

---

**JOHN Q. HAMMONS**  
**HOTEL CLASSIC**  
**Cedar Ridge Country Club**  
**Broken Arrow, Oklahoma**

**September 12, 2004**  
**Final round leader quotes**

**AN INTERVIEW WITH ANNIKA SORENSTAM**

THE MODERATOR: Annika, congratulations, thanks for coming in.

ANNIKA SORENSTAM: Thank you.

THE MODERATOR: Just a couple of housecleaning items first. This is Annika'S 53rd career win. She is two shy of Betsy Rolls (phn) for 5th all time. This is her fifth win this year which means she has won five tournaments for each of the last five years which has only be done two other times in the history of the LPGA.

I will have all of the rest of that information for you when we get back inside. But, congratulations, 53.

Today you started with a 3-shot lead and it was pretty much a formality it seemed like when you teed it off so your thoughts and then we'll take questions.

ANNIKA SORENSTAM: Well, it's never a formality, but thank you. Obviously I'm very happy to come here after a long break and play so well. I thought I played excellent for three days. It's a tough course. I'm just really surprised how well I hit it and putt it. To make it my 53rd here in Tulsa when I not played not so good here, it's a special week. It's a happy Sunday for me.

Q. (Inaudible) The Open year, a 15 shot difference, how much of that is technology, or are the players better nowadays.

ANNIKA SORENSTAM: Well, the players are better. I mean, you saw where the cut was. Who can match the winning score last year which means its 70 and people better than that? Women's golf is just getting better every year. You can you tell by playing a tough course like this. You know, it's really a tough course. The rough is thick. It's just a Major championship type of course. Technology has a little bit to do with it. But also, the players, the competition, are just getting so much better so that's why the scores are lower.

Q. When you come to a course like this, is it difficult after you take a look at it, do you feel the field is automatically narrowed, if you are playing pretty well, it's you against a select few others?

ANNIKA SORENSTAM: Well, you have to play well to do well here. So if you are not hitting the ball well, you are not going to get away with shots here. So whoever is playing well coming in here can do well. But if not you will have a hard time scoring here. So I don't know if that limits the field, but you got to pique at the right time so to speak. It's not just about driving the ball here. Some players thought it was a long course, which means you have to hit it pretty long to be able to score well here too.

What I thought, it was one of the courses where you have to think your way around. I did not hit driver on every hole. For example, today I hit a 4-iron on 17. I was trying to play smarter than just trying to over power the course and I think that was the key at least for me.

Q. It's easier to do that when you got a decent size lead?

ANNIKA SORENSTAM: Well, that too. You got to stay out of trouble. I could have hit probably a 7-wood. I could have faded a 4-wood. I could have hit a driver. That's just good design golf hole when you have so many options. But like you say, with a nice lead like that, you are trying to play smart, that's another option. I think that's another proof that this golf course is really a true golf course.

Q. Were you surprised how well you played after such a long layoff to come out and have --

ANNIKA SORENSTAM: Yes, definitely. Especially to hit it that straight. Normally, when I come back from a break, I will still hit the shot solid, but my pattern is not as good as I like it to be. Normally that takes a few -- a week or two to find that. But I have been hitting the ball really straight all week. That was the key this week. I had a good feel on the greens. It didn't seem like I had a long break, it seemed like I picked up again and played.

Q. Even though Joanne got off to a birdie, birdie start and closed the gap within one, you weren't fazed by that, is that one of the keys to your success, keeping level head at all times?

ANNIKA SORENSTAM: I think so. That's something I've learned throughout the years. This is a 54-hole event. Anything can happen on any hole. You got to be patient. Especially on this course too. I felt pretty comfortable with a 3-shot lead knowing that this is a tough course to go low at, but on the other hand I could shoot a high score because if I start messing up, the numbers will go up.

I mean I just try to stay the moment. I do get excited inside. I do get upset at myself inside. But I've learned to control my emotions. I have been in so many different

positions. I have been leading. I have been chasing. You name it. I have been everywhere. So I know what it takes to win. It doesn't mean necessarily I'm going to do it, but I know how I react on certain situations. That's why people talk about how important experience is. It really does help.

Q. You talk about being surprised because of your layoff, is there anything that you attribute being able to turn it on/off?

ANNIKA SORENSTAM: Well, I mean I'm glad I had some time to practice. I did practice for a week. It wasn't like I was totally rusty coming in here. It just shows that you just can't practice and practice and play and play. I mean this is my 13th event. You know, when I do play, I play very well and that works for me. I can't play every week because I get worn out and I don't play so well. So I think you have to listen to your body. If you're tired, you're tired, and if you're not keep on going. I needed a break. The timing was right. I do have a life outside golf, too, and once in a while it's nice to do other things.

Q. Tell us what you did during your break.

ANNIKA SORENSTAM: Well, this week, the time off I did a lot of clean up from hurricanes. It wasn't really planned. I didn't want to do all of that. It's fun to spend some time with my husband. He was chain sawing and I was cleaning. Then we had been up in Lake Tahoe wakeboarding and chilling on a boat and so forth. I said I'm going on. Maybe not much rest, but I'm away from a golf course, which is what I need, I just need to rest my head and not focus too much on shots and what I got to do and plan. I just kind of take the days as they come.

Q. What helps more with your golf game, the chainsaw or the chilling on the boat?

ANNIKA SORENSTAM: I think chilling on the boat. The chainsaw actually scared me. It's a powerful tool. I try not to touch that too many times. It's dangerous.

Q. Now that it's over, how can you compare the event being played here at this course as opposed to the Tulsa Country Club the last few years?

ANNIKA SORENSTAM: Well, I thought from a player's aspect, I mean this is a great golf course, too. I mean, I like Tulsa Country Club, but this one is as good. I think this facility, the practice for us ladies, is fantastic. If we had practice facilities like this every week, I think we would all get better because I could work on my wedge games, bunker. This is really good. When you come to a tournament, and you feel like -- you feel special when they treat you so well. That's another important thing. The food has been good, the hospitality. It's just been run really nicely.

Q. Have you had some is sushi here?

ANNIKA SORENSTAM: I've had some sushi, that helps.

Q. When you hear that you won 5 tournaments, at least in the last five years, all of your accomplishments it's a touchy thing, wow, I'm pretty good at this game?

ANNIKA SORENSTAM: No, I think about those things. I mean I am surprised that I've played so well. You know, I'm very proud of my career. Sometimes I ask myself, why is this happening to me? I know I work hard and so forth, and I enjoy what I do, but, you know, Paul said top-5 all time and there is only 2 other people, then it's like, is this really happening? You wonder why. I think sometimes just take it enjoy it and be thankful. If I start analyzing too much, who knows? It might not happen. I don't sit and look at history books and say I'm going to do this, I'm going to do that. I come out here, I try to play the best I can. I set goals. I analyze my game. I look at the statistics, and then

I say, I have to work on my putting. I got to work on my driving, whatever. And then I just go about it and do it, and hopefully the results will come.

Q. Do you think it will give the ladies something to shoot for, you look a few years ago back on the men's TOUR, everyone needs to catch up with Tiger, he was playing so well in 2000, you have had that kind of career on the ladies' tour, do you feel the ladies look at you as this is the level we need to reach, so it's pushing the game further and further ahead?

ANNIKA SORENSTAM: Well, maybe. I think if it does that will be great. Because there is so many good players out here. We are all capable of playing some good golf. So I like to see all of the competition get really good here and people come out and see that. We are hitting the ball further, the scores are lower. So, hopefully, the fans and you guys recognize that and the interest will continue to grow.

Q. You are the first (inaudible) winner of this tournament in its short history. The commissioner said it will take three to five years to really get the ball rolling and establish yourself. It seems like in it's four year tenure it's done that here. Do you and your fellow players on the TOUR agree with that? This tournament is kind of here to stay now?

ANNIKA SORENSTAM: I think we all hope it will be. I think the field shows that the players are excited about this tournament. I don't know how many Top-10 or Top-20 were here. It seemed to me like it was a good field. I think that's a good sign. This is a fun city to come to, I think. It really kind of fits in with the LPGA in a lot of ways. I mean, the hotel was nice. There are good restaurants in town. It's a smaller type of city, how would you say, it's like a home town feel. You can really feel that when you

are here. The support. The guys in the pro shop. Just everybody around here is very nice. Like I said earlier, when you come to play, and you feel welcomed, a lot of times you play better but also you want to come back.

THE MODERATOR: Scorecard.

ANNIKA SORENSTAM: Okay. Let's see, I birdied the sixth hole. I got to remember the holes. I haven't written them all down day. I hit a 7-iron and made a 13-footer.

No. 11, I hit a 9-iron to 28 feet.

I bogeyed 13, 5-iron left of the green, chipped it up 2 putts.

Q. How far?

ANNIKA SORENSTAM: Five feet.

14, I birdied. I hit a sand wedge to eight feet.

Then I bogeyed 18. I hit an 8-iron over the green, chipped it 2 putts, and the putt was about four feet.

THE MODERATOR: Anymore questions?

Q. (Inaudible)?

ANNIKA SORENSTAM: Yes, he told me today, it was five years ago since we started working together. I pretty much only had two caddies out here. One guy for six years and now Terry for five. I had a few substitutes, for different reasons, a sick caddy, or when I was in transition, but he is really a good guy. He works really hard. Obviously he knows my game now, and I think he does a lot of good preparation work when he is out here. He is very thorough when he walks the golf course. He is just a great guy when it comes to the mental part of the game. He just knows what to say at the right time. If

you are playing well he knows what to say. When you don't play well, which is the hardest part, what do you say. He normally says the right things, just too kind of keep me calm, and continue to not to give up and so forth. He is really good at that. He has become a good friend, he and his wife and his family. Obviously we have had some success together, and we are really enjoying it.

Q. What did he say at the beginning of this week especially because you haven't seen him in a while?

ANNIKA SORENSTAM: I think he was happy with the week off, or weeks off, I should say. He actually stayed in Florida, and he went through two hurricanes. So he has been really busy. He has been chainsawing a lot more than I have. I think he was happy to come out and start working and carrying the bag again.

Q. Elevate yourself the last three of four years, without even a rival pushing you, like Tiger has Vijay or Phil pushing him now, do you see anybody coming up? Which of the players do you feel can really challenge you for the number one spot?

ANNIKA SORENSTAM: Well, I don't know. There are a lot of players this year. Meg has played excellent. And then Lorena Ochoa, the most consistent player out here it seems like. She plays a lot of tournaments. She is always in the Top-10 it seems like. Grace Park is the one that I always felt with the right attitude and the right game. And also you have Se Ri Pak. So there is a lot of player's right there. Ahn is playing really good a lot of weeks. The depth is there now which is nice to see. We didn't used to have the depth when I started 10 years ago. Now it's just anybody can win a turn tournament.