

**Samsung World Championship
Half Moon Bay Golf Links
Half Moon Bay, CA**

September 30, 2008

Pre-round quotes

AN INTERVIEW WITH JULI INKSTER

MIKE SCANLAN: Juli, thanks so much for coming in. Welcome to the Samsung World Championship. It's kind of in your backyard here. You got a sponsor exemption to play, so if you would just talk about being here and your thoughts.

JULI INKSTER: Yes, it's great, it's not often I get to play in my backyard. It's such a prestigious event and I've been fortunate enough to win it a few times before. It's a nice way to come back from my sabbatical and start playing some golf.

MIKE SCANLAN: Can you talk about what you have been up to the last few weeks?

JULI INKSTER: Yes, not much, I got my oldest to college. My youngest to high school, and my youngest is playing golf St. Francis golf team, so I have been watching her play. We got a new puppy, so I have been puppy training and just hanging out at home.

MIKE SCANLAN: Questions?

Q. What do you miss about being out on the golf course?

JULI INKSTER: The competition, getting ready for a tournament which I've done the last few weeks. I haven't seen a lot of my friends for a while, too, so it is nice to do that. But mostly just competing.

Q. I was thinking about this driving, maybe you and Beth have been out there the longest, spanned all of these different eras, four or five commissioners, whatever it is. Talk about the differences you've seen over the years. Is the golf better now?

JULI INKSTER: Yes, the golf is 100% better. We used to be able to shoot 74, 75 and still win a golf tournament. Now you can't do

that. The golf courses are better. The recognition is better. The respect is better. The media is better. Women have come a long way both on the golf course and off the golf course. You know before, I think even though you got paid, it was pretty much an extension of college because most of the people you played against went to college and your friends and stuff might have gone to different colleges, but you always saw them at golf tournaments and you kind of developed that friendship. Now, it's definitely more of a business. A lot of people come right out of high school, and some don't even go to high school. It's a world-wide Tour. I would never have thought 20 years ago I would be going to Thailand and Mexico and Singapore and Europe. So it's definitely different that way, too.

Q. Talk about when your friends leave The Tour, like Dottie, you see these people off the course, well, she commentates, what is that like when the old guard changes, and you are still here? I've got doctors that retire, and I don't see these guys anymore. JULI INKSTER: Well, I still keep in touch with them. Like Meg, Beth, Meg is not retired, Rosie, Dottie, I still hook up with them now and then. Jane Geddes works for the LPGA. But it is different. But you know what, I get along great with the young kids. I have an 18-year-old daughter, so I kind of know what they're all about. So I mean even though it's different, it's refreshing. To me, it keeps me going.

Q. Do you get to mentor? Do you have anybody in particular that you've bond with over the different generation? JULI INKSTER: A lot of them. A lot of them have come up and asked me for advice. Especially a lot of the moms. Paula has asked me a lot; Morgan, Natalie. They all have. And which, to me, it's a nice feeling that they respect my values on what I've done and how I do it. But on the other hand they are their own people and they are going to do what they want to do. But they've definitely come and talked to me and asked me what I thought on the subject and stuff.

Q. Do you still work with Mike McGettrick (phn)? JULI INKSTER: I do.

Q. That's been over the years? JULI INKSTER: Yes.

Q. At this stage do you still deal with your swing and tinker with your swing? JULI INKSTER: Oh, yes, I'm constantly tinkering. That's why I talk a few weeks off. I couldn't handle my swing anymore. So I just had to just get away and restart.

Q. You said your daughter is now playing at St. Francis, does she

or any of her teammates or maybe the coach at St. Francis come to you and say, what are your thoughts about why we're not doing this?

JULI INKSTER: Oh, yes. What I've been doing is every Saturday I take her and two of the other girls, and we play a 9-hole match. We've been doing this for the last six weeks. And it's myself and one girl, against my daughter and the other girl, and we play nine holes, and I give them a shot a hole and we play a best ball. The loser has to carry both sets of clubs back to the clubhouse. So it's a lot of fun. It's amazing how hard they try because when they do carry the clubs back, I make sure I get pictures and put them on the website.

But I do that because it's kind of hard for me to say, you know, Cori, let's go out and play golf. Cori, let's go out and play golf. But when her friends are playing it just makes it a lot easier. So we have been doing that. We usually have lunch before or lunch after and we kind of make it a nice afternoon. But it's been a lot of fun. A lot of smack talking back and forth, so it's good.

I have gone out and watched the whole team five or six times. You know, they all hit it on the green, and then they 3-putt or they hit it just short and chip over the green; just little stuff like that, but they are getting better and that's all you can ask. That's just from playing.

Q. Can you give us a sense of how you're season has been. You mentioned you were sick of your swing. Maybe a layman's description of what went wrong and how you changed it?

JULI INKSTER: Well, my swing is just kind of a home grown swing. I didn't have video. I just got up there, and I hit it and I played. Over the years it's kind of settled in where it's been okay.

But the last year, it's just been all over the map. So I just kind of want to get away from it and just start back with the basics. And Mike came in for a couple of days and we worked on it. It feels a lot better.

It's not like anybody would notice any changes, but just little subtle things that I am doing better. My set up, and my path coming down.

You know, my year has been up and down. It seems like when I putt good, hit the ball bad. When I hit the ball bad, I putt good. So, hopefully, I think I got 5 more tournaments that I can put together a nice little 5 week stretch.

Q. Juli, can you talk about what you think a Tour should do going into next year without Annika, ways for The Tour to continue to grow?

JULI INKSTER: Well, I think it is growing. I think us going on a priority Money List is going to help out, getting the young players in, getting new blood in, opening more spots at qualifying school. You know, we are going to really miss Annika because she is just so good for the game of golf.

But we have a lot of good young players. We have Lorena, and we have Paula, and we have Susan Pettersen. This Ji-Yai Shin is a great player, a nice girl, outgoing, wants to do the right thing and stuff. We got a lot of good young players. We just need the people to get to know them a little bit.

Q. What are your thoughts on the English policy?

JULI INKSTER: Well, my thoughts, 99 percent of them, they can all speak English. It's a culture thing, I think. You know I was brought up to be myself and that's just the way I am, outgoing, I talk to everybody, whatever. The Asian players, they are more brought up, it's kind of a respect thing, a pecking order thing. They are brought up to really honor their roots and their grandparents, and the people before them, and the higher ups. So all of a sudden you put an 18 or 19-year-old girl that's maybe not really comfortable with her English playing with four CEO's, men or women, she is not going to feel comfortable going up there and making small talk. That's not the way they are brought up. I think it's more of a culture thing than an English thing. All of these girls out here, they all have their own personality and they are all, if you sit down and get to know them, they are great kids. So we just got to bring that out in them. That's not easy to do because it's just two different cultures.

Q. If you were commissioner for a day, how do you go about that?

JULI INKSTER: It would have to be more than one day, maybe two days.

Q. Say a week, given the backlash and what happened with the policy initially, what would you do going forward?

JULI INKSTER: I would put one of the young Koreans with a Meg Mallon or a Pat Hurst or a Juli Inkster during a Pro-Am and just have them go out there and communicate and make small talk and stuff like that, and count that as their Pro-Am, just so they can learn.

I don't think anybody has really ever taught them how to play in a Pro-Am, what does a Pro-Am do for the LPGA?

And I think if they see that, that for a day, and then put their own style to it -- I'm not saying that everybody has to be like a Meg Mallon or Pat Hurst or whatever. I just think they do a really good job in the Pro-Ams, or even Natalie or Paula. Annika does a good job, Lorena, any of those girls, and just see how they interact with the clients that sponsor and interact with their group, I think they would learn a lot from that.

It's teaching these girls how to do a Pro-Am than teaching them English.

If I get four Korean men in this Pro-Am, even though I don't speak their language, I'm going to make it fun for them. We will kid around, do something. Maybe the language won't be the best, but we will get it across and end up having a good time. I think that's

more of it, learning how to do a Pro-Am.

Q. Juli, did you watch the Ryder Cup?

JULI INKSTER: I did.

Q. As I was watching it, I kept thinking about The Solheim Cup, it's a different situation where the American teams dominate Europe. After the Swedish wave, do you think that's cyclical, or do you think maybe some revisions in The Solheim should be instituted; you know what I'm getting at?

JULI INKSTER: Well, I think.

Q. We are so much stronger than the European team?

JULI INKSTER: Well, I don't know. I'm not really sure of that. You know, I thought this year the men's European team was so much stronger than our team.

Q. I'm talking about Solheim.

JULI INKSTER: What I am getting to, it doesn't really matter what team is on paper, it's how you play, and if I were a betting person I would have bet on the European men bar none.

But, you know what, the men came out, and I think this is it, the last few years we've had an influence of young blood, young spunk. These girls have never lost. They don't know what it's like to lose. So they go out there and say, well, I'm not losing. It's a mentality thing.

You saw that with the men. They had what, six rookies, and they've never be on the team, they are just going out there and playing golf. They are not worried about at all what the media is saying and yada, yada, yada.

They're just saying, I'm going to play my game, if it's not good enough, so be it. But I'm going to go out there and have fun and play golf.

That's what I think we've, the last few years, have done really good is have all of this young talent; Morgan, and Paula and Natalie. These guys are worried more about what color scrunchies they're going to wear instead of who they're playing. It's a different mentality, and it's great.

Q. I take it you've played the ocean course before?

JULI INKSTER: Yes.

Q. How is it different this time from past times when you've played it?

JULI INKSTER: Well, the rough is definitely up. It's the premium on hitting the fairways. I think it's playing longer. The greens are firming up a little bit, and I think it's going to be a good test. I think the par-5s out there, you're going to have to make some birdies on the par-5s because I think there is some difficult par-4's and some good par-3s.

Q. Juli, can you talk about how throughout the years you're off the course stuff has changed? Can you talk about being a mentor now, you have been asked about everything in the world of golf, but you still go out there and still try to be one of the best players in the world. And your golf has been amazingly good for a long time now, how do you make that switch on the course to off the course and has that changed for you?

JULI INKSTER: No, it hasn't. I don't know. I've been good at separating them, I guess. I went early yesterday morning and played my practice round, and then went out in the afternoon and watched my daughter play golf, and got some dinner on the table, and this morning I got her up, got to school, ran some errands, went to the grocery store and now I'm here.

I do the mom thing and I do the golf thing. Even though to you guys it might look completely different, to me it's all one thing. Being a mom is a job and playing golf is a job. I love doing both of them.

My husband thinks I'm very unorganized, which I am when it comes to where everything is. I know where it is, even though it's not in a perfect file.

But I'm very organized in the kids' stuff and in my golf stuff. The other stuff, the little things I don't really worry about. That's just the way I've always been. I'm really good on focussing on the things I need to get done and do.

I'm not a real, hang around the golf course. I get in, do my work and what I need to do, and then I'm out of there.

Q. Juli, it appears that Paula is having the best year of her career so far on Tour. What changes have you seen in her and what do you think it will get take for her to get over the hump and win a Major?

JULI INKSTER: Well, I think Paula is going to win her Majors. There is no doubt about that.

The thing I love most about Paula, she never gives up. You look at some of the scores she shoots, she might start out with a 74 or 75, but by Sunday she is in the Top-10. You can't teach that. You either have it or you don't. She definitely has it.

She works extremely hard on her game. She wants to be the best. She is not scared to be the best. I think she is going to just get better and better.

It's just going to be a matter of time before she wins a Major if she just let's it go and let's herself do what she is capable of doing. She had a great U.S. Open. You are talking one shot anywhere in four days and it's a different outcome. So she will get there. There is no doubt.

Q. Sort of in that same vein, you've mentioned earlier that Paula is one of the people that you have mentored, and I have talked to her in the past about viewing you as a role model.

I'm curious for the genesis of the relationship, when you first recall meeting her and how much your relationship has sort of

evolved over the years?

JULI INKSTER: Well, I've helped her with her fashion, she has improved on that a bit. You know, it just kind of evolved. I think I was playing on Solheim Cup together and partnering together.

It's not really like we go out to dinner every night and whatever. But I think we have a mutual respect for each other.

And when Ryder Cup was going on, she was texting me, and I texted her.

She knows that any question that she wants to ask she can come up and ask me any time. The same way with her. If I'm struggling one way or the other, I will go up and ask her, what do you do for this or whatever? It's kind of a mutual thing that we have. I'm sure we will have forever.

Q. Had you met her before she left Northern California?

JULI INKSTER: Yes, yes. She played in a couple of LPGA events as an amateur, but I never played with her until she did.

Q. Do you watch the LPGA tournaments when you are not playing on TV?

JULI INKSTER: No. I don't. I look at the scores at night on the internet. I look at the scores. I don't have time. Once in a while I do.

Q. Do other players watch?

JULI INKSTER: I don't know.

MIKE SCANLAN: Juli, thank you so much.

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