

LPGA Championship
Presented by Wegmans
Locust Hill Country Club
Pittsford, NY

June 27, 2010

Final-round quotes:

INTERVIEW OF CRISTIE KERR

(Interview by tape.)

Q. All right. Cristie, you are a Major champion for the second time and your projected to take over as Rolex ranking No. 1, how does it feel?

CRISTIE KERR: Amazing, couldn't feel better. It's been such an amazing week. I mean to play here well on a golf course this tough and to win by that many shots in a Major championship. That's just unreal.

Q. You brought up the name Tiger yesterday by a performance like this in a Major, you did that, what's it feel like to win by this much against this field?

CRISTIE KERR: It feels awesome. I'm not going to lie. But I mean that's when I do my stuff to the level that I can do it at. It happens. I just had a great week. I putted great. I hit it really good and I just managed to, you know, kept the momentum going all week.

Q. Cristie, to win a Major and then become the No. 1 from the victory in the Major what does that mean to you?

CRISTIE KERR: There are no words. It's kind of like that commercial, the Stanley Cup commercial, there are no words.

Q. Talk a little bit about this entire week from and the response you got and the response you got on 18?

CRISTIE KERR: Yes, the fans have been so supportive this week. I'm sure they wanted to see an American win. I'm glad I could do that for them.

Q. How do you top this?

CRISTIE KERR: You take a week off, take a few days off, you go celebrate and just get ready for Oakmont.

Q. Thanks, Cristie.

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HEATHER DALY-DONOFRIO: Welcome, Cristie Kerr, the 2010 LPGA Championship presented by Wegmans championship. Congratulations on an unbelievably tremendous week, an extremely impressive final round 66.

Can you talk about the day and how you were able to keep your composure?

CRISTIE KERR: Sure, I mean, again, I'm a pretty emotional person and to be able to kind of harness that in a way and channel it to play well is amazing. I was a little bit -- not tentative, but not tight, just a little bit kind of feeling the day out, the first six holes, and when that putt went in on 7. I started, it felt like I wasn't believing it. When that putt went in on seven, off I went. It's a dream performance.

HEATHER DALY-DONOFRIO: Questions?

Q. Cristie, it's a record breaking performance, it's going to be called one of the great major golf performance ever. As you're coming in the back 9 is that in your head at all that you want to really put a number up there that will stand up historically?

CRISTIE KERR: I didn't limit myself this week. I didn't think about the record books. I just didn't limit myself. I wanted to see how far I could take it. I took it pretty far.

Q. Starting the day did you have anything in mind, you said you talked about just keep going forward and building, but nobody ever even got close, so was it hard to keep pushing it when you knew no one was pushing you?

CRISTIE KERR: No, it wasn't because I wanted to be very selfish with my golf this week. I wanted to be selfish with how I executed shots and made putts and doing my routine, all of the stuff that helped me do this performance.

I was very selfish with that this week, and I wanted to shoot in the 60's. I had a bet with my caddy and I won by the way today. It was 2- or 3-under, and he bought the groceries for the week of The Open. If it was 4 or better, he bought the groceries and the alcohol.

So he's got to do that. He's got to buy the wine and the groceries for The Open now. I had to give myself some extra motivation.

Because it's easy to try and protect, and I don't play well when I protect.

Q. I talked to him after, and I asked him if he'd ever been or even seen a performance like the one you gave all week. He has won 13, I think, on Tour, and he said he has never seen anything close to that. In your playing, have you ever seen anything close to that?

CRISTIE KERR: I think one year I played with Annika she won maybe by 8 in Atlanta or 9. And that was unbelievable. No, really, I mean, it's a dream performance.

It's like if you could, you wake up, or you dream that I can't even speak right now, like winning by maybe 2 or 3 is great. But winning by 12 shots is ridiculous. It's obscene. I wanted to see how well I could do when I didn't limit myself, and I am going to keep doing that I hope.

Q. So obviously you didn't know that that last shot and putt were for the record?

CRISTIE KERR: No, I didn't.

Q. How satisfying is it to have the record?

CRISTIE KERR: It's awesome. I don't think I could have played better. I couldn't have done my mental stuff better. I was so amped up this morning. The hardest part was actually waiting before I came out to the course because you have so much time to think.

When you get out to the course, you are in your routine, you are playing golf. It was the same when I was at The Open, just get me back out on the golf course because the time before is hard, you know. I handled it pretty well. I wasn't feeling that great last night. Maybe from the rain and having to wait, do some other stuff, after I played yesterday. I was a little bit chilled, and I took a nap and went to dinner and I feel like I slept through it all. And I slept probably 10 hours last night with a nap. It tells you how tired I was from the last couple of days.

Q. Cristie, why this week? How did it all come together this week? You talk about wanting to leave it all out there and whatever. Was it the No. 1 ranking? Was it just the season you have been having? What brought it all together in your mind?

CRISTIE KERR: Well, I went out with the first goal that I wanted to win one of the first two tournaments in this stretch of three that I had because I'm not playing next week, either State Farm or Atlantic City. I won State Farm, and then I went to Atlantic City and I was so tired from that week, and mentally I was so bad on the golf course, but I finished 20th.

So I was still doing a lot of things well. And I said I want to try to win one of the next two Majors. And I won this one now and I am very lucky to have a week off because I'm going to be exhausted.

I probably won't touch a club until Thursday or Friday. You know, I just have to get rested up the next week and move on. I mean, there is going to be a lot of expectation on me from a lot of other people for The Open and stuff, but I'm going to try not to do that because I'm sitting here because I did everything else well. It didn't matter to me what other people thought. I did my stuff well.

Q. Can you talk about the No. 1 in the world, how much that means to you?

CRISTIE KERR: It means a tremendous amount. It's something that I've wanted my whole life, I worked for my whole life. But I said earlier in the week it's great to be No. 1, but I just got there. To be No. 1 I feel in my heart you really have to keep proving it. So I got a lot of work ahead of me.

Q. Have you talked to Dr. Parent at all this week and did he say anything to you? And what was the walk up the 18th like?

CRISTIE KERR: I talk to Dr. Parent maybe three or four times a week when he is not actually out watching me. I talked to him last night. I talked to him again this morning. We just went over the game plan, the mental game plan of the stuff we had to do. I knew the physical stuff was there. Preparation, everything was there.

This is the perfect example of how the preparation meets the opportunity, and I took it.

And the walk up 18 was amazing. I played with Jimin, and she didn't play that well today, she gave me a hug, she said, I'm so proud of you. People don't know about her, that she is one of the nicest people out here. She has a deep belief in God and faith. She is just a really, really nice person. A lot of people that you'd be playing with may not necessarily do that, but she did.

Q. How many times have you played Oakmont and how tough is it going to be?

CRISTIE KERR: I played Oakmont twice, and I think over par will win the tournament. I think it's one of the toughest courses I've ever seen. I think, you know, if you hit in the rough here, you have a chance of advancing it or chipping it out. If you miss the fairways there to start out with, you are chipping out of bunkers. There is no advancing it. Then you are talking about the greens. It's one of the toughest courses I've ever seen. You know I got more comfortable the more I played it. But I think that week is more about survival than it is of putting in a performance like I did this week. Because we're all going to be surviving out there. It's not going to be -- I don't think you are going to see a performance like I had this week.

Q. Cristie, can you talk about growing up, how competitive you were and just wanting to crush everyone to how it evolved to a mature

adult who channels that just inside the ropes, kind of how you evolved competitively that way?

CRISTIE KERR: Yes, I mean, I think part of my process is maturing as an adult. I've been this competitive since I've been 10 years old. I don't know where it comes from. You know my father was very competitive as a baseball player. My mother was a competitive swimmer. I don't know, I get it from them.

Both of my parents are fighters. They told me never give up. I gave up once on the golf course, maybe when I was like 9 or 10, and I didn't hear the end of it and that was the last time I ever gave up on the golf course.

So, you know, they've given me my values and I definitely, you know, I'm maturing into the kind of person that I always hoped that I would be, I guess. I don't know, that's a tall order to try and be a role model for people. But I think with what we do you have to be.

Q. You mentioned your mother, I was wondering if she was here today and also Birdies for Breast Cancer research, have you thought about what this could mean for the cause since a lot more people are going to know who you are after this?

CRISTIE KERR: No, she is in Miami. She doesn't really like getting on planes too much. I will see her in Arkansas this year and when we open the Cristie Kerr Women's Health Center at Liberty Medical in Jersey City.

That's the main reason we are doing it is for awareness. You know people can donate. Again, I hope I can be a role model for people. The more people that we have gaining awareness for breast cancer the more money we can raise.

And the more money we can raise for research, specifically we can get rid of it. It used to be 1 in 8, now it's 2 to 3 out of 8, and I had a scare about eight months ago. I found something that eventually went away, but it was scary as hell. I always raised money for it but until it touches you, you don't get it exactly. You don't get it exactly. I always got the cause. It's scary and it's real and we need to do everything that we can.

Q. Cristie, there has been a lot of discussion this week about the value or the relevance of this course, this town as a Major host, what is your opinion of it now? And if not this town, if not this course, what other town on the Tour would you recommend?

CRISTIE KERR: No, I really like this tournament here. I've always played this course well. The fans are some of the best, if not the best that we have on Tour. The sponsor is one of the longstanding sponsors of the LPGA, Wegmans.

I told Ms. Wegman on the green today that I wish I could have thanked Bob directly, but he is not with us anymore. So I really feel like this is a great venue for the tournament. I put up a dream performance because this is similar to what Tiger did at Pebble Beach, I can say that now. You can ask anybody else, they

had a real tough time with the course, and I just had a dream performance. I think this is a great venue for the tournament.

Q. Cristie, given the magnitude of the victory, were you paying any attention to the leaderboard in terms of the No. 1 ranking when Ai made that big run and looked like she might finish second, were you cognizant of that?

CRISTIE KERR: Honestly I can tell you this is probably the one week in my life that I didn't know what anybody else was doing but me. I wasn't even cognizant of the fact of what anybody else was doing. To me it didn't matter. To me this week, for some reason, it didn't matter.

Q. Cristie, in terms of the No. 1 ranking, what does it mean to you to be the first American to be the No. 1, and also you talked about the start of the process and, you know, there was Annika and Lorena for such a long time and then a couple of real quick switches and you've got the role and maybe just the importance of holding onto it a little bit?

CRISTIE KERR: It's very important to me. I always wanted to be the No. 1 player in the world. I take great pride in being the top American. But you have to perform every week to do that. I'm there now, but I have to prove that I deserve to be there. So there is still a lot of work ahead. It feels awfully good right now.

Q. Cristie, talking to your husband earlier, obviously, there is some Geneseo or hockey folks here that are following you, or do every year, is that an added benefit of having some familiar folks outside the ropes and also talk about what your husband means to your career and how you play?

CRISTIE KERR: Well, absolutely, his friends are my friends now, and I see them every year when I come here. We go -- I've been to -- what is it called? The Inn, The Canitius Lake, they have great prime rib there. But I mean I've won one tournament without my husband. I've won all of them with him, and he has been one of the biggest influences on me becoming a better person, changing evolving and giving back. He is probably, if there are two reasons, he's one of those two. That's how much he means to me and my career. It's great to have friends here that we see every year. It makes just traveling around just playing tournaments feel a little bit more like home when you come to a place where you have a lot of friends.

HEATHER DALY-DONOFRIO: Thank you, Cristie, and congratulations.

CRISTIE KERR: Thank you.

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