

**2006 Jamie Farr
Owens Corning Classic
Sylvania, OH
July 13, 2006**

First-round leader quotes

AN INTERVIEW WITH SE RI PAK

DANA GROSS-RHODE: Thank you for waiting, Se Ri. Can we go over your scorecard real quick?

No. 13.

SE RI PAK: First birdie, I hit driver off the tee and 108 to the pin. I got my full sand wedge, 52 degrees about 15 feet.

DANA GROSS-RHODE: No. 15.

SE RI PAK: 15, I got driver off the tee and 9-iron about a couple of inches, I think, to make birdie.

No. 17, I have driver, 3-wood around 60 yards, actually. About six feet. Five or six feet to make birdie.

18, I have 90 yards and about five feet or 4 feet. Five feet.

DANA GROSS-RHODE: What club?

SE RI PAK: Sand wedge, 56 degree.

DANA GROSS-RHODE: Did you take your wedge in on 17, too.

SE RI PAK: Yes.

DANA GROSS-RHODE: No. 1.

SE RI PAK: I got 5-iron off the tee. I missed another 5-iron on the second shot, 15 feet, made it.

DANA GROSS-RHODE: What club?

SE RI PAK: 5-iron. 2, I hit three-quarter 8-iron, was a little long, another 15 feet, inside 20 feet, to make birdie there.

SE RI PAK: 3, I try to cut it, too much cut. I hit the trees. It was okay. I was kind of a little chip shot there. From the rough I hit a 4-iron and missed again, right side of rough, chip on it, short and chipping on the greens and make 2-putt, make a double.

DANA GROSS-RHODE: How far was the 2-putt?

SE RI PAK: About 12 feet.

DANA GROSS-RHODE: 8.

SE RI PAK: No. 8, I make birdie, got 9-iron about 4 feet and made birdie. That's it.

DANA GROSS-RHODE: We'll take questions.

Q. What's the big difference for you this year as opposed to the past couple?

SE RI PAK: I don't think any big difference, but I think this year I spent a lot more myself, just being normal. Just being off the golf course, off the practice, trying to get more time for myself, see my friends, just try to be relaxed more. Not trying to think about too much golf because we play already all day long, every week almost three years. I'm used to be that way the last eight years. So a year and a half studying, yes, year before last year I am kind of a little tired and it feels like I like to play. I can't focus my game. I just don't want to be out here. So many things happen.

My health is not really great, too. I am trying to physically working so hard and working out and trying to make great shape. Like I said my mind was not really on it. I'm just tired.

A year and a half kind of a break, I can't focus on it. I get injured. I can't play lots like summer. And then I got a couple of months off because I can't even touch my golf club because I injured my fingers.

And then I just look back and just think about what I done, and all of my success, and I work so hard the past seven years. I don't think I have a break myself.

I am a human being, you know, I'm not kind of a machine. My personality was trying to be too much perfect for each time I'm done. It's just always too much to ask myself to be out there, be perfect. So I say it's not easy to be perfect. Never being perfect golf. So I realize it, and I tried to change my mind, change my personality a little bit more. At the same time I work so hard, try to make it great. I basically work out a lot. And after that I just try to be more relaxed, try to enjoy it.

I guess the last seven, eight years, I don't think I never learned, or I never feel what is enjoyable out there. Now I am. If I have a good shot or bad shot, still for me it was fun, or comfortable, and that makes a lot of change.

Q. You had five birdies in six holes, a lot of people were saying oh, man, here we go again, Se Ri is back. Were you thinking the same thing? Were you thinking you can turn it into a really good round again?

SE RI PAK: Yes, earlier today. My irons, putting really great. The last couple of weeks it's getting better and better each week. I said this golf course is always great for me with a lot of confidence. Before I came over I didn't have the confidence in my game and this golf course. So I know I can play well. And at the same time I play good. I was really happy to be back.

So then make 1-putt, 2-putt, suddenly it feels like, yes, this game is on again.

Q. Did you think you could have a really good round? You have had some of your best rounds, were you thinking?

SE RI PAK: This golf course seems like you can shoot really low. Anything happens here. This golf course it's not an easy golf course at all. It's kind of tricky greens and tricky couple of holes the way it's set up. It's not easy. You can go really well, but you can make it somehow a mess too. I know I can play really low.

But like I said, you never know. I know after 18 I'm going to try to do my best.

Q. Is there any other golf course you've ever dominated like you have here?

SE RI PAK: I don't think. This is the most best golf course always for me. Everybody ask me why. I just don't know why. I feel so great about this golf course.

Q. You made over a million dollars just on this course?

SE RI PAK: Did I? I don't know. This golf course is way, it's set up for me. Because you want it so much, mentally you are strong enough on this golf course, you have so much playing out

there. Not too much playing out there. But each time I have great memories of each hole, helps a lot, that's why I think I play well too.

Q. Are you in shape to win No. 5?

SE RI PAK: Why not? This is first round, I know I was struggling. I can be better. But I'm still happy with the way I played today. So the next three days, probably it's going to be fun. I'm very excited.

Q. How much have you changed since the first time you've won here until now? I remember when you were first here you didn't talk much English the first time you won here, how much have you changed your game?

SE RI PAK: Changing a lot actually.

Q. You use to wear knickers, now you wear shorts, you changed a lot?

SE RI PAK: Yes, I am. The personality was changed too. Earlier a couple of years, like I say I can't speak much English, I was so much focussed the way the golf course I am playing it. And I don't really realize how many fans out there kind of support us every week. But lately I find out so many fans out there that are there for us. That's why we are here and play so well. That's why we are here and work for hard. That's why we are here. We make them happy and a great day. So I say the last eight years. This is my 9th year on the Tour. I learn a lot for myself, actually. I like more mature. So I said just being different. Each year is different. You learn even a little bit. You just learn about your life and what you think and what you see. Just everything.

So the last nine years, this is my 9th year. 9 years being total different. I was a lot more -- now I finally enjoyed it out there more that I'm playing this Tour. That's the most important for me to be out here having fun.

Q. Today you played with Annika and Paula, how special or how important is it the group you are playing with? Does it affect your game at all?

SE RI PAK: Actually great to have the group like today. For me, it's really a lot more help my game. I try to focus my own game. So times I learn from Annika or Paula. That's why golf game is never, ever perfect. So each day you learn a little more, you play a little better. Today I was really excited to play with them, and I played so well which is great.

I really like to have a team -- a group like this today.

Q. As far as get getting yourself on the comeback trail as you have been, was winning the McDonald's LPGA a big thing there?

SE RI PAK: I already won so many times. I say the great moment is going to be the last McDonald's like a couple of months ago because I just came back from. I'm rock bottom, I don't think anybody done that before. To be on top, and then going on the other way because -- so I said I was so much focused the last eight years up there playing real, really well. I don't really give myself a break and suddenly I was tired with my game. Tired myself. I just don't enjoy that at all. And suddenly my mind is never out there last year and the year before. Now just going the other way.

That's why I said, it's the first time ever myself to be happy for a full year. Suddenly I got injured and I can't play. After that it turned me back here and played back here again, and played really well again.

The last win, McDonald's, is the most great feeling I ever had which is pretty great to be on top.

Q. What did you do when you were going through that period where you couldn't play will? Did you find some new hobbies?

SE RI PAK: Trying to find some new hobbies not easy to do that. I'm not a person out there to spend a lot of time. I always like to stay home and play with my dog and stuff like that. Now lately I see a lot of friends out there. I talk to friends a lot. And see them a lot, and I go out to dinner with them. Spending time. Not stay at home, think about the next event, next tournament, next travel. It's kind of too much. Now I feel a little more, really do a lot of normal stuff, which is for me is fun.

Q. (Inaudible)?

SE RI PAK: Yes, a lot better balance.

Q. Se Ri, growing up as a young golfer, did you have an idol? Is there somebody on the LPGA that was special for you that you watched all the time?

SE RI PAK: What I said before, always my idol was Nancy Lopez. She is a great person. Not because she plays so good. She has a great heart and she is very understanding people out here, and she is very open mind too. I still talk to her, too. She is always like kind of a model for me here.

The first I came over here, she just totally understands the situations and total different culture, language and food on Tour. So she helps me a lot.

Q. Along those lines you talk about enjoying it more, did you ever wonder how Nancy can always be smiling? She is always smiling. She plays well, she smiles, if she plays not so well?

SE RI PAK: Yes.

Q. Did you learn from that?

SE RI PAK: I was, when I see her, I always think about her, smile as always. She smile for everybody. That was great. Like I said, it's not easy to do that. But now, I know, I learn a lot in a year and a half. I saw her and knew I know how she do it. I feel right now play bad or good. For me was a smile again. Just suddenly the change. I mean I see what's happening. I see everybody is happy.

That's what I say, when I see her, yes, always, I remember she is always smiling, yes.

Q. Today, through 11 holes you were 6-under and then you had a double bogey, had a bad hole and then a bogey right after that. When you have a bad hole like that, is it tough to get that positive frame of mind back, or was it just the circumstances?

SE RI PAK: Used to really bother me a lot, but not right now. I mean I know I shouldn't miss like that big number. The worse is the bogey. You know, I know it's not the great shot. I know it's not to be that way. But, hey, nothing I can do about it. I know I have many holes to go, I can come back and play better. Now I feel comfortable.

Like I say, a missed shot or a great shot, either one makes it fun to go out there and play. I don't think it bothers me at all.

Q. You did finish strong?

SE RI PAK: Yes, but still, it could be better. I'm still happy about it. No doubt about it.

DANA GROSS-RHODE: Thank you all.

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