistic?

ANNIKA SORENSTAM: Well, if I was playing like this it probably will. But the question is how long can you keep up this pace. And I have done this now for -- well, for a few years now. You know, I don't want to take anything for granted. The competition is getting tougher every year. Knock on wood I have not had any injuries.

So having said that, it's not really something. I'm not going to plan around that. We will see how things shape up the rest of the year, and then next year, and if I'm at 87 the end of next year then, yes, I will try and do it again.

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