

Samsung World Championship
BIGHORN Golf Club
Palm Desert, CA

October 13, 2006

Second-round tournament quotes

AN INTERVIEW WITH PAULA CREAMER

PAUL ROVNAK: Paula, great round today, 68 it goes along with your 70 yesterday, tied for the lead midway through, talk about your round and we'll take some questions.

PAULA CREAMER: You know I played solid today. I gave myself a lot of chances out there as I did yesterday. I feel that I haven't really been hitting the ball well but my misses have been pretty good. I've made some good putts. I'm pleased with where I am right now. Two more days left, I'm going to go for everything that I can out there. I'm playing pretty aggressive. The golf course is in awesome shape.

Q. Paula, for those of us that haven't seen you for a while, when did you start stop wearing the brace on your hand and how much did that effect you over the summer just the injury?

PAULA CREAMER: When did I stop wearing it?

Q. At Newport?

PAULA CREAMER: The Open? Yes, maybe four or five tournaments ago I stopped wearing it. Probably three to four tournaments, I'd say I haven't been wearing it. I don't know for sure. It's definitely affected my summer for sure.

But those are the things that you have to overcome and deal with and lay out there. It's just one of those things where I did a lot of rehab with it. I did a lot of wrist exercises. It's just coming out better on its own, and now I'm trying to make it stronger so it doesn't happen again.

Q. A couple of times on the back 9 you had some adventures out there that you managed to escape, one you got a ruling on a scoreboard?

PAULA CREAMER: Right. I mean that was a good break. Obviously, it would have been in my way no matter what. I got a good shot on the fly and made a good 2-putt there. Those kind of things, if you overcome, it definitely starts a momentum track going

on to the next couple of holes. And birdied the next two out of three holes after that. I'm pleased with the way I finished. A couple of errant shots out there. But you get that on this golf course. If you miss a fairway it can go anywhere.

Q. I was going to ask, certainly like last year, and the first few rounds this year, there seem to be a lot of players in the desert, a lot of rulings, is this course that much different in that regard?

PAULA CREAMER: You know, the fairways are pretty wide. If you miss them you are in desert and you are in a bush. It's one of those things. I think I missed two fairways in the last two days. One of them was in the rough -- I think I only missed one fairway actually. But my second shot on that par-5, I hit it in the desert. You know you get lucky. You don't get lucky. You get your good breaks and bad breaks. Fortunately I got a good break there and made par.

Q. Did you have any shots in the desert today?

PAULA CREAMER: Just one.

Q. For the record, have you had any rulings yet because we are keeping a tally, it's up around 30 for the tournament?

PAULA CREAMER: That would have been my one, scoreboard relief. Charley came out and helped me with that.

Q. How long did it take, an hour, 5 minutes?

PAULA CREAMER: I don't know, not an hour, maybe 10 or 15 minutes. I didn't start my watch at the time.

Q. At Sybase media day you talked a lot about the endorsements that you have, and the obligations that you do, have you balanced that this year? Obviously, you're a more high profile player than you were as a rookie. You won four times around the world last year. This year you haven't. Some people are wondering have all of your obligations affected your play or not affected your play?

PAULA CREAMER: You know in a way I think all of my sponsors and the things I do take my mind off of golf. It's another way for me to relax. It may not be a relaxing situation for other people. But for me it helps me. It just gets me away from things and staying in that competitive [mode | mowed].

You know, if anything ever came in the way, it would be my golf comes first. My sponsors all know that. If I'm not playing good then they're not very happy either. So it works both ways.

Q. Along those lines, Paula, you've been playing out here for a while?

PAULA CREAMER: Two years.

Q. You have been on Tour before, do you feel more like a pro this year in a broad sense of that word than you did last year given that you were still so young and still had graduation last year, there was still a lot of high school in you?

PAULA CREAMER: Right.

Q. Does it feel more like a job than it did last year?

PAULA CREAMER: I don't think this is a job. I think I'm incredibly lucky. I get to go and travel around the world and play golf for a living.

But I do feel more professional, more mature. It's more of there are certain aspects I

have to look at. I look at things now, I have a business, that kind of thing. You learn as the time goes on. I don't feel that I've had the experience that some of the players, veteran-wise. I'm still learning. I learn things every day out here. That's different situations to handle that you are under. That's all stuff that makes you more mature out on the golf course, and you learn from that. But I do feel, I guess more in place this year than I did last year.

Q. By in place?

PAULA CREAMER: More like this is where I've belong type of thing. Last year was a coming out here. Last year was, okay, you're a rookie, you can [prove | proof] to yourself you're good. I won four times. But this year I feel well I've won now, I got to keep going and going and going.

Q. You were being asked why you haven't won this year, could you put your finger on one thing? Obviously we talked about your wrist.

PAULA CREAMER: I'd say there is a couple of things. My putting, I haven't been able to make as many putts as I did last year. My short game. However, I practice my short game so hard the last two months and it's now coming along to be very good. My misses weren't as good as they were last year. Just golf swing-wise. I feel that -- I've said it before, I feel like I've worked just as hard, if not harder the last off season as the previous one. I feel I'm a better golfer. My head gets in the way out there. And that's something that you have to overcome. I think my attitude is a lot better the last couple of months and not as much pressure. I put so much pressure on myself to do well, and I think that gets in the way a little bit.

Q. Your expectations were high?

PAULA CREAMER: My expectation were incredibly high. Yes, through the roof, and I think that kind of was a little bit too much. I just have to play what I can do and control that.

Q. When did you come to this realization to take some of this pressure off of you?

PAULA CREAMER: Just over time, you look back, and I look back at the tournaments, Colin, my caddy, and my coach, and everybody around me, we can hear it. They see it happening. They get anxious. I can see it. I can feel it out there. It's one of those things where you have to let it happen. I feel like I have the talent for it. I just get in the way of it. I don't think there was an actual moment that I say, okay, let's not put measure on myself [anymore | any more]. It's more over time, a feeling. I want to win. I think the easiest way for me to win is not to get too far ahead of myself.

Q. You're 20 now?

PAULA CREAMER: Yes

Q. You pointed out you have been out here a while, two years, these are some of the questions, where aren't you winning this year, do you think these are legitimate questions, or do you feel they are unfair questions?

PAULA CREAMER: There is lots of questions in that one question. I mean, I think I want to know why I haven't won. It's not only everybody else. But it's myself, too. However, at the same time, it is my second year out here. And I feel almost wow, that's great, everybody expects me to win. I expect myself to win. That means people believe in me as well.

At the same time, it's difficult. It's hard. You got players out here that are playing

awesome. Lorena has been playing unbelievable. Then you go against that every week, it's tiring. I give it my all every week. It's just that it's difficult. And I think that the players over this past year are a lot better than they were last year. That still doesn't take away from winning at all. But it's just that it's upped the level.

Q. I was curious, I don't know if you can comment on this, I wonder if it's just the nature of this Tour where we have people who have come out who were young, right out of high school, and the expectations are just different for the LPGA than --

PAULA CREAMER: You know, like I said, I can only go out with what I want to accomplish and what I want to do and that's to be the best, so my expectations are what they are. They may not be the same for somebody else as they are for me. I feel like I can meet them. I wouldn't make a goal that I couldn't feel I could ever reach. Did I say that right? I wouldn't say something -- I wouldn't put it on a pedestal and say this is what I have to do and I can't get there. It's always something I feel I can achieve.

Q. Have you ever done that?

PAULA CREAMER: So far this year I haven't reached my goals. I want to win a Major this year, and I haven't done it.

Q. Those aren't unreasonable goals?

PAULA CREAMER: I don't think I've ever done that for myself

Q. You mentioned the players are better this year, Sherri Steinhauer was here a few minutes ago, young players like you, Morgan, Michelle, all of the expectations made the veterans work harder, Karrie said the same thing at Newport, is that when you say players are better than last year, is that what you're talking about?

PAULA CREAMER: I just think everybody is working harder. Nobody wants to get beat by anybody. They push me and I push them. It's one of those things where it works hand in hand. Juli Inkster and I, we go at it all the time-out there. That's fun. That's what makes you better and that's what makes it competitive and lively out on the golf course.

PAUL ROVNAK: Scorecard. Birdie on one.

PAULA CREAMER: Birdie on 1, I had 175, hit 4-iron to four feet.

4, birdie, I had 165, 6-iron to about four feet.

7, I hit it -- I reached it in two, kind of in that left bunker, and I got up -- I got up and down out of the bunker. I had 200 to the front and I made a 10-footer. 3-wood.

14, such a bad bogey, like 110 yards, pitching wedge to like ten feet over the green. Ten feet passed the hole, 3-putt.

16, 7-iron to about seven feet.

18, wedge, 110 yards to about six feet.

PAUL ROVNAK: Anymore questions? Thank you, Paula.

PAULA CREAMER: Thank you.

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