

**THE MITCHELL COMPANY  
TOURNAMENT OF CHAMPIONS  
Magnolia Grove's The Crossings  
Mobile, AL**

**November 8, 2007**

**First-round tournament quotes**

**AN INTERVIEW WITH ANNIKA SORENSTAM**

MIKE SCANLAN: Annika, welcome to Mobile. 1-under par today in your first round in a little while. Just talk about how you are playing right now. How you are feeling and about being in Mobile.

ANNIKA SORENSTAM: I'm happy to be here. I thought I played well today. I had a lot of good shots, had a lot of opportunities. I don't think I scored as well. I felt really good about my game. I hit a lot of fairways a lot of greens and just had a lot of opportunities.

The last time I played was in Thailand which is what, a week ago, or two weeks ago. It's good. I'm starting to play again and I'm enjoying it.

Q. Can you just talk about this season and what it's been like for you and what you hope to get in the last couple of weeks?

ANNIKA SORENSTAM: Yes, I mean it's not been my normal season by any means. I think I got off to a good start in Mexico and after that it just went downhill with injury, and then I was off for about two months, and I was trying to play catch up the whole way. I haven't been able to practice as much. I have not been able to play as much as you can see. I think this is my 11th event or something. It's just been different.

There is nothing really I can do about it. The only thing I can do is get healthy and get good again, and I feel like I'm getting there. The last few weeks that I have played I've been Top-10, so I'm seeing the light at the end of the tunnel.

So I'm happy to be here. We will see if I play next week. I'm going to Australia for the Lexus Cup, then I'm going to Dubai. Including this event, I have a total of 4. So I'm hoping to be consistent, finish strong and hopefully carry that momentum over to next year and have a great year.

Q. Is it difficult? How has that been mentally for you? You have been at such a great level for so many years and have a season where you don't play as often and not as well as you would like?

**ANNIKA SORENSTAM:** Well, like I said earlier, there is nothing I can do about it. Either you sit at home and cry, or you just deal with it. I decided to deal with it. And just looking back at my career I've had some fantastic years, I've played some fantastic golf, I've been lucky not having injuries in my whole career when I've been in sports from start to finish. Again, you have to look at it the bright way. I mean it's been fantastic. So a few months, in one season, is not going to hold me back from long term. So you just have to accept it. You just, all of a sudden realize how lucky I've been that I have not had an injury. How lucky I've been that I can do whatever I want; that I can push myself as hard as I want and as much as needed, and not have to worry. But all of a sudden, I had to worry. I couldn't do this, and I couldn't do that. I can't get angry at myself. I am who I am. I have achieved a lot, and if I get upset about an injury, then it would be tough to move on.

Q. How does it feel coming back? Does it feel like you are starting to hit that rhythm? It seems like you were hitting the ball really crisp today, you just didn't make some putts?

**ANNIKA SORENSTAM:** Thank you. Yes, the final touches, if you know what I mean. I'm hitting fairways. I'm hitting greens. It's just putting it all together. You got to play. If you think the last 11 months I played 11 tournaments, I'm playing part time. It's tough to get into the rhythm. You know, I just have to keep telling myself, keep on practicing, keep on going. It will turn around. It will. Once I get to the rhythm, and I can feel them, I know that I can do it.

Q. You got off to a great start today with birdies on the first two holes. That's a good way to get started. Then what happened after that?

**ANNIKA SORENSTAM:** It's always good to make birdies. It's not an easy golf course by any means. I got off to a good start. I thought it was going to be a good day. I had a good chance on No. 3. I had a lot of good chances today. I'm going to work a little bit on my chipping, the grass around the greens is a little tougher. I'm going to work on that. And then tomorrow the strategy is to continue to hit fairways and make a few more putts. It's not like I putted well. It just didn't really go in when I wanted them to.

Q. Today was the first time you've seen the course in five years. Did you rely on your caddy a lot, or did you remember much the last time you were here?

**ANNIKA SORENSTAM:** I rely on Terry quite a bit. Every time I stood on the tee, it was coming back to me. Oh yes, that's this hole,

you want to favor the right side. Or in this case, you want to favor long and left, whatever, they all came back. He was out here. He walked the course Tuesday. And then yesterday he was out just looking at other players shots and what the balls were doing. So I trust him. We've working together for eight years. He knows my game and I know him so well. If he tells me to aim at a certain branch I will do it.

Q. Talk about the greens, they are probably faster when you were here last time. Talk about how you can get in some places that are pretty much impossible on the greens?

ANNIKA SORENSTAM: Yes, I think the characteristics of this golf course is the greens, the undulations. When I was here last time, I remember it was so wet, especially in the fairway. You hit it and it stopped. Now we are getting some roll off the drive, and when you have that, of course you have it around the greens where it is very, very quick at some times. You just got to be on the right spots. Distance control plays a key here because if you're a little short, you have a 40-footer. If you are a little long, you might have a 40-footer the other way. You have to be very precise. You know, there is times whether you have to play smart. You might not be able to go for the pin, you might want to play it a little left or right, just to make sure you have a decent chance at it.

Q. Now that you see it again, will you get more comfortable each day as the tournament goes on?

ANNIKA SORENSTAM: I hope so. I feel good about my game. I don't have to listen to Terry too much. I can make my own decisions and hope it gets better from here.

- - - - -