

**2006 Jamie Farr
Owens Corning Classic
Sylvania, OH
July 12, 2006**

Pre-tournament quotes

AN INTERVIEW WITH ANNIKA SORENSTAM

(Interview by tape.)

Q. Just your thoughts, such heavy rains at this point, and the day before, what do you do on a day like today?

ANNIKA SORENSTAM: Take it easy. I don't mind. It's been a long two weeks. Great for me. It's not the end of the world. Hang out a little bit, go to the mall, see a movie maybe, relax.

Q. Nancy Lopez was in here earlier. She said I would have loved to compete against Annika. How does it make you feel when you hear someone make a statement like that?

ANNIKA SORENSTAM: Well, she is very, very nice. I have a lot of respect for Nancy. I always have. I think she was one of the first players to put the LPGA on the map, and a lot of players respect what she has done. She is just a great competitor to be out here and still playing. That's great.

Q. The Open win, are you mentally exhausted a little bit. Does the win kind of wipe out all of the driving that you need to get that win?

ANNIKA SORENSTAM: Well, I think a win like that gives you a lot of energy, gives you a lot of adrenaline. I am a little tired. It's been a long two weeks with the Match Play and everything.

So like I said, a break today is not the end of the world for me. I'm looking forward to definitely playing tomorrow. My game is there and I would like to play.

Q. (Inaudible)?

ANNIKA SORENSTAM: Well, I remember I liked the golf course. I remember we had big crowds. This is a very supportive town. And I just enjoyed it here. You know, in the past it's been tough to make it because of scheduling and I like it here. I'm happy to be back.

Q. Nancy says she enjoys your game, and she said one of the reasons why she is back this week is because she wants to know if she can go up against Annika?

ANNIKA SORENSTAM: I think a lot of us inspire each other. That is a lot of players that work hard. There is a lot of players that have a great attitude. They are very competitive. I think Nancy displays all of that. She is a role model for a lot of people. It's great to see her back.

Q. To be at a place you've won so many times, but to come back to a place where you have won, is there an extra swagger when you get back on the golf course on a Thursday?

ANNIKA SORENSTAM: A little bit. I think when you come back to a place you've won, you have good memories. Golf is a game of positive thinking. You know when you come to a place, you want to definitely have that. I've definitely got great memories. I think the course treats me well so I'm looking forward to it.

Q. With 68 wins do you ever forget where you have won and where you haven't?

ANNIKA SORENSTAM: No, I remember them all.

Q. Fans around here surrounding the The Farr have always been known as being knowledgeable fans and gracious to the golfers?

ANNIKA SORENSTAM: I absolutely agree. Like I say, it's a very supportive town. It's a friendly town. When you are out here, they really support the ladies, and they come out, great atmosphere. It's fun to play in front of big crowds.

Q. It's a recap now, the rain today, the schedule you have been keeping, this isn't going to affect you at all?

ANNIKA SORENSTAM: No, on the contrary. I may enjoy the break. Not that I wish for rain. You got to take it as it comes. I had a great work out this morning. I got to sleep in a little bit. I'm having a great day. Hopefully I will go out tomorrow and perform a little bit.

Q. What movie are you going to see?

ANNIKA SORENSTAM: I'm not sure. Something you recommend?

Q. Is this a date? What's going on? (Inaudible)? (Laughter)?

ANNIKA SORENSTAM: Sounds great, I will see you there.

Q. Talk about coming back to the Jamie Farr.

ANNIKA SORENSTAM: I haven't been here for two years as you know. I'm happy to be back. I've some great memories from this tournament. I mean I like the golf course. There is a lot of support. A lot of fans come out and I'm happy to be back.

DANA GROSS-RHODE: Questions?

Q. You guys play in all kinds of weather, the day before a tournament starts, part of the course is under water, what problems does that create as far as how you approach your round?

ANNIKA SORENSTAM: Well, I think for me this is not the end of the world at all. I've been very busy the last two weeks. So I think a day off is just going to do me good. I think the problem is probably more for the tournament, the organizers and the superintendent. And the fans to maneuver around the golf course.

As a player, I'm going to be ready tomorrow, and a little rest will do me good. There is nothing you can do. (Inaudible).

Q. (Inaudible)?

ANNIKA SORENSTAM: Well, I mean Nancy is very respected, not just for her game, but just for her as a person. I would say that she put LPGA on the map. I think all of us are very, very thankful for what she has done. One of the big key players up here.

Q. What's your impression of some of the younger 16, 20-year olds that are here early and their impact? (Inaudible)?

ANNIKA SORENSTAM: Well, I think the LPGA Tour really has a lot of players. We just mentioned Nancy and talking about the youngsters. It's a great variety of players, a lot of international players. It's fun when you have you a venue supporting us. It's a great game. Great attitude. It's great for the Tour. It's great to see them. They are getting younger and younger. So that's a good thing. (Inaudible)? There is a lot of different players.

Q. (Inaudible)?

ANNIKA SORENSTAM: You know, it's funny because early in the year, everybody is making a big deal about the youngsters but you have to realize that just because you are young doesn't mean you are going to come out here and dominate. There are so many players. They are so competitive and so good. You get somebody like Karrie, I don't think she is 30. There is so many good players out here. Come out here and an to winn takes a lot. It takes experience. You need to play the different courses. People need to learn the ropes out here.

When you are young, 16, 17 and 18. It's going to take you a little time because they don't have the college experience that so of us do. It seems like they don't have the high school either. They skipped it. That's just the normal process. It's going to happen to everybody.

Q. Michelle Wie, what do you think about her playing on the men's tour. Is that good for the women's TOUR in any way whatsoever?

ANNIKA SORENSTAM: Well, my opinion is, you know, that's her desire. That's the route that they're going. I think she plays a lot with us. She is good for the game. That's her choice. She is an exciting player. She has so much talent and it's a matter of time before she is going to win out here.

Q. (Inaudible)?

ANNIKA SORENSTAM: I loved it. I loved it. It was so much fun. I learned so much. You know, obviously a big talent. I just loved it. I don't want to do it again because I kind of experienced it. I like to come out on TOUR and win tournaments and we have a lady's TOUR. That's why for me one time is enough. But I wanted to experience it.

Q. You said you learned something, what did you learn?

ANNIKA SORENSTAM: Well, just the preparation, it takes a lot for the guys to get ready. I saw how they do it, how they prepare, go around the course. Obviously when it was time to play, just to be under the microscope it doesn't get any tougher than that one. Everybody is watching. I was as prepared as I could. I go to Majors, and I feel this is nothing compared to Colonial.

Q. A lot of things were made about you winning the U.S. Open the first time in the last 10 years. (Inaudible)?

ANNIKA SORENSTAM: Well, I mean, you know, when I came out and I won The Open in '95, '96, I was a rookie and second year. It was like wow. And it took so long for me to win the third town. In between I won maybe 60 tournaments or something. And it's kind of weird that it hadn't been The Open which is the one that I always felt like was the biggest we have on our schedule, and the ones that I always wanted the most.

Q. Were you amused, irritated or what (Inaudible)?

ANNIKA SORENSTAM: I don't read all of that stuff. I have high expectations for myself. I raise the bar quite a bit. The last three years I won. When I didn't do that (Inaudible)? I know how I am playing. I know the stuff I'm doing on the course. You just got to play and play through it. It's a tough game and if you don't play your best out here it's tough to win.

Q. (Inaudible)?

ANNIKA SORENSTAM: Well, no, I wasn't playing consistent. (Inaudible)?

Q. I know you are friends with Tiger, is that something that you ever talked about?

ANNIKA SORENSTAM: Well, like I said, when you raise the bar, when you close the distance, everybody comes to that. I won two tournaments, or something like that, that would make a great season for a lot of players. What I've done in the past (Inaudible).

Q. When you won here, (Inaudible)?

ANNIKA SORENSTAM: Yes, I still remember it. There is only a few when you have a few chances to win. (Inaudible)?.

Q. Give us your thoughts on the playoff system into the ADT, do you like the idea?

ANNIKA SORENSTAM: Well, I'm not really sure.

Q. A lot of people said they don't really understand it?

ANNIKA SORENSTAM: I know. I am one of them. Now that I won The Open I know I qualified. I'm happy about that.

Q. You don't have to worry about it?

ANNIKA SORENSTAM: I don't have to worry about it now. (Inaudible).

Q. (Inaudible)?

ANNIKA SORENSTAM: I'm not worried. We had a rival back and forth, and I enjoyed that. It's Match Play, I enjoyed that. I have a lot of respect for the other players and I think that's evident. Nancy Lopez paved the way for her. I really respect her a lot. You can really tell.

Q. She said she is enjoying it a lot, more did you notice that in her before she won McDonald?

ANNIKA SORENSTAM: You know, I haven't played with her a lot since we played match. Maybe I played with her once at McDonald.

Q. She looks like she is enjoying herself, that little jump in her step. You have quite a trio going off tomorrow, do you look forward to that?

ANNIKA SORENSTAM: I do. It's fun in preparing. It will be a big crowd. It will be better.
It's going to be a fun day.
