
JOHN Q. HAMMONS
HOTEL CLASSIC
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AN INTERVIEW WITH CHRISTINA KIM

THE MODERATOR: Christina, thanks for coming in.

CHRISTINA KIM: Well, thanks for having me.

THE MODERATOR: 6-under, top of the leader board. What was going well for you today?

CHRISTINA KIM: In all honesty I was hitting just about everything well. Coming into this week I got off two great weeks. I tied for 6th two weeks ago. And last week I was, you know, runner-up to Cristie Kerr. I was actually dead tired. I was really fatigued coming in to this round. I just sort of said, you know, just chalk it up and just see what you can scrap up together. I think one of the reasons why I played so well because I probably hit 12 or 13 fairways, and part of that was my fear. I never played out of Bermuda before, but only a few times. So the fairway, the way I see the fairway, consisted of the fairway, first cut and second cut. You can't go outside the first cut, you know. So I just stayed, I tried to stay in the fairway. I think a lot of it was fear.

Q. Christina, did you think based on what you saw in the practice round 6-under was a realistic score to post?

A. CHRISTINA KIM: I will be honest with you, the wind, if I'm not mistaken, the winds were coming from the north or northeast from the beginning of the week which is not normal this time of year in this area. It was howling all week. I was thinking 6-under wasn't even a plausible score for three days in all honesty. But the conditions were perfect. It's a beautiful course, probably one of the toughest tracks, if not the toughest we get all year long. The greens are in immaculate shape. If you get it close enough, if you are within site of the hole, why not go for it.

Q. Your last two weeks, you said you were playing in a good grouping, but tired, what has going well recently that wasn't going well beforehand?

CHRISTINA KIM: You know, in all honesty I would think it would most likely be my putting just because I come to realize that the fewer strokes you hit, the better your score is, the fewer putts you have, the better your score is. And, you know, I have just been able to sort of get past the hole, you know. You go week by week by week and no matter where you go, and no matter how hard you think you may got it, the greens are always different week by week. I was able to get my feel better, you know. I have come to realize, I went seven or eight weeks hitting everything short. I'm 2-over here, 1-over. Maybe every now and then three or 4-under. But Yogi Berra says 80 percent of the putts you leave short don't go in. I figure I'm a little higher. I just came in. As long as you can get the ball passed the hole, scores are going to be better because you can at least give it a chance.

Q. Annika and Reilly Rankin were in and said the greens were just very true and easy to read, easy to putt on, do you feel the same?

CHRISTINA KIM: Oh, definitely. There probably wasn't a blade of grass that was out of place. The greens were in immaculate shape. They rolled them. They were all true. They rolled consistently. It was just a treat to be able to come out here and on top of that play well, it's just awesome.

Q. You said you were not accustomed to playing Bermuda. A lot of people said your ball is off the tee, you are not getting much roll off them. How different is that trying to shape your game plan knowing that you are not going to get much yardage off the tee after it lands?

CHRISTINA KIM: Well, you know, like I said before the fairways are pretty tight just by looking at them visually. So when you are trying to keep it out no further to the fairway than the first cut, it makes it seem that much narrower. When you got a ball that's not going to go anywhere once it lands, it is a little comforting, because at the same time it widens the fairways. So it's playing longer, definitely. I have a lot more 6-irons and 7-irons in my hand than I have for God over a month. But, you know, it's kind of hard to say because as narrow as the course is, the fact that you can at least know wherever you hit it, it pretty much where it's going to end up. I just don't know it's going to last the rest of the week if anything.

Q. How did you play on the par-5s?

CHRISTINA KIM: Are there 3 par-5s on this course? I believe, par 71, I believe I was 2-under on them.

No. 7, gosh, I'm sorry I started on the backside. So, No. 14, I mean I was about 30 yards to the hole with my third shot, so I just chipped it up. My short game has gotten a lot better as well. I think the word they use is practice. I have actually decided to do a little with my short game. It's helped quite a bit. But No. 14, I just put it to about six or seven feet. Made the putt.

No. 1, I don't know. It must have been a 30 yarder as well. I put that to about three feet. You know, because they have two -- they are not reachable par-5s. But they are not super long. I believe is it No. 5. It's a double dogleg. You got water here, bunkers, trees. It's visually very intimidating. I mean I was 80 yards to the green, and that green itself is very tricky because it's uphill. There is a small little crest, and then straight downhill. So I thought it would be better to leave it short than long.

So I left it short and it rolled off the front edge of the green. I made like an 8 or 9 foot putt for par. I mean everything was going to the center of the cup. It was just a great, great feeling.

Q. Did you make any bogeys today?

CHRISTINA KIM: I did, I bogeyed No. 11 with a 9-iron. I birdied the tenth hole, I was really pumped up over it. Wow. Honestly, I wouldn't have thought I would have made any birdies out there because how intimidating the course is, but No. 11 I hit my drive somewhere in the fairway. I can't recall where. My 9-iron came up short, and spun back even more, short of the green, I had not an easy chip and I left it about six feet short and hit it about three feet passed. So I played through the break. But I gave it a chance.

Q. Do you want to take us through the rest of the scorecard? Start wherever you want to.

CHRISTINA KIM: Well, I started on the tenth hole and I hit a pretty good drive. If I'm moth mistaken I was probably, gosh, let me think, uh-oh all I know, I don't remember the exact yardage but I used a 6-iron. I think it was 158 if I'm not mistaken to the flag, going a little uphill. I used a 6-iron put to about nine feet or so and just hit it right to the center of the cup.

I bogeyed No. 11, like I said. I think I was 132 to the flag. I hit my 9-iron a little short and kind of skanky and just came back off the green. I failed to get up-and-down, made a 6 or 7 foot putt for par.

No. 13, I think the hole was playing 192, maybe, I'm not quite sure. And I hit a 4-iron to about three inches or so. And made that.

No. 14, like I said, I chipped it up from about 35 yards to the hole. Six or seven feet left of the flag and made the putt there.

No. 15, I believe the hole was 182 yards. I used my 5-iron. I was like 40 feet short and just slammed into the back of the cup. Thank God the hole was there.

Then No. 1, I think it was about 43 yards, if I'm not mistaken for my third shot. I put it to about three feet and made that putt.

No. 3, this is where it's going to get me. I can't remember anything. No. 3, I was 138 yards to the flag. I had to hit it underneath the tree. I had to use my 8-iron and bumped it up from there. I hit it. It went passed the flag and rolled back about eight or nine feet, and I made that putt. That was a damn good putt.

Give me a second here. No. 7, I don't remember no. 7. No. 7 is.

Q. Down the right side, water, it turns to the left, to the right near the hole left side. It's after No. 6.

CHRISTINA KIM: The par-3, I don't remember that hole. I always do this. I always do this. I just played that hole, too, gosh.

THE MODERATOR: Your last birdie of the day. We can get it afterwards.

CHRISTINA KIM: Yes. But I feel silly now. Hold on. I can remember No. 8, and I can remember No. 6. Is it kind of tight? What am I asking? Every hole here is tight.

Q. (Inaudible)?

CHRISTINA KIM: On that hole I was 143 I think. It's got bunkers, right? Okay, okay. I think I was like 143 yards, and I used my 8-iron and I hit it about 14, 15 feet short of the hole and made that putt.

Q. What did you hit off the tee on No. 3 today?

CHRISTINA KIM: I choked up on my 3-wood. In the practice round I used a 5-wood. It was always into the wind. During the Pro-Am -- one of the guys I played with, his name is Kevin Blue. He is from the area. He hits the ball like 340. He went for the green and flew the green. But I just said why not. We always had a ball that was safe, so I tried driver. A long 3-wood probably somewhere in between there.

Q. You played it little towards the left?

CHRISTINA KIM: I didn't hit it quite as solidly as I would have liked to. So that last tree, maybe there was that much of the tree that was in my way, I didn't even want to chance it. I just thought I would play an 8-iron short underneath it. It went pin-high and jumped up but took that slope and came backwards.

THE MODERATOR: You guys all set.

Q. 6-under for the tournament, with technology, talent, for one day, are you surprised 6-under is the top score right now?

CHRISTINA KIM: I will be honest with you, I'm very surprised. I mean, honestly, I was telling my friends earlier, we were having lunch yesterday. I said I will take three 72's and run. By no means is this an easy course. I'm not going by any means and say, whoa, I can do that again. You can never know. It's just probably 6-under. I would think for me any way is probably my max out here, my best score.

Annika, I see her no problem going 8 or 9-under because she is Annika. She can always go 8 or 9 under wherever you are. I mean I am dumbfounded. I really don't know how that happened.

Q. But after shooting 65, you prefer not to go 72, 72, the rest of the way?

CHRISTINA KIM: Well, you know, it all depends on what the wind is going to be like, what the conditions are like here on out, the greens, they can firm up more. The fairways, they can actually start running. I couldn't tell you until Sunday whether or not I want to take a couple of more 72's. I am just happy where I am right now.

THE MODERATOR: All set.