

**Longs Drugs Challenge
The Ridge Golf Course
Auburn, CA
October 4, 2005**

Pre-tournament round quotes:

AN INTERVIEW WITH CHRISTINA KIM

THE MODERATOR: Christina, thanks for coming in and speaking with us. You're defending champion this week. It's always has to be nice to return to the place where you won, especially your first win on TOUR, talk about coming back as defending champion.

CHRISTINA KIM: Well, there are a lot of feelings going through me right now. A lot of good memories.

I went out and played my practice round this morning. It was a very nostalgic. It was very, very -- I don't know. It was very sweet, just to come up and say I remember when I birdied this hole. I was a lot closer to the hole the last time I was here. It was kind of neat to come back and realize this is where my first win came from.

THE MODERATOR: We will go ahead and take questions, guys.

Q. What do you think of the golf course this year, the fairways in particular?

CHRISTINA KIM: The golf course is absolutely plush. I think there is enough grass on the fairways, greens and rough that could have made up for last year as well.

The course is in beautiful shape. I'm very, very happy to be back. I honestly didn't mind the way it was last year. But, you know, I guess a couple of other girls did.

Q. It didn't seem to bother you?

CHRISTINA KIM: Well, the course is in good shape. I'm very, very pleased to see that they brought it back in to such good shape, not just for us but for the public that comes out here and plays as well. It's a good thing.

Q. How has your game evolved?

CHRISTINA KIM: Well, my game has evolved in the last year, I focus a little bit more on my putting this year than I did last year.

During the off season I tried to focus more on putting and actually practicing as opposed to playing. I did a plot of playing last year during the off season.

But this last off season I didn't play as much. I was trying to work more on mechanics, and I think that -- I don't want to say I'm playing better than last year or worse than last year, but different parts of my game have improved where I suffered a little bit in other parts.

Q. (Inaudible)?

CHRISTINA KIM: Well, I was supposed to play with -- is it Warren Brown? I'm not sure. I think it's Warren Brown, the CEO of Longs Drugs in the Monday Pro-Am. It was disappointing to know I wouldn't make it. It was very disappointing that I only had one hole left, and I was about 7 seconds late hitting the shot that would have allowed my group to finish. That's how it went.

I really didn't have a choice in the matter.

Q. (Inaudible)?

CHRISTINA KIM: I put the tee in the ground. I was originally going to hit driver. But I was going to sacrifice it and use a 4-iron and tee it up just to the point where the girls are out of way. I would have chipped it if I had thought about it. But, yes, it was just about -- I put the tee back in the ground. I stepped back and I was about to take a practice swing and they blew the horn. It was a little disappointing.

I would have like to spend all day Monday through all day Monday being defending of 2004 Longs Drugs Classic. I didn't have that chance. But I'm here now. That's all that matters.

Q. What's the pressure your felt coming down the stretch here last year?

CHRISTINA KIM: You know, it would be asking -- the Solheim Cup is such a different type of golf. You are in a team event. It's sort of like you aren't an individual playing your own game. It's almost as if you're a piece of the puzzle. Like, say, you are one section. You know, the 12 of us equated one golfer. And say my round would have been say, you know, the short game, or the long game, or the putting or this or that. So it's really difficult to explain it. I sort of separated who I was. I didn't think about myself when I was at Solheim.

The Solheim Cup was sort of like, you would compare Little League football to the Super Bowl. It goes from one extreme to the other. Where they are the same game, just viewed differently. They are different, but the same. I can't really explain it.

I don't want to say winning was more thrilling than Solheim Cup or vice versa. That's not how I view it. They both rocked. There is no way around it.

Q. But what you felt here last year (Inaudible) that was your chance to win?

CHRISTINA KIM: Coming down the stretch last year I was trying to just not think. I was just trying to do it, one foot in front of the other, just keep it going. I just tried to keep my mind blank that entire time. And then when the final putt sank it was kind of a huge weight was lifted from my shoulders, but at the same time my knees buckled and I couldn't hold myself up anymore because it was like finally there was that relief. I finally did it. But at the same time it was, it took that long to get it there. At the same time -- you just can't explain it. I'm sorry, I really don't know how to.

Q. (Inaudible)?

CHRISTINA KIM: Go look at my office, how can you not? It's one of the greatest jobs in the entire world if you want to call it that. I definitely enjoyed myself, coming down the stretch.

Here, last year, I definitely enjoyed myself. I was having a ball. I was bouncing off the walls. But I was trying to do anything I could to avoid thinking about this is for the tournament.

And the Solheim Cup, of course, it's like you see the way people reacted at the Solheim Cup. It was totally different than any other golf tournament. You get the same type of people there. You get the same demographics basically. They are just pumped up because they can root for one group of people as opposed to a certain individual.

I know there are some people out there that have many favorite players. So they are torn as to who they should root for. That's why I said, it's like the Super Bowl. You got Little League, you enjoy yourself. But then you go to the Super Bowl, you have the same kind of people there, just in larger numbers, they are more excitable over there. That's what I mean. (Inaudible.) I can't wait to go back. I can't wait to get my next win.

Q. (Inaudible)?

CHRISTINA KIM: Well, Michelle and I are very good friends. I have known her going on three years now. And there is no doubt that her skill can't be denied.

She' be top -- at least I know Top-15 on the money less, 12th or 8th. I don't even know where She would be on the money list. Her skill can't be denied.

But at the same time -- I see it from both sides. I see it from the side where when I was young, I turned professional right out of high school, so I can see what she sees as she does, not to a large scale as she does, because Nike wasn't coming after me, along with other companies of course.

But at the same time I can also see it from another player's view, or from like an adult view, where you can see that it's a very, very -- this is a very, very delicate time for her, the next, I'd say, year or so is going to be very difficult for her just to really be able to -- I don't want to say breakthrough, but to be able to deal with everything that's coming with her celebrity status.

I don't know she is making the wrong choice. I don't think she is making the right choice. All I know is that I have talked to her. As long as she feels confident that she is doing the right choice, the I sport her 100%. Because at a time like this you need all of the support you can get from everybody that cares about you.

Q. (Inaudible)?

CHRISTINA KIM: She seems to lose my email address all the time. I called and left a couple of messages with her. For the most part we are both so busy. I get phone calls, and Paul will agree with me, I don't call people back even if they do call me. But we both lead such busy lives. It's not very easy to do that. She has got to learn how to juggle school, friends, growing up, golf, sponsors, this and that. I more than understand.

I have a lot of friends where it's kind of like I see them and then my best friend growing up in junior high, I won't see her for three years, and then I see her and boom it's right back where we started from.

Q. (Inaudible)?

CHRISTINA KIM: You know, part of me would. Part of me would like to see what it would be like to be like, "wow", instead of Michelle Wie. "Wow" it's Christina Kim. You know, fill in the name here.

At the same time, it's got to be so terrifying to be in that spot. Not that she wouldn't be able to handle it. But a good number -- most people in the world would not be able to handle it I don't

think. Not because there is anything wrong with them. It's just there is only a certain amount of pressure that any human being can take.

But she is very fortunate where she has a very strong support system. Both of her parents are deeply committed into what she does. So whenever she doubts herself they, they are there to hold her up to say we are doing the right thing at this time. So yes and no.

Q. (Inaudible)?

CHRISTINA KIM: Realizing that you couldn't rent a car. That was tough. It's still tough. I have to pay an underage fee if I want to rent a car. I'm fortunate I can get a courtesy cars most of the weeks.

But I think more than anything just sort of getting out of that high school life where you see your same friends week in, week out, day in, day out. You only have to worry about logarithms, or writing out an essay, to juggling financial problems, what have you, to just learning to really interact with people, to be honest with you.

From the get-go, a lot of people perceived me as being able to talk to anybody and everybody. But, you know, just like anyone else I still have trouble being able to talk to people. I think I still do. But that's just my opinion. I think that's the most difficult thing, along with the travel. I've come to love it now. At the time it was like wow, we are in Anytown U.S.A. .

Q. (Inaudible)?

CHRISTINA KIM: Yes, I mean it would be more difficult. But at the same time it wouldn't be because it's like she can sort of -- she only plays a certain amount of events per year. It depends how you see it, it can be easier or more difficult for her whereas she has to play well in those few events she gets in. If she wants to maintain her LPGA card. But at the same time she can always go back home and get back into the normality of life, being 16-years old.

Q. (Inaudible)?

CHRISTINA KIM: To be honest with you, when I was 16 and 17 when I played on the Future's Tour as an amateur. At that time I was testing myself. But more than that, I was just trying to -- because at that time, the LPGA was in my eye. I seen it. I wanted to get there. You know, the AJGA, if they had wanted me to play, which they didn't, but I won't get into that.

(Laughter.)

CHRISTINA KIM: If I had played on the AJGA, I would have gotten a good amount of experience, however, it wouldn't be to the same scale because the Future's Tour was full field events, professionals, older. It taught me to grow up faster. It taught my to handle traveling and managing my finances and this and that. I played eight events as an amateur on the Future's Tour. I didn't really think of going against the pros. I never really thought of that. It was just to me, people are people.

Q. (Inaudible)?

CHRISTINA KIM: Yes, well, I like to think that I'm the kind of person that can get along with a good number of people, you know, and a good number of -- it doesn't matter how old you are because age ain't nothing but a number. It's a little difficult.

But to be honest with you most of the girls embraced me. They were very, very good to me. There were a lot of girls that just graduated out of college. To me I didn't feel like, oh my God, they are five years older than me, oh my gosh, what can we talk about?

I just learned how to drive. I never thought about that.

It was like, well, you're not retired. I don't think as people being old or anything like that. If I can hold a conversation then we're good.

Q. (Inaudible)?

CHRISTINA KIM: Well, he hasn't told me otherwise. The way I see it my father, always has been and is always going to be a huge part of my life. He has been nothing more than my No. 1 supporter, my biggest fan. The person I go to if I ever have any problems, if I ever need to talk to anybody, he has always been there for me. And until the day I die he always will be.

So I think that's one reason why I was able to -- undoubtedly that's one of the reasons why I was able to achieve the success I had because I didn't have to think on my own. There is no, I feel so lost. There is no one I can talk to. You build great friendships out here, but there are still certain things you can't talk about. There is certain things you only feel comfortable talking to someone that shares the same blood with you. So without him I wouldn't be here.

Q. (Inaudible)?

CHRISTINA KIM: He hasn't told me otherwise. That's the way I see it.

Q. Can you talk about you are the only player that's played in every event, 25 of 25, you've only missed one tournament in your career. Can you talk about how you set up your schedule and why you play every week?

CHRISTINA KIM: Well, to an extent I've got both my legs, both my arms. I can still move. Why not?

And also, like I said, I can't say enough, look at my office. I mean, you check in, you clock in and clock out, you walk off with a nice glowing tan. You walk off with a little bit of money in your pocket after playing a round of golf.

Another reason why I love coming out here is because you go to different cities, you meet different people. You encounter different kinds of communities, and you learn something about -- you can just really get an idea of what America really is.

You can just embrace everything and just take it all and just say wow. You have people from the northwest to the southeast and everywhere in between.

I think it's kind of me. It's almost like a little project for me. I love doing this. I can't see myself taking time off. What am I going to do for a week? You take a day to travel. You take a day to come back.

Q. (Inaudible)?

CHRISTINA KIM: This last off season I took all of December off. I purchased a new house in Orlando. I spent a lot of time doing that. I am always busy. I always move around. I got to be doing something. I like reading. People don't really understand. But I really enjoy reading. I love good literature. I write a little bit of poetry.

I'm the kind of person that will do anything, if I get the urge. Let's go driving for a couple of hours, let's go to the beach, let's do that. I don't want to say I'm very spontaneous. But I don't plan stuff so much.

And then when it's over I don't even think about it. So I don't remember what I do when I'm not golfing.

Q. (Inaudible)?

CHRISTINA KIM: No, you know, I remember that the one tournament that I missed was Youngstown, Ohio, last year. I didn't play and we ended up not coming back so I feel bad. So until I'm proven otherwise, it's not my fault. I'm going to keep plugging along I think. I didn't really look at streaks or anything like that. I just go out and play. Why not?

Q. (Inaudible)?

CHRISTINA KIM: Well, I know I'm going to have a couple of my friends that I grew up with playing golf, which is going to be kind of neat. I haven't seen them in just about a year. I've only spent a dozen days in California during the off season. I really couldn't tell you.

Some of the people that I've met since the Solheim Cup, it's been kind of interesting. There are a lot of people that are a lot like, hey, how are you? I don't know. Normally, they are just, however they are. There are some people like. (Making noise.) (I can't bust out all the time. It's kind of like some of the people that I've met. They are very excited and very animated, I guess, you can see. I really don't know. I have seen larger and larger crowds as the weeks go by, since the weeks passed at Solheim.

Q. (Inaudible)?

CHRISTINA KIM: Yes, you know it wasn't like how are you?

Q. (Inaudible)?

CHRISTINA KIM: It's an interesting question. For me I'm the kind of person that feeds -- I feed off the crowds. When people are rooting for me I sort of feel like I kind of want to play better for them. When people are rooting against me, it drags me down obviously. It makes me feel good to know that I can make someone else's day feel good because they came out and watched and enjoyed watching me play golf.

Q. (Inaudible)?

CHRISTINA KIM: It's a Northern California thing. It was in the water.

Q. (Inaudible)?

CHRISTINA KIM: Well, I've thought about it. I have been asked that question almost every week about being part of the younger crowd. I'm toward the end wave of that. I'm legal to drink. I'm not considered young anymore. I'm 21 now, over-the-hill.

But to know that I could be part of that is just exciting because there is so many things going on lately.

Paula Creamer turning professional; Morgan Pressel, a lot of people overlook. I don't think they should be doing. She is a phenomenal player in her own right. You know, myself, Natalie, Michelle Wie.

There are waves upon waves upon waves of girls coming up that are playing tremendous golf that are still in the junior rankings right now. I think will turn about turning professional early as well.

We got things like that going on, along with Carolyn Bivens, our new commissioner, who basically is taking a look at the LPGA TOUR, and she is turning a lot of things around. There are a lot of things going on right now. There is a lot of movement within the Tour itself; including the young generation that's coming up.

Ty Votaw started this. Five points of celebrity, was that five years ago, or four years ago, I think. He started the ball rolling.

And the controversies that we've encountered with the Paula Creamers turning professional, the Michelle Wies turning professional, a woman as our commissioner. Controversies like that have set the fire and now are going to go blazing and light it up. It's a very exciting time right now.

Q. (Inaudible)?

CHRISTINA KIM: I just notice that there is a larger group of girls that turned professional younger. I think a lot of it started with my class, the class of 2002, there were a lot of girls turned professional. A couple of years ago -- Dorothy Delasin turned professional right out of high school, that was almost unprecedented.

After she did, a couple of years later, there was Catherine Cartwright, she turned professional, then the next year I did, along with some other girls, then Paula Creamer, Brittany Lincicome, I met her this year, Morgan Pressel, Michelle Wie, I can't keep track of them.

THE MODERATOR: Thank you.

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