

**State Farm Classic  
The Rail Golf Club  
Springfield, IL**

**August 31, 2006**

**First-round tournament quotes**

**AN INTERVIEW WITH MARIA HJORTH**

PAM WARNER: (Inaudible.)

**MARIA HJORTH:** Yes, I played pretty well. Maybe didn't hit as many fairways as I would have liked. I was fortunate enough to be the in the fairway bunkers, and hit good shots from there. I played very solid all day. The first nine, which is the back 9, I just didn't make the putts I needed. The front 9, I just started making the putts.

PAM WARNER: It looks like you had four birdies in a row, what was going on there?

**MARIA HJORTH:** Yes, I mean I was hitting a few close and then also making the putts that I needed. So it was fun.

PAM WARNER: Can we go over your scorecard? You started out on the back.

**MARIA HJORTH:** Okay. On 12 I hit my driver right in the rough. I hit a rescue club for my second. Then I had 94 yards to the pin. I hit a lob wedge to about eight feet.

And then on 15, I hit a good drive and a good 3-wood and came up just short of the green. About 5, 5 paces short of the green and chipped, it to about four feet.

And then 4, I hit a good drive and good rescue, just over the back of the green. I actually made an eagle there. I chipped it straight in the hole in the pin and it just kind of just bounced out, so it was a tap-in for birdie.

And then on 5 I hit a grip 7-iron, 20 feet.

On 6, I hit my drive a little bit right in the fairway bunker and then I hit a very good 8-iron, my second shot to about 15 feet.

On 7, I hit a 6-iron to four feet.

And on 9, I hit it right in the fairway bunker and hit a 7-iron to about 20 feet.

PAM WARNER: Questions?

Q. The second 9, were the greens rolling well?

**MARIA HJORTH:** Yes, they are a little bit slower this year than they were last year, so you really have to be confident with your speed and really hit the ball. Of course if they're a little bit slower they're not going to break as much. So you just have to play a little bit less break, and make sure you hit it at the right pace and all of a sudden they go in.

Q. The course, had some rain earlier this week, is it generally playing a little bit longer than you are using, a typical Rail?

**MARIA HJORTH:** Yes, absolutely. Almost every year I've been here it's been really hard and fast. The par-5s are, you know -- I think 4 is the only one that you feel like you can reach. But the other ones, you really need to hit two good shots to get there. Today I didn't get there on those par-5s. It's definitely playing longer than some of the par-4's too, but I hit longer irons into them.

Q. Generally you are a longer hitter compared to some of the girls, out here today, do you feel like it gave you a little bit of an advantage, just the way the course is playing?

**MARIA HJORTH:** Yes, I think so. I think it's definitely an advantage to be a longer hitter, because normally you carry it a little bit further than the shorter hitters. So that makes it an advantage, maybe on the par-5s you are able to reach them, or maybe just short of them. On par-4's, of course, if you are coming in there in short iron you will have birdie chances because the ball is sitting dead on the green, so you really have to play it up to the pin.

Q. Nina Reis that was just in here, I know she is a rookie this year, do you know her at all, or a little?

**MARIA HJORTH:** Actually I didn't know her at all before she came out here because she has been playing on the Swedish Tour, and a bit younger than I am, so I didn't really know her at all. I kind of got to know her this year. She has been playing pretty solid so far. So hopefully she will keep her card.

Q. You had a good year here, it was a couple of years ago, I think you were in here once or twice?

**MARIA HJORTH:** Yes, last year I played really well here, too. A few years ago as well. It's a course that I like. You just have to, of course, make your putts to make birdies because it's really kind of a birdie course out here. You have to take advantage of the chances that you get.

Q. I didn't have a chance to look, is 65 a low round for you?

**MARIA HJORTH:** I have had a few low rounds, I don't know if 7-under is the lowest. I've had -- I think some-5 or -6 unders, too. But it's one of the lower rounds this year. Hopefully, I can keep it going. I've had some good rounds, but not really four rounds in a row, but hopefully this week will be the week to put it all together.

Q. You had four birdies in a row, you're getting kind of on a birdie streak, what's the longest birdie streak you've had?

**MARIA HJORTH:** I think I've had, I think 5 in a row maybe. I think I had that a few times. But it's great when you get them, get on that run. All of a sudden you see the line clearly on the greens, the putts are going in, you are hitting good shots and hitting the ball close. It would be nice if you can get 18 in a row.

**PAM WARNER:** Thank you.

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