

LPGA Takefuji Classic
Las Vegas Country Club
Las Vegas, NV
April 12, 2006

Pre-tournament round quotes

AN INTERVIEW WITH NATALIE GULBIS

PAUL ROVNAK: Natalie, you have been playing extremely well this year. I think four Top-5 finishes, played great at Kraft Nabisco, our last tournament out.

We're in your backyard this week. Just talk about playing close to home and coming in here on such a high note for the season.

NATALIE GULBIS: I'm very pleased with how I started off the sign. I'm just excited to be home. We travel so much on Tour, that I'm just looking forward til we get home and have a lot of friends and family coming in this week and looking forward to see all of them since the events have been on the West Coast, kind of like the last event on the West Coast before we go east for a couple of months.

PAUL ROVNAK: We'll go ahead and take questions, if you can kind of ask them one at a time for our transcriptionist.

Q. Natalie, what brought you to Lake Las Vegas, just what about the area?

NATALIE GULBIS: As soon as I turned professional I was basically looking at a non-tax state to move to. That left only a few states, and I had just started working with Butch Harmon who lives here in Las Vegas, and Vegas was on the West Coast, and it was a perfect fit, and my parents stumbled across Lake Las Vegas when they were going out to Lake Meade, just to go out to the lake, and they saw this beautiful community, and we went out there, and Lake Las Vegas has been great to me. I practice out there. It's such an amazing place.

Q. Natalie, we are from Tokyo, Japan, how do you explain your hot start for the season? You are playing at even a higher level than last year. If could you give us some reasons that you think might be helping you?

NATALIE GULBIS: Just trying to be a more consistent player, just hit more fairways, hit more greens, get more chances at birdies. That's basically what I worked on in the off season, and that's what I will continue to work on throughout the year. Just tightening up my game and trying to be a more consistent player.

Q. I was really impressed with your poise and confidence a couple weeks ago in the LPGA championship.

Do you think you were real relaxed during the round.

NATALIE GULBIS: I'm a pretty relaxed player in general. That was a reflection, thank you for the compliment. That was a pretty amazing Sunday. I've been in the hunt in a couple of Majors, and that one was a lot of fun. We had a really big gallery that day. They were a lot of fun to play in front of. The weather was perfect. It kept getting closer and closer. We came down to the last couple of holes, and we heard that Karrie had just holed out, and kind of put pressure on your group to some birdies. It's just the environment that you want to play for in for sports.

Q. What were some of the thoughts going through your head on the putt on 18; did you think it was going in?

NATALIE GULBIS: Just try to make it. I actually hit the putt that I wanted to hit. I misread it by a couple of inches, and I actually did have pretty good pace. Just try to make it. I hit the putt pretty hard too. I left myself about three feet coming back.

Q. Do you think it would be nice for you to win your first career tournament in your town of residence?

NATALIE GULBIS: Sure, I would love to win it anywhere. It would be nice to have it this week at home.

PAUL ROVNAK: How close do you think you are to breaking through?

NATALIE GULBIS: I think just to win tournaments out here you have to be consistent for, you know, 50. You can't be consistent for 50 of 54 holes, and not play good all four days. I still haven't been able, my last four or five years, to put an event together where I played really, really strongly for four rounds. I played well for three rounds or three and a half rounds. That's something that Annika really does. She wears people down with how consistent she is.

Q. What do you think of the slogan for the LPGA this year?

NATALIE GULBIS: These Girls Rock? I love it. I love it. Especially as popular as music is right now. It's a great slogan. Especially it's a very energetic slogan in some of the ads, and some of ideas that we have. It will be interesting to see how they are going to market the LPGA TOUR. It's fun. It's really a good reflection of how the players are out here.

How do you like it?

MEDIA: I think it's great. It has some sense of vitality being young and, you know, sort of like a new generation. Is that the feeling behind it?

NATALIE GULBIS: Yes, we like it.

PAUL ROVNAK: Do we have anymore questions for Natalie?

Q. Last year, you had lot of high scores, is there a particular hole on the course that you have to be careful on?

NATALIE GULBIS: Is there a particular hole?

Q. Right.

NATALIE GULBIS: I think these fairways are pretty narrow. So if you do miss a drive, you are going to be in trouble, and be in the trees or the out-of-bounds comes in pretty fast.

So I think it's very, very important that you hit your driver well this week. If a couple of shots get away from you off the tee, you could be in some pretty tough positions.

Q. You don't have one in particular?

NATALIE GULBIS: No. 18, I think is very difficult because the green is sloped towards the water, and whether you are coming in with a wood, and going for it in two, or coming in with a wedge, the ball has a tendency to spin back and go into the water. And when you are above the hole, if you do take a little bit extra club, because the water is in front, you have a really, really tough chip for a sand shot coming back.

PAUL ROVNAK: Everybody all set? Thank you. Thank you, Natalie.

NATALIE GULBIS: You're welcome.
