
**Mitchell Company Tournament of Champions
Magnolia Grove Golf Course
Semmes, Al**

**Nov. 11, 2004
First-round leader quotes**

AN INTERVIEW WITH JULI INKSTER

THE MODERATOR: Let's go over your card **Error! Bookmark not defined.**

JULI INKSTER: No. 3, I hit a pitching wedge in there about six feet, made that for birdie.

No. 6, I hit a pitching wedge in there about six feet for birdie.

No. 10, I hit a 6-iron about 15 feet, made that for birdie.

The next hole, I chipped in, I was just off the green, and chipped in. So I hit a little chip and run, probably 30 feet.

And then 16, I hit a driver, 7-wood. I was just pin-high to the right. I chipped up and made about a 6 to 8-footer for birdie.

And then 18, I hit a 9-iron, a little 9-iron about eight feet. Probably ten feet and made that for birdie.

Overall, I played very well today. I made a really good par on 15. I drove it in the right bunker, hit it short and chipped up there and made about a 15-footer for par. I had a good par on 17. I hit it right, and I pretty much did. I hit a really good chip up there and ended up making a putt.

I drove the ball well, and I hit my irons well and I had a lot of chances.

Q. 15, a little bunker in the front?

JULI INKSTER: No, it's the par-4. No, off the tee I hit it. Yes. My feet were out of bunker and my ball was in the bunker, and I just kind of pushed it a little right.

Q. (Inaudible)?

JULI INKSTER: Yes, yes. That was great. I mean I feel kind of guilty going there because you know, it was supposed to be Meg, Cristie and Grace. Meg had such a great year, she deserved to be there. She hurt her back, called me on Sunday morning and asked if I could play, and I got there Monday morning, tried to get there Sunday night, couldn't get there. I got there Monday morning, and I ended up playing great and my teammates played great, and we won. Yes, it was awesome. It was fun. It was lot of fun. I had a great group. I had Fred Couples and Peter Jacobsen, as low key as you can,

very positive out there. You know, I wish Meg could have been there because she deserved to be there.

Q. The back nine was giving up a lot of birdies, was that playing easier?

JULI INKSTER: No, I think, you know, I think it is just kind of Thursday, you kind of play that front 9, trying to get a feel from where you are at with your game. The back 9 you are feeling pretty good, and you play maybe a little more aggressive and kind of yield some birdies.

Q. Can you talk a little bit about your year, I know you scaled back a little bit maybe?

JULI INKSTER: Yes, not much. I really haven't played great this year, you know. I kind of struggled with my ball striking. And then the last -- I didn't go to Augusta. But Samsung and Sacramento, I started to hit the ball good and play well. So yesterday, I played well at the Wendy's. Tuesday I played well at the Wendy's, so I just kind of carried it over a little bit.

Q. Can you talk about this tournament a little bit, how special is it, Tournament of Champions?

JULI INKSTER: Yes, I think it's a tournament that we need to have. I think, you know, I think it's an honor to be here and to play. I love the small field, the twosomes. You can wither around the golf course. But Alabama, over the years, I think it's gotten to be a good test for us.

Q. Are you happy with the new format adding to get the field up a little bit?

JULI INKSTER: Yes. To be honest with you, I was against it. Because, you know, I think three years is enough, you know. I don't think we need to add anymore. But once again my recommendations went down by the wayside. I do a lot on the committee, yes. I just think if you win a tournament the last three years, that's plenty. The guys do it just by year.

Q. (Inaudible)?

JULI INKSTER: Well, it wasn't that. I think the way it was, I think was fine. I think three years is great. With Annika winning a lot. You want to have some type of field here. But she is going to scale back more and we are going to have a lot more winners. I hate to see this tournament get to be 100 players, you know. I think it should be a select group and a group that's won the last three years, personally. It didn't go over well.

THE MODERATOR: Thanks, Juli.

