
**Office Depot Championship
El Caballero Country Club
Tarzana, California
April 4, 2004**

Final round leader quotes

AN INTERVIEW WITH ANNIKA SORENSTAM

Q. My first time this year, but your second LPGA win of the year, Third World-Wide and 50th of your career. Can you just tell us what you think?

ANNIKA SORENSTAM: Well, yes, obviously, it's tough to just summarize it sitting here. You know 50 is kind of a magical number, I would say. I've thought about this for a little while. You know, starting the day obviously I was in great position. But I didn't want to take anything for granted. This is a tough golf course. I felt really good the way I was hitting the ball. I felt confident out there, but looking at the leaderboard anything can happen. I think we talked about that yesterday. It's one of those courses where it might be tough to catch somebody, but it's easier to lose ground. I got off to a pretty good start I thought. I was pretty happy the way I was striking the ball and then made a bogey on the sixth hole. I tried to look at the leaderboard a little bit. Then I was on the 12th hole and that's when I saw Ashli. You know, I don't know what club she hit it, but she hit it really close on 17. So I really started to feel the heat there, and knowing I had some tough holes ahead of me, and it felt like the wind was picking up a little bit. I was telling myself to just be patient, you know, trust yourself. You know, you have been here so many times, take advantage of it.

I really wanted to do it this week, especially with the disappointment last week to come here and play this tough course and, you know, have a chance to win. You don't know how many chances you are going to get. I just didn't want this to slip away.

Q. (Inaudible)?

ANNIKA SORENSTAM: Yes, I mean, you know, I can play that hole so many different ways. I mean I can play it safe. I was thinking I could hit 4-irons, lay it up, and hit a third shot. But then again it's a wide fairway. I felt like I was swinging well. The last three holes I was swinging well. I said it doesn't matter what club it is, just hit it. I did hit some bad tee shots in the middle of the round, but when I had to hit some really good shots I thought, the last 6 or 7 holes was really good. I had no doubt what to hit. I figured the further down I am, the shorter club in, I can be more aggressive. I hit a 6-iron in, and I was playing a little safe on the right side and just road the slope down to the hole.

Q. How far out were you with that approach on 17?

ANNIKA SORENSTAM: I had 192, I believe, to the flag and I carried it 186.

Q. So you weren't swinging as well you probably wouldn't have gone for it in two?

ANNIKA SORENSTAM: It's hard to say. In that situation I felt that I was swinging well, I could have hit a wedge to the right and play it like a three-shot hole. But, you know, that's not really the way I play. Even though I didn't want to be a hero by any means, I figured a 6-iron I can be pretty straight with that and hit it to the right.

I took enough clubs that I would carry the water on the left which I did. So I never really felt uneasy about the shot at all.

Q. At what point did you know you had been tied?

ANNIKA SORENSTAM: Well, I walked off the 12th green and one of the camera guys said something to my caddy, I think, or he asked, or he asked somebody, I don't know, we walked off the tee and Terry said we're tied now. And I figured that because I saw Ashli's shot going down. I didn't know how close it was. I didn't hear a lot of clapping but I figured it was just a tap in.

Q. (Inaudible)?

ANNIKA SORENSTAM: A little bit. I have always enjoyed kind of chasing somebody, knowing what I had to shoot and I kept telling myself all day, let's try to get to 8, let's try to get to 10. I tried but it wasn't -- somebody was at 6. Like I said, that's when I felt the heat and I had to do something.

But then I also felt like I've got some holes ahead of me here, it's going to be tough for me to get anywhere up to 8. Just try to hit the fairways, try to hit it close and, hopefully, I will roll in a putt or 2. I did that on 14 and as well on 16. And after that I felt very comfortable.

Q. (Inaudible)?

ANNIKA SORENSTAM: How many?

Q. (Inaudible)?

ANNIKA SORENSTAM: No, no way. Well, I still have a hard time believing it's 50. Like I said, it's a magical number. I guess I try not to think too much about it because it gets me a little sentimental. But I thought I worked really hard this week. It feels really really good to win here.

Q. To have 50 wins, does it still feel the same to win?

ANNIKA SORENSTAM: Oh, it does, because I know how hard it is, and I cherish every win, and teeing off today I was nervous. I told my caddy, I feel uptight today. I feel a little nervous. And he said, you know, I feel the same way and even though we done it -- well, I've done it 49 times before, and he has been there with me for 20 something. We both felt it today. We walked down the 2nd hole and he said you know, what, that just shows that we care. And I said, you got that right.

Of course, this is where I practice. This is why I'm here. I love to win.

Q. How big of a role do those two par saves on eight and nine play today?

ANNIKA SORENSTAM: Those were key putts, I think my par putt on two was key as well. But just making those little shorter ones on these greens, you know, anything can happen. We just kept the momentum going, and I think people watching me saw that I didn't really make a mistake and I think that's important too.

Q. Would you like to see the tournament come back here, it's a pretty tough course?

ANNIKA SORENSTAM: What do you think? I've won 3 out of 4. So I would like love to come back obviously. I think this is a great venue for many reasons, a great golf course, the hospitality, the clubhouse. It's really a great tournament. I would love to come back for sure.

(Score card.)

Q. (Inaudible)?

ANNIKA SORENSTAM: I'm not playing in Vegas so I actually have three weeks off.

Q. Are you going to go to The Masters?

ANNIKA SORENSTAM: I'm not going to the Masters. I'm going to Lake Tahoe tomorrow.

Q. (Inaudible)?

ANNIKA SORENSTAM: Yes, I'm playing in Atlanta in three weeks.

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