

**SAMSUNG WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP
Florida's Natural Charity Championship
Eagle's Landing Country Club
Stockbridge, Ga.**

**April 19, 2006
Pre-Round Quotes**

AN INTERVIEW WITH ANNIKA SORENSTAM

THE MODERATOR: Thanks for coming in and joining us today. You are defending your fourth title. I want to talk about being here in Atlanta.

ANNIKA SORENSTAM: I'm happy to be back. I have great memories from this place. I won the championship twice, and last years' was obviously a great way. And I remember playing really well and it was one of those weeks where everything went my way. And, you know, obviously it helps to play a golf course over and over, but I think last year was just all of the pieces came together. And, so I'm happy to be back and hopefully I can play as well.

MODERATOR: We'll take questions from Annika.

Q Annika, a lot of talk about these girls rock and the "it" girls and what they are promoting. Your thought on what they are chasing. You must relish the position for once that everybody is trying to shoot for.

ANNIKA SORENSTAM: Of course I like being the best player out here. I worked really hard for a lot of years. And it means a lot to me to be able to stay on top and since the competition is getting tougher and tougher. So I'm happy with that position, but then again it gets tougher because everybody is getting better and better and I have to find ways to get better myself and raise the bar and continue to work further in trying to get better. I mean I enjoy it. And it's a great time to be part of the LPGA there is a lot of exciting things. So I'm happy.

Q If I can ask you, next week the young girl, Dakota, that is playing in the tournament down in Florida. I guess you know a little bit about the situation. Can you talk about what that is like, the LPGA giving the girl an exception, and what the whole thing means in the grand scheme? It's kind of an important and interesting thing.

ANNIKA SORENSTAM: It really is. I met Dakota when she was 8 then, but she told me she was 10. I do something called "girl power" it's a clinic trying to promote golf for the girls in the neighborhood and she was there and she said she was 10, and I guess it was three years ago. I met her a few times. And then I saw her a few weeks ago down at the reunion and just to kind of get a chance to spend sometime with her, and talk about the tournament and because I'm a spokesperson and it works out really good. And I think it's really fantastic thing what they are doing, and what the LPGA is doing and it's really giving this young lady an opportunity to play. And the reason behind it is her mother wants to see her play before she is going to die. But it's a sad story, but they are making something nice out of it. But to see this young girl hit balls she is really strong. It's really inspirational. It kind of put things in perspective and you kind of see what the LPGA and the chances you know it gives to different players and people out there. It's very special. So, you know, I'm happy to be a little bit apart of it and helping her out a little bit and we're going to play a practice run next week. And see how it goes for.

Q Your sister is in the field and what is your relationship with her, and how do you get along? Do you talk during the week and argue and have sister conferences and things? What is that like?

ANNIKA SORENSTAM: We get along well. I'm happy she is here this week. They gave her an opportunity to be a part of this week, I was thankful for that, and she was happy to get a chance to play. No. I mean, we see each other pretty much every day and we talk every day and we have dinner together. It's nice to see her in the field this week.

Q Any practice rounds together?

ANNIKA SORENSTAM: Sometimes we do. It's a schedule. So it's different every week. And normally I come in later and she comes in earlier in the week and this is just different. You know, she might have a sponsor obligation and I might have. It's tough to get together. When we do get a chance, we do enjoy it.

Q Can I ask you about golf course design. You have a course that you are working with in South Africa. How do you see that as part of your future long term? And what do you bring in to golf design maybe that hasn't been done before?

ANNIKA SORENSTAM: Well I guess we'll see. No, you know, I designed a golf course in China that was my first experience and it was a lot of fun. I got to see, you know, a course from a totally different aspect. I mean, I grew up on the tee, and I hit a shot and I look at the green, and I look at the pin placements. That is what I do every week. All of a sudden I looked at it from a different aspect where, okay, this is just a lot of trees and some dirt, how can we make a good golf hole out of this? It's really fun. I have to get back to the basics and think about players at my level, and players, you know, a little bit higher handicap, and beginners. How can you design a golf course that a lot of players can enjoy and be a challenge for everyone. I'm enjoying that part and South Africa when I was there in January it was just dirt. We went out in the Jeep and this guy I am working with says, can you see this hole? I was thinking, how can we make something out of this? It's a lot of fun and I'm starting with a project in Sweden, and I have three projects right now. So I see something down the road. Hopefully one day I can do a course here in the U.S.

Q What are your thoughts and general impressions on the LPGA'S new play off system.
ANNIKA SORENSTAM: The what?

Q The new play off system?

ANNIKA SORENSTAM: The play off system. It's something new. Something different. Um, it's tough to say. I guess we'll see how it goes. It's very different. I don't understand the point system really. I think all I'm going to try to do is play my own game and hopefully get in and we'll see. It's going to be exciting. You may have a 3-footer for a million dollars. It will be a totally different feeling we'll have any other week.

ANNIKA SORENSTAM: If someone who has won a number of players of the year and trophies, is it something that you could see reach that same level of prestige or surpass that?

ANNIKA SORENSTAM: I don't see that. You have to remember you play all year long. You can play 20 or 30 tournaments and get into one event. One event is not going to change somebody's season. Especially not 18 holes. If you play this game you know you can have it one day and the next day you can't. To me golf is a game about consistency. That is why we play 72 holes in a tournament. And I think it's more for show and excitement in one week and we shouldn't put anymore emphasis on that.

Q Do you follow the standings closely or not?

ANNIKA SORENSTAM: No, I do not.

Q Along those lines do you see it as a marketing gimmick almost? Maybe "gimmick" is not the right word, but it's a bit of a marketing ploy?

ANNIKA SORENSTAM: Definitely so. I don't know if's gimmick either. It's a little different. Get some excitement at the end of the season. We have had 30 events through the year and maybe try something different, I'm all for that. We shouldn't put any emphasis on it. It's one tournament and in the end, it's 18 holes. It's fun to be a part of and I hope I get to be a chance to be part of the excitement for sure.

Q You said right now it's part of the excitement to be part of the tour and the players and all. Your idea is to win the Grand Slam and go off into the sunset. How long do you think you will be chasing that Grand Slam?

ANNIKA SORENSTAM: I will have to wait another year. I can improve as a player and I have a few goals to achieve and one of those goals is to win majors. I believe I can win the Grand Slam. I can win all four majors in the same year as long as I feel that I will keep on trying.

Q Annika, where do you see the future of this tour, say, in five years? What do you see? There is so much talk about the potential here, how do you think it will be realized?

ANNIKA SORENSTAM: The tour has come a long way and where we are today is a really exciting time. I think we're going to be um, you know, I think we're getting a lot more exposure. People are starting to recognize some faces and not just women's golf. I like to think the purse is going to continue to grow the way they have done. Hopefully we'll get on TV. So, five years of improving in different areas I think we'll go a long way. So I mean it's fun to see the future. The tour is really in good hands and a lot of exciting stuff is happening. And I think, you know, it can only get better from here.

Q Annika, could you talk a little bit about the Nabisco and the way Karrie won the tournament. She has been a little off the map, not off the map, but not playing as well as she did. Is it interesting to see she has jumped back in and jumped back in the fray.

ANNIKA SORENSTAM: I think it was great. If you watched the finish it was as exciting as it gets. Birdies down the stretch and eagles down the stretch and playoffs. You have Karrie who is up there at the top and knows how to play. And has bounced back. I was excited for her and I think it was great. I missed the times when we went back and forth. I was happy for her.

Q Do you find it motivational to have someone pressing you and coming at you? You have won here once in a play off coming from behind. You had it won by Saturday morning, I think it was, last year. Which of those two extremes do you enjoy more?

ANNIKA SORENSTAM: I don't know. It's kind of nice to win on Saturday afternoon. But you know, it's never over. Even though I had a nice cushion last year you never know what can happen. And you know, a win is a win to me, and there is so many different ways, you know, that you can experience it and that. I feel lucky that I won a bunch and have had a chance to experience it all. I like the excitement, but then you also like to know the outcome so it doesn't get too exciting. Maybe for the fans and everybody around it down the stretch, but as a player it's nice to have a little bit of a cushion. But, you know the competition is getting tougher and tougher. So, I think I have got to just, you know, when the wins come you have to enjoy it.

Q How are you affected by this influx of young talent. Is it making you feel old or is it revitalizing you?

ANNIKA SORENSTAM: I don't feel any older, but I get treated like I'm old. But, you know, I guess you know we have all been there and done that. You know, I love the competition, I mean whether it's a young player or someone that has been out here a long time it's another player. I like to take my game to a different level and it doesn't matter who I'm playing. For me it's the satisfaction of going out there and knowing you worked hard and you want to see results. That is the really the bottom line for me. But then it's fun when you know the young ones because you can see their attitude is very different. You know they have strong games and a lot of them have a great future ahead of them.

Q Annika, you mentioned Mission Hills China. Do you know if they are making any progress on an Asian tour event there? I know they talked about having one.

ANNIKA SORENSTAM: I'm not sure. I heard about it too though. If they do, it would be great if they played my course. I think I have a little knowledge.

Q Annika, this is LPGA a player like (inaudible) could you tell us why do you think as some young player come from --

ANNIKA SORENSTAM: Why we have so many?

Q Yes?

ANNIKA SORENSTAM: We have a really good junior program, or we have had it for about 15 years. And I think I'm the product of the beginning of that. And it really starts at a club level. And really organized practice and organized competition. Parents and coaches that help the juniors at an early age. You know, we haven't had a lot of young players come up in a few years. Now I think it's a new generation and the ones that are here, the rookies, they are very strong and, you know, two of them are very long hitting players. And they have had great success over here and, you know, in college. And so I think they are going to do well.

Q Let me ask you one more question. With your success has come a lot more notoriety. Your face is out there a lot more. Is it hard to find private time for yourself when you go out to restaurants or airports? Do you have to put up with more things than maybe you did before?

ANNIKA SORENSTAM: Yeah. I mean, people recognize me a lot more. I think I'm quite lucky because I kind of have the best of two worlds. Once I take off my visor and let my hair down, a lot of people don't recognize me. I have my golf face, and my private face. It works out fine. A lot of times if I go somewhere or a grocery store and they recognize me they always come up and say nice things. You know I respect your game or for example, when I played colonial I thought that was great we were cheering for you or I named my daughter after you. Those are really great things and when you hear that it makes you feel good. So I welcome that.

Q When is the last time you talked to Dean Wilson?

ANNIKA SORENSTAM: I have talked to him maybe a few months ago. He was playing very, very solid, you know, in Florida and in some of the tournaments on the West Coast. So I'm trying to cheer him on. He is a great guy. And it's great for him to maybe get some recognition without being the guy that Annika played with. Hopefully his game will do the talking. Thanks.