
**Mitchell Company Tournament of Champions
Magnolia Grove Golf Course
Semmes, Al**

**Nov. 13, 2004
Third-round leader quotes**

AN INTERVIEW WITH KAREN STUPPLES

THE MODERATOR: Opening comments.

KAREN STUPPLES: Well, it was quite a funny day. I wasn't really sure how it was going to go. It started off badly because I bit into a chew and broke one of my teeth. So I have to go to the dentist after I'm done with this. That was a bit interesting to start off. I'm like, oh no, how is it going to go? I think almost it gave me something else to think about. It feels very strange. And that happens when anything happens in your mouth, it always feels strange. It happened back here. It always feels very strange.

I hit the ball well with some good chips and putts in early. I made some good birdies. I don't know I always feel like I should be able to make five birdies. Even though I turn 2-under, I have to get three on this back, and all of a sudden I kept getting more birdies. It was great fun. I liked it.

THE MODERATOR: Scorecard.

KAREN STUPPLES: 3, yes I had a good drive and I had a 58 degree wedge into 4 foot and made the putt.

Next I hit a driver and a 4-iron and 2-putted from 20 feet and just made par.

10, hit a drive, actually hit it left in the trees, but I had a nice opening to the green and I hit a 52 degree wedge to 4 foot.

Par-5? Then I hit a driver and a 7-wood into the front bunker. Hit a really nice bunker shot to 2 foot.

14, I hit a driver and a small 7-iron to I think 8 foot. Made that.

Another par-5, I hit driver, 3-wood. Did I miss the par-3? Sorry. That was an 8-iron to 5 foot and made that. Sorry.

Par-5, I hit driver and a 3-wood and 2-putted from it must have been about 45 foot.

THE MODERATOR: Par-3.

KAREN STUPPLES: I hit a grip 5-iron. And then it was about 3 foot.

THE MODERATOR: Can you tell me about the conditions a little bit?

KAREN STUPPLES: Yes, it was a little cool. Actually it was very comfortable playing conditions today. I think I dressed very nice, very appropriately for it. That's always nice, not too hot, not too cold, just perfect. The greens are still soft so you can

still fire at all of the pins which is why I was able to get it so close. There was a little breeze, but really nothing significant. Really scoring-wise, it's out there because the greens are so soft.

And any time you can put your hand on the ball and clean it and move it to a good spot, that always helps as well. You always got a good lie, providing you're not playing from the rough. It's definitely very scoreable.

You know that everybody out there is having as good a chance as making some birdies as you are. So whenever your opportunities come, you have to take them.

Q. Game plan?

KAREN STUPPLES: Fairways and greens. That's always a good one. And try to make as many putts as I can. I think having had a good round, I just need to stay patient tomorrow and just wait for things to happen. And let everything shake out as it's going through.

Q. (Inaudible)?

KAREN STUPPLES: I have had quite a few. No, that was the real key today, was not having any bogeys. It's funny, it's been the story of my last few tournaments, really. I am putting a lot of birdies, and have some silly holes. But today I was able to focus on what I needed to, and I didn't let that slip.

Q. When did you start thinking about your personal overall round?

KAREN STUPPLES: I actually thought about it with three holes to go. I thought, if I could birdie the last three holes, I could break my personal best.

But thinking about 17, I'm thinking oh, a tough birdie, 17, par-3. I'm not sure about that.

But actually, that was easy, compared to the way I played 18. I put myself in a good spot. I don't know. I just pushed my wedge a little bit to the right. Even then the putt just had a chance, it just fell low. It's a good speed. I couldn't really ask for more than that. I had an opportunity.

Q. They were saying you got invited to Buckingham Palace, tell me what that means to you?

KAREN STUPPLES: It's fantastic. Having won the British Open, I get a chance to go for a Christmas reception at the palace. When you grow up in Britain, and you get a chance to meet the Royal Family, it's something really quite special. I know that the rest of my family is going to be very jealous that I'm going to get to go. I have managed to change my flight, and the airline was actually, very, very good, which is unusual, but they were.

Q. When did you get invited?

KAREN STUPPLES: Actually I only found out a couple of days ago through my manager. She gave me a call, and said, well, she left me an email saying by the way, when are you coming back to England because you're going to be invited to the palace.

Q. What was your reaction to that?

KAREN STUPPLES: I had already booked my flight and I was supposed to -- I was going to arrive back in the UK two days after the invite. So I thought, I have to change my flight. The wheels started clicking, how can I make this work? How can I get there? It's a really exciting time. I know going back to the UK in general is going to be very special for me this time. I've got a lot of things lined up. I think it's going to be different than having won the British Open.

Q. Your life has probably changed a lot this year, you had a break-out year, talk about how it's changed for you?

KAREN STUPPLES: Well, for me, personally, you know, I don't think I've changed. And I don't think the way I live my life has changed very much. However, I am able to do things for people that I love more than I would have done in the past and that makes me feel very good. So I can help others. And it means something. So I could buy -- if I say to my county junior team in England, I would like to come and give a clinic. If I had said that two years ago, it would be all right then. Now they are like, yeah. So it actually makes a difference. It feels good for me to be able to make that difference.

Q. You are getting close to that one million mark, how special would it be to pass that?

KAREN STUPPLES: That has been a goal, you know, for these last few tournaments. It's been tough because I'm, you know, I'm quite tired, and I am looking forward to a break at Christmas. So I have to look at some goals and set them down for what I need to do these last few events. These are great events to play in. You know, I just needed a little something else to keep me going, and so to cross the million dollar mark was one of my big goals. And if I do it in this one tournament, then I have to think about going to one million and 100 thousand.

THE MODERATOR: Thank you.

Q. When are you supposed to go to the palace?

A. It's on December 7th.

Q. (Inaudible)?

KAREN STUPPLES: Yes, well have the queen change her thing. I'm like, I wish she would. Thank you very much everyone.