
**LPGA Takefuji Classic
Las Vegas Country Club
Las Vegas, Nevada
April 15, 2004**

First-round leader quotes

AN INTERVIEW WITH JACKIE GALLAGHER-SMITH

Q. Good opening round 69. You are tied for the lead. Four birdies, one bogey. It was windy out there. Do you want to talk about the conditions and the course?

JACKIE GALLAGHER-SMITH: Yes, it was. I think, really on, I pretty much knew it was going to be breezy. It wasn't too bad early on and then I just think coming in that back nine the last few holes the wind really swirls a lot, so it's kind of hard picking clubs out there. But I managed to take care of all of that. So not too bad.

I had my first birdie on No. 4. I hit a -- what was it? Just a little knock down 9-iron in there to about three feet. I made that one.

And then No. 9 I think I had 162 yards to the flag on the par-5, so I hit a pretty good drive. So I hit a 6-iron on the green and 2-putted from about 45 feet for birdie there.

And No. 10, I actually pulled my drive a little bit so I just kind of had to punch out, and I hit a grip 8-iron and made about a 36-footer for birdie there. I think that was my longest putt of the year. So that was pretty exciting.

And then 14, the par-3, I hit a punch grip 4-iron, behind the hole about a 16-footer.

Q. And 17?

JACKIE GALLAGHER-SMITH: 17, that was where it kind of swirls a lot. I hit a good shot in there but it released. I had about a 45-footer and 3-putted.

Q. What club did you hit in?

JACKIE GALLAGHER-SMITH: A little 8-iron, a grip 8-iron. A lot of grip shots today to keep it a little out of wind. The course played -- it was good because I hit it pretty well today. I drove it pretty straight and I had a lot of opportunities. I think it's only getting windier.

Q. Yes, this afternoon?

JACKIE GALLAGHER-SMITH: Tomorrow it is supposed to be another windy day, so you just got to kind of keep hitting it solid and keeping it under the wind and pick good shots, pick good clubs and just go with it. You pretty much don't have control once you hit the shot. You don't have too much control over it.

Q. You are saying a grip 8-iron, grip 4-iron, I'm not sure of that terminology.

JACKIE GALLAGHER-SMITH: I just grip down about an inch. It's kind of like a knock down shot, probably a little shorter swing and a little more compact. It's like one of my favorite tips to the amateurs especially when you are in between clubs it's a good shot to hit. But any time it's windy, you have a little more control over it that way.

Q. I know you are representing the ESPN golf schools, is that something that you ever have in doing teaching?

JACKIE GALLAGHER-SMITH: Possibly. I'm like the spokesperson for them, and I'm going to be doing some of the corporate golf schools. I have had, you know, a little bit of experiencing around it. My dad is a club pro, so I pretty much grew up around golf, and the teaching of golf all of my life. I think if I have enough patients to -- it might be something that I might do. But it's always fun to see people improve. You know, I enjoy meeting new people and letting them experience, you know, a great game.

Q. I want to ask you about your brother Jeff, I mean given how much he has battled injuries over the last couple of years, can you take any inspiration from the fact that here he is now out there playing and fighting, you know, and got back after his many injuries; does that serve as a motivator for you at all?

JACKIE GALLAGHER-SMITH: Sure. I think between Jeff and I, I think we're like the most accident prone, injury prone. I don't know, somehow Jim managed to get by with like perfect health. But, yes, it's pretty inspirational how Jeff, you know, he has gone through a lot of tough times, and he always manages to bounce back, and you know just has a lot of natural talent, and I think that kind of keeps him going and it's always fun to root for him.

You know, I don't know, it just goes to show you too, though, it's more of a motivator for me to stay physically fit and try to prevent those injuries because I think that's so important when you are beating a lot of balls on the range, just hard ground, and just the torque and twisting of golf, day in and day out, does a lot to your body.

Q. You mentioned that you've had your share, what would have been the major ones that you dealt with, other than the normal that most players would have?

JACKIE GALLAGHER-SMITH: When I was 16 I had a golf cart accident and I had an open dislocation and severed the ligaments in my right ankle. Just something minor.

Q. Not a big deal?

JACKIE GALLAGHER-SMITH: So I have like a pretty big scar. I had like 35 stitches. It happened in Austin, Texas, and I kind of call it my Longhorn scar, so I think, you know, I know what it's like to have to work hard after an injury and that type of thing even though that was, you know, a few years ago. But I have been fortunate recently. I just bump into walls and bruise myself that way. I just do a few clumsy things here and there.

Q. Given your ankle, did you ever have to make a compensation that you are still making?

JACKIE GALLAGHER-SMITH: It hasn't totally restricted me. I think because I work so hard during my rehab and really wanted to get back to normal, and I think that was a good thing. And certain lies, you know, when I have a big steep uphill lie, you know, I just feel a lot of pressure in it, on it. It definitely swells up when I'm on my feet, you know, a lot of hours of the day. But I think I'm just kind of used to it. I just kind of live with it. You know, it's just like a lot of people, you know, have back problems or whatever. They kind of have that aching every day. But you are just kind of used to it. I can kind of predict when it's going to rain. It gets a little swollen and achy and you could feel the pressure.

But I was a very lucky because I just stretched the main nerve and, you know, I didn't get my Achille's or anything. So I was very fortunate. It wasn't a good day because I lost my match that day. It was a bad day all around.

Q. Do you have a go-to swing key?

JACKIE GALLAGHER-SMITH: I think lately I have been just working on really taking it away slow because sometimes you say have good tempo, which I think, I don't know, I'm going to write a book one day on opposites because when you tell yourself to do something, you say hit the putt harder and you leave it short. You say have good tempo and you get quick. So it's kind of funny how it works. So pretty much I just learned -- I just been working, just really on taking it away really slow. And then beginning my swing because it sets up my hole tempo which it's nice to have something simple and not mechanical.

Q. Any other questions? Thank you.