

Chick-fil-A Charity Championship hosted by Nancy Lopez
Eagles Landing Country Club
Atlanta, Ga.
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Pre-tournament interviews

AN INTERVIEW WITH PAULA CREAMER

The MODERATOR: We have Paula Creamer here in the interview room. Paula, you're playing well of recent, especially as a rookie. Talk a little bit how everything has been going for you this season.

PAULA CREAMER: I've been very fortunate so far, and I got off to a good start. Colin and I have worked really really well together. We're kind of learning how to just face things out with each other, and experience out there. Unfortunately, he will not be with me for quite a while. But I'm taking that, from those last weeks, and try to put it into the next couple.

Q. How did he get hurt?

PAULA CREAMER: Last week at Kingsmill on Tuesday he was walking into a bunker, and he broke his ankle in three spots, so he will be out for about six to eight weeks.

I didn't know what was going on and I was chipping and I looked over. I heard my name being called, and I looked over, and I was like, what are you doing down there? He is rolling around. What's going on? And he told me.

He says he hears cracking and popping noises. He immediately had to go into surgery. He got a bolt and a plate and five screws and it's pretty bad. Hopefully, he is recovering well. So we are keeping our fingers crossed.

Q. Who is your caddie now?

PAULA CREAMER: My coach is caddying for me this week. My boyfriend caddied last week and the next six weeks I have a caddy. So that's good.

Q. Does it surprise you how all the young players are making an immediate impact?

PAULA CREAMER: For myself I feel very prepared out here. Going into the week I feel very confident, especially, now that my coach is out here. I know what's going to happen. If something goes wrong with my swing, he will be able to fix it easily. But I think it's just right now I'm having a lot of fun, and I'm just, you know, going for the ride and trying to win events. But also staying positive and learning what else is out there.

Q. How proud are you of the way you made it to the Tour?

PAULA CREAMER: I do. I'm very proud. In two weeks I'll be graduating. I get my diploma and everything so that will be neat. I think I've done the perfect way for myself, maybe not for some other people. But for me, this is, I think, to get me to where I am right now. I think my family and I have paced out a pretty good plan for myself. College would have been a lot of fun. It would have been a great experience. I just don't know if it was for me at this time right now.

Q. Do you see the trend of high school to the pros as the wave of the future for these younger players?

PAULA CREAMER: I think so. I think there is going to be more and more girls that are going to be able to not necessarily go to college, maybe for a year or so, but not the standard four year type of thing.

I'm not sure what's really going to happen, but I see more and more that's what's probably going to happen. There is more and more chances for us to be able to see what it's like out here. That's what I used my sponsored exemptions, to see what life was like out on TOUR.

Q. Do you feel that there is a sense of urgency for an American star?

PAULA CREAMER: I do. I do. I have been told many times that I will hopefully be the next great American golfer but I mean that's a big goal of mine. I just try to represent my country well, and I hope that they see that as well. But just right now it's learning and hopefully it's just a matter of time when those first couple of wins come.

Q. Do you feel like that is a reason for Annika's lack of attention?

PAULA CREAMER: I think Annika has gotten lots of attention. I think she has done incredibly well. It's almost better to go under the radar. It's not as much happening on yourself and not as much pressure from other people to. I know she has raised the bar for women's golf and she has definitely raised it for myself. And I know if I want to be where she is at, I have to beat her, and I have to work harder than her, and I think that's fantastic for women's golf. She is going to change it right now.

Q. This group of young players that you are a part of, does it feel like there is going to be a rivalry group between each other?

PAULA CREAMER: Possibly. You know right now it's hard to think in 20 years. I'm trying to get through tomorrow or the next day. I think that there is a ton of talent that is coming up that just gets younger and younger and I think women's golf is changing. And I think that there will be kind of a big brigade type thing kind of coming through. I know right now I'm just trying to focus on what's at task right now and that's this week.

Q. What do you think about the men's British Open opening up its qualifying to women?

PAULA CREAMER: I mean I've never even given it much thought. That's not something that I'm interested in right now. It should be interesting, I guess, and to see what happens with that. But I really haven't given it much thought.

Right now I'm just trying to, you know, play my game, play on the LPGA TOUR and get my first win right now. I feel this is where I belong. And I feel like Annika, she has pretty much dominated at this level and I feel if she played in another's men's event that's fine. Right now she needs competition.

Q. Do you think there is a large gap between the rest of the players and Annika?

PAULA CREAMER: I think last week was a big week for other players to realize that Annika is human and that she has -- she is a fantastic player, like I said, but she hasn't played for quite a while and that first round was rusty and after a while she got in the hang of things and started being competitive again and that happens. I think a lot of us learn from that. And to know that when one person wins, I feel that other people believe in themselves as well.

Q. Is there an aura around Annika?

PAULA CREAMER: Of course, she is the number one player in the world. The first time I ever met her and played with her was at Nabisco two years ago on Saturday and we were paired together. I mean I was in awe pretty much. This is who I want to be some day, and I'm playing with her and I'm trying to play my own game, but I'm trying to learn things also. I think that there is an aura of her.

Q. Do people stop and watch her on the range or does she give tips?

PAULA CREAMER: I don't necessarily think that she is going to do that. I don't believe that I would ever walk up to her and ask her, so can you checkout my golf swing kind of thing. Just her demeanor on the golf course is very good as well, and I learn from that kind of thing.

Q. When Tiger won five in a row, it was because he was so much better than everyone else and when Annika won five in a row, it was because the competition wasn't as good. Do you think that is true?

PAULA CREAMER: I don't think so. I think like I've said many times. She is a fantastic golfer. She raised the bar. And right now she is hot and she's playing good, confident. Confidence is everything, knowing that you can come out and win. That's what I'm trying to do. I know that for sure. I've been hitting the ball well enough and had enough chances out here that I feel I should have won already but it's a learning experience. She has been out here for a very long time.

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