

The Mitchell Company Tour of Champions
Magnolia Grove Golf Course
Mobile, Alabama
November 10, 2005

First-round Interviews

Interview of Liselotte Neumann

THE MODERATOR: Liselotte, thanks for coming in and speaking with us.

LISELOTTE NEUMANN: Yeah.

THE MODERATOR: Six birdies on the day, 6 under par, 66. Top of the leaderboard. Great place to be.

LISELOTTE NEUMANN: It's a nice feeling. Yeah, it's a great place to be. I'm extremely happy with that.

THE MODERATOR: Let's talk about what worked for you today.

LISELOTTE NEUMANN: Pretty much everything. I drove the ball good, and kept it in play today. I think my eyes was totally the key today. I really hit some good shots into the greens. I can't complain about the putting either, actually. I made the putts that I had to make. It was just a good solid round really not any mistakes at all out there. Just one of those easy days.

THE MODERATOR: Sounds good. We'll take questions.

Q It was the first time you've played here?

LISELOTTE NEUMANN: I have played here quite a few times anyway. I was here last year anyway.

Q Of course, you won here.

LISELOTTE NEUMANN: I think I was 10th last year, I think I played it quite well. So much for that question.

Q Just talk about the whole season, and how you are feeling about your game?

LISELOTTE NEUMANN: Yeah, it's -- I think I've just been kind of growing with the whole year as it's going on. It's starting to be more consistent. And I feel like I've been hitting the ball better and better. You know, right before I came here I just took four weeks off. The tournament before this four weeks was out in Sacramento which I played well, I finished third. And this last four weeks I just kept practicing. I was working on my game. It feels like my swing is coming around. You know, just hitting the ball well. I went and did a couple of changes in my putting. I went to see, one of the assistants of Scotty Cameron out of the putting studio. And I worked on my stroke and watched my set up and everything. It was a couple of key things that I really saw. And I have been working a lot on my putting on this four weeks off. I thought today I rolled the ball really well. I made all of the putts that I felt like I should have made today.

Q Can you compare your game now compared to ten years ago?

LISELOTTE NEUMANN: Just more consistent today, I think. I feel like I'm just more solid. More just overall a little bit stronger. And I just feel more -- I think, my ball striking is better. I think probably if I go back ten years ago, I think, I had a really good short game at that time. That covered up a lot of the not so good shots that I might have hit. I think I'm a better player today than what I was ten years ago.

Q That's kind of what I was going to ask. Do you feel like your career is getting a second wind here? You won last year and you obviously played well this year?

LISELOTTE NEUMANN: Yeah. I think the win last year really sort of set the pace for this year. Because I made some changes in my swing. And you go through all of this time when you don't play so well and you don't really know, am I working on the right things? And am I doing the right things? And where is this all going to lead? I won last year and it gave me the confidence to come back this year and maybe not worry so much about my game. You know, just I know that whatever time I had put into it and what I worked on was really starting to pay off. And it took a lot longer than I thought.

Q But do you also think the standard compared to ten years ago too has moved up on the tour?

LISELOTTE NEUMANN: Oh, absolutely. Yeah. Actually now on my weeks off I sit down and I watch my U.S. Open win from 1988. And it's so fun to just see how, you know, everybody was swinging and playing. I was looking at my golfing I was like, oh, my God. I was flat and I looked like I was moving all over the place. And the equipment we played with, we had blades and the real woods. It's just a total different game today, isn't it? Just with the equipment and obviously with all of the players, and all of the young players are coming out from all over the world, and everybody. It just seems like everybody is so much fitter, and stronger, and bigger. It's just really came to, you know, it's just a different game. A different level out here today than what it was. Which is the way it should be. Probably the same in all sports.

Q How is the course playing, I guess, today compared to last year? You mentioned playing well here last year, is it much similar?

LISELOTTE NEUMANN: It's a little wet out there. We have to play lift, clean and place today. We get a lot in the driving areas where the ball is landing and it's really muddy. We have to get a lot of mud on the ball and we have to play lift, clean and place today. Other than that I didn't think it played particularly long. Quite a lot of shorter irons into the greens. The greens were holding. And they are not really fast. You know, they were rolling well. But they are not super fast. You can go ahead and actually hit the ball pretty good. So it's, I think we're going to see if the weather stays like this you are going to see a lot of low scores out there, I think.

(Scorecard)