

Wegmans LPGA  
Locust Hill Country Club  
Pittsford, NY  
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Second-round tournament quotes

## AN INTERVIEW WITH CHRISTINA KIM

**ASHLEY CUSHMAN:** Christina, thanks for coming in and joining us. A great round out there. You propelled yourself up the leaderboard. Can you talk about the way you played? You had an especially busy scorecard on your front 9, the back 9.

**CHRISTINA KIM:** Absolutely, I just came out of the gates, kicking, and, you know, just birdied three of my first four holes. I had a couple of hiccups, but was really able to make it up with an eagle on the 17th hole, which was my 8th hole.

I was just playing really steady golf. It's funny to say, but people say stuff like this all the time, like I'm serious, after watching Tiger last week at the Men's Open, just watching his routine and watching how he was going about his methodical way of going around the golf course. It really struck a cord with me. Because normally I hate watching the Open. Because I hate watching guys, the best guys in the world, hacking it up. Because it kind of gives me, sort of a negative, all you envision is just chunk after chunk, a poor chip here and there, and just watching him, it was awe inspiring, you know. So I like to say I'm trying to play like Tiger Woods.

**ASHLEY CUSHMAN:** Questions?

**Q.** It's looks like from your line this year, you've had a few Top-10's, you've been around the leaderboard, are you getting frustrated that you haven't won in a little while. You are getting close but do you feel like it's time to win a tournament?

**CHRISTINA KIM:** I definitely feel like it's time to come back to the winner's circle. I've had two seasons with a dry spell, a couple of runner-up finishes last year. But, you know, to be honest, I'm not going to lie, I am just thrilled where I am where I am at this point in the season, because if you take the first, you know, like 20 events or 15 events of the year, and you take them throughout my entire career, I played like crap the first half of the year.

So the fact that, you know I had 5 Top-10's in the first 10 events this year that was thrilling for me. I came in the Top-10 five times, and was playing better golf in general. For me I'm just trying to be patient. I mean it is frustrating because I know that I can be winning at

times. Certain events I should have won this by 20 strokes. But more than that, it's sort of teaching me to, you know, I think truly for the first time in my career, I really learn patience. You say it, but actually living it and doing it, are different things.

Q. Can you talk about the conditions today? It seems like there was a lot of birdies out there. Obviously you had a bunch of them. Morgan is having a great game. A lot of scores are coming down a bit. Is that true, what was it like out there?

**CHRISTINA KIM:** Well, you know, we've had a lot of precipitation in this area in the last couple of days. The hail storm that we had on Monday afternoon, you know, the rain we had the last couple of days in the evenings and everything. So it's making to be a softer golf course in the sense where you land it in the fairway.

If you land it in the right edge of the fairway it's unlikely for it to bounce right and go out. It kind of lands and stops which makes the fairways play a little bit wider. Since we are not getting the roll it makes the golf course play longer. But since the greens are softer, and you can throw darts, you're going to sit there, and your 5-iron is going to jump maybe five yards.

You can be a lot more aggressive. Pretty much where your ball lands is pretty much where it will stick.

So in certain aspects it does make the golf course more receptive to birdies, but you still got to put your shots into it. If you are going to skank around and hit poor shots, you are not going to be able to give yourself the opportunities.

Playing conditions are great. It's perfect weather. It's not too hot where you are staggering around. It's not too cold where you are bundled up with three or four layers. I think it's just absolutely perfect golf weather right now.

Q. I believe you birdied 17 yesterday and the eagle today, that's your best run on the course. 17 the last two days, what did you do today?

**CHRISTINA KIM:** I did the same thing I did yesterday actually. I hit a good tee shot actually straight down the center of the fairway today, and I had, I believe, it was 211 to the front, 220 to the flag and there was a little bit of wind behind me, but I just didn't feel like I had enough to get the 5-wood there. It was still a little damp in the morning, and I didn't think the ball was going to fly as far, so I had to take a little 3-wood and just try to hit it as high in the air as possible and land it as soft as I could. It landed like it was a butter fly with sore feet. It stopped where it landed. I had eight feet for eagle. Yesterday, I believe I was like 229 to the pin, 213 front or something like that. I hit a 3-wood up there and I snuck it up 12 feet and just missed the putt yesterday.

It's a nice change because we have all had issues with No. 17. But I have had my fair share. It's nice to figure out how to play the hole.

Q. How much do you look at the leaderboard, and are you aware of what Pressel is doing today?

**CHRISTINA KIM:** Every time I looked at the leaderboard the only thing it said was "Consolation brands, wines and spirits." Every time I looked at the leaderboard that's what it said.

So I enjoy looking at it, you know. But especially just to see where I stand and things.

But bottom line, you just got to anticipate someone is going to shoot 8-under today. You know that Lorena is sitting there. She maybe just teed off a little while ago. She is kind of like, not Tiger, but like a lion sitting in the brush waiting to pounce because these are perfect conditions for her. She hits the ball so far, high and soft and she is a phenomenal putter that you know someone like her is probably going to shoot about 8-under so you need to scrape together as many birdies as possible.

Q. What's making you more patient this year and is that the only key change for you this year?

**CHRISTINA KIM:** Well, you know, I don't really know how I'm being patient. It just kind of happens. I had 366 days to be 23 last year since it was a leap year this year. Maybe that 24th birthday kind of

made it happen. I don't know.

There is a couple of differences in my game. Normally I'm just hitting it forward. Normally I hit it where I want to and forward. I've been working really hard on my game, but taking breaks when I needed to. The new putter that I've got, a new putter from, Yes! Golf called the GrooveTube, it's one of the biggest putters you will every find. It's an interesting looking putter, you know. There is a lot of them that are honkity, plonkity (phonetic), you know, big old honking putters. I think it's just a phenomenal putter. The feel, the direction I'm able to get off of it. The way the ball rolls. Everything. I think the putter has been a huge factor because I made a ton of saves out there today with that putter, aside from just the birdies and the eagle that I had today. I still probably missed about 7 greens out there and was able to get up and down five out of seven times. It was great just holding something in your hands that you feel like will actually help you.

It is hard to say, but people have this, you know, sort of image of who I am as being loud, gregarious, obnoxious, this, that, whatever, there is a lot of different words that describe me. For the first time I feel like I fit in my own skin.

People say I'm loud, and this, and that and funny, but now I actually feel comfortable.

So the fact that I am comfortable with myself and doing what I do, standing over a ball, you know, that just sort of gives you a little more confidence.

Like Lorena is a prime example of that. Her confidence is through the roof, as it should be. If I was Lorena, I would be like, oh my God, so confident.

But she's just got that quiet confidence about her. She will sit there and she will have an impossible shot in front of her and she will make the shot work. She will make it somehow, something magical will happen.

So I think that, you know, talking with her a little bit in the last couple of years, knowing her as long as I have, maybe she is finally starting to rub off on me a little bit.

Q. Have you been less than patient in previous years?

**CHRISTINA KIM:** Oh my God, yes. I think it's funny because the way I see it, in the last five years that I was out on Tour, the latter half of the year is when I played my best, and I think a lot of that just had to do with me playing so many events because I was one of the few that played almost everything every year that, one, I either got tired of being impatient. 2, you know, you just kind of realize you know like, I had so many missed opportunities, what could I have done to try and play a little better. And a lot of that is just sitting there and saying, you know what, bite the bullet. You got to pick your battles.

You can't stop it from 193 yards when there is only five yards to work with on either side of the flag.

You just got to try and be smart. More than anything, maybe I just matured a little bit.

But, yes, I've been so impatient in years past where you are hitting it to five feet every time, and you miss one, then you hit your tee shot in the trees on the next hole from the trees you have to chip it out, and you are teed (sic) off that you weren't on the green. It just mounts up, so I'm just kind of tired with that.

**ASHLEY CUSHMAN:** Thank you, Christina

**CHRISTINA KIM:** Thank you Ashley.

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