

**LPGA Championship
Presented by Wegmans
Locust Hill Country Club
Pittsford, NY**

June 22, 2011

Pre-round quotes:

INTERVIEW OF LEXI THOMPSON

THE MODERATOR: We would like to welcome Lexi Thompson into the interview room. Thanks for joining us today.

LEXI THOMPSON: You're welcome.

THE MODERATOR: This is your first time playing here at Wegmans in the LPGA championship. Just tell me your thoughts and feelings coming into this Major.

LEXI THOMPSON: I'm just really excited to be here. I got to look at the golf course three times now. You know it's definitely a hard golf course, pretty tight. It's definitely a Major golf course is a good way to put it.

THE MODERATOR: This will be your second LPGA event this season and at the last one you were leading after the third round. What did you take from the experiences you had at Avnet.

LEXI THOMPSON: Well, I just learned the way I played and how I got to the fourth day leading. The fourth day didn't go as I planned. It's all a learning experience for me right now. I'm 16 and I have a lot of years ahead of me. I'm just looking forward to everything.

THE MODERATOR: Just that experience though, being up near the top of the leaderboard, how was that? You just turned professional about a year ago.

LEXI THOMPSON: Yes. That was crazy. I actually didn't know I was leading until I got to 17's green when I looked at the leaderboard. That was a great feeling. I played really well that third day. It just didn't go my way the fourth. That happens, it's golf.

THE MODERATOR: You haven't played in a ton of LPGA events, but you have been playing elsewhere, how do you feel about the state of your game coming into this week?

LEXI THOMPSON: I feel like it's pretty good. I've been practicing a lot in between events, just working on my short game. Lately I've been working on my short game, so that's definitely, hopefully going to show here. And working on hitting it straight off the tee, so that's definitely important here.

THE MODERATOR: Questions?

Q. Did you watch the U.S. Open and what was your impression of Rory?

LEXI THOMPSON: Yes, I watched parts of it. He was just playing amazing. Nobody was stopping him. Just everything seemed to be perfect going his way that week. It was pretty much expected. What he did at The Masters, you knew he was going to play good, and he is going to win a lot more than what he just did. I was definitely rooting for him.

Q. What's the Monday qualifying experience been for you so far?

LEXI THOMPSON: Monday qualifying is a little different for me. Qualifiers, you have to play well. You can't really have a really bad hole. You just have to play smart and just work for pars and just make your worst score a bogey probably. Just play smart and don't play stupid, I guess. But, you know, I haven't made Monday qualifiers yet. I'm going to keep trying.

Q. How many have you played in?

LEXI THOMPSON: 2. For the Kia and the State Farm.

Q. Lexi, you spoke about learning being in the lead, there was that one hole at Avnet where I think it was a par-3 where you just had that one shot. I don't know if it was the lie or the club or whatever. But looking back at that particular shot what did you decide about that and what did you learn about that?

LEXI THOMPSON: I don't know what shot.

Q. The par-3, on the last day. It seemed like a pivotal moment looking back?

LEXI THOMPSON: Oh, that one. You should have just said that one, the one that I hit it in the water on. Yes, I mean, it wasn't a bad club choice. I just miss hit it. I didn't want to take extra club and just plan for a miss hit. So I wanted to pure my wedge, and I came up short. It happens. Then I end up hitting a wedge on the next hole in the water. So the pitching wedge was not my club that day. I'll just say that. I'll just know next time to take more club.

Q. Lexi, you had a lot of support from people and then you had a lot of criticism on the decision to turn professional.

Was it difficult not to take the criticism personal, to be defensive about it? Are you still glad that you made that decision?

LEXI THOMPSON: Oh, yes, I'm really glad I made the decision. It was my decision the whole way. I've always wanted to turn pro. It's been my dream. I will never regret this decision. Having all of the support from my family and friends has just been a great thing for me and just having them behind me.

Q. What number Major is this for you?

LEXI THOMPSON: Overall?

Q. Yes.

LEXI THOMPSON: I don't know. 7.

Q. Have you had a hard time getting any momentum going and then stopping and starting, and can you tell us what your schedule is going to be for the summer?

LEXI THOMPSON: Yes, it's a little hard, but I do like practicing in between events because, you know, if you miss a cut, and you get to go home and practice what you're doing wrong, and what parts of the game you need to work on. So that's what I've been doing. I think it's been working. But after this one I have a few days off, then I go to The Open, and then I think I have five days off, and I go to Evian. I'm going to try to qualify for the British Open and then the Irish Open. Then I'm not too sure after that. Safeway, Canadian and Navistar.

Q. Is it tougher being one of the younger players on Tour?

LEXI THOMPSON: No, it's not tough. I like being the youngest. I get a lot of support from all of the other players just saying good luck and giving me some advice on the courses. It's great. I love it out here.

Q. How are you a better player being professional than you would have been as an amateur if you remained as an amateur? Is it simply the quality of competition you are playing against?

LEXI THOMPSON: Pretty much because I haven't really changed my game. I mean I've learned a lot, different golf courses and obviously stepped up a level against competition. But I haven't really changed the way I look at my game or anything like that. I play my game and play the same.

Q. Have you sought out anyone on Tour as an advisor or mentor, or this the my game, and I will just play it myself?

LEXI THOMPSON: Yes, pretty much. I just focus on my game. I've run into a few players like Laura Davies. I really like playing with Christina Kim. They are both really nice. Laura Davies I played about four times now and she has a very similar game to me. So I definitely like playing with her.

Q. They narrowed this course a lot, tightened the fairways to make it Major-like, how straight are you hitting the ball off the tee right now; do you feel pretty comfortable?

LEXI THOMPSON: Yes, actually today I figured something out so I'm hitting it a lot straighter. I'm feeling pretty good about my game. It reminds me of an Open golf course. It's definitely a Major golf course out here. I love looking down fairways where it's tree lined and rough. You have to hit a good tee shot.

Q. What did you figure out?

LEXI THOMPSON: Well, I was just coming out of my shots on my left shoulder. I just have to make sure I stay into it and trust it. Pretty simple.

THE MODERATOR: Anymore questions? Thank you very much, Lexi.

LEXI THOMPSON: No problem.

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