



INTERVIEW TRANSCRIPT: LEXI THOMPSON
Wednesday, September 5, 2012

MODERATOR: All right. We would like to welcome Lexi Thompson into the interview room. Thank you so much for joining us this morning.

LEXI THOMPSON: No problem.

MODERATOR: I know this is your first time here to Kingsmill, everybody's been talking about how excited we are to be back here at this venue and playing in front of these great fans. How much have you heard about this event beforehand and how has your week been so far? Enjoying it being here in Virginia?

LEXI THOMPSON: Yeah, I've heard a lot of great things about the event, just run so well and they have a lot of activities off the golf course, going to Busch Gardens and everything. I hear a lot of fans come out and I've gotten to interact with a few of them already. The course is in great shape, a little wet, but it's playing pretty hard, so definitely a little longer.

MODERATOR: You'll get a chance to test that out today playing in the pro-am, and I know you're paired with Commissioner Mike Whan as one of your playing companions. How much fun will that be today? Will it be a little different having the commissioner in your group?

LEXI THOMPSON: It might be a little different, but I've never seen him play before, it should be interesting. I might give him a little bit of a hard time out there.

MODERATOR: You've got to give him a few tips, I know he always appreciates --

LEXI THOMPSON: Yeah, I'll help him out a little bit.

MODERATOR: This is your rookie season, which for a lot of us is strange because we've seen you out here for so long, but how different has this season been from maybe what you expected, playing out here full time and being a member of this Tour?

LEXI THOMPSON: Just playing a lot more, back-to-back weeks and just groups of events. This is a three-week stretch for me. Just playing a lot more than the last few

years playing on sponsors' exemptions. It's great. I'm used to playing a lot, this is what I really enjoy, playing a lot more and playing against the best in the world.

MODERATOR: Does that consistency, knowing you're going to have week after week, really kind of help your golf game as well just knowing kind of when you'll be playing and getting to be able to be out here each week competing against the best players?

LEXI THOMPSON: Yeah, it definitely helps out a lot more. I was just having single events at one time and it put so much pressure on that one event to do well. Now that I have groups of events, I can just relax. Even if I do struggle, I know there's another week right after. It definitely helps a lot more knowing where I'm playing.

MODERATOR: In terms of what were your expectations I guess for yourself coming into your rookie season, do you place goals, do you try to set marks that you wanted to hit, or do you kind of take it event by event to kind of get your golf game going?

LEXI THOMPSON: Yeah, I usually just take it event by event. I go into every event wanting to win. My long term goals are Solheim Cup next year, and the Olympic team the next four years. But yeah, I just take each event and just go in and try to improve on little things in my game. That will help me out in the long run.

MODERATOR: Everybody's been talking about the youth movement in golf and you kind of set that off as one of the primary people in terms of everybody talking about younger players, and a year ago you became the youngest person ever to win on the LPGA Tour and the last event we had another young one in Lydia Ko, who came out and won in Vancouver. Having gone through that experience, what was it like for you watching what Lydia did out there in Vancouver? I saw you had tweeted after talking about youth power and teen power, but how impressed were you with how she was able to play?

LEXI THOMPSON: Yeah, I was very impressed. I've gotten to play with her a few times over in Australia and practice rounds and I know how good she is. She is a really hard worker. She was out there the week before playing the golf course every day. She's a really hard worker and it definitely showed right there and obviously at the AM and the other events.

MODERATOR: I talked about you tweeting her and saying that, but we were discussing yesterday, we had some media training and talking about different things. One of the things we talked about was social media, and you've been so involved in terms of your Twitter account and Facebook and interacting with fans. Why is it so important for you to make sure you're always talking to your fans and re-tweeting them and being involved?

LEXI THOMPSON: It's really important to me. I mean, I love interacting with my fans, especially on the golf course. They take time out of their day, so I might as well give time back and just get to know them a little bit more.

MODERATOR: Is it fun? I guess, does this give you a different avenue? I know you're young enough that you don't really remember when this stuff wasn't around. Do you feel more connected to your fans because of it?

LEXI THOMPSON: Yeah, I feel really connected with my fans. Twitter, Facebook, now Instagram, it's great. I mean, you get to interact with them. Just to get to see them out here and tell them to come watch you play and let them know when you're teeing off and everything, so it's amazing.

MODERATOR: As we go through the final few months of your rookie season, any specific things that you have in mind that you want to accomplish?

LEXI THOMPSON: Not really. I'm going into every event, like I said, wanting to win but just trying to have fun with the game and just be relaxed out on the course and just enjoy every little bit of it. That's when I play my best, when I'm relaxed and have fun.

MODERATOR: Any questions from who just walked in? Well, thank you so much for joining us today. Best of luck. Go ahead.

Q. Sorry. Lexi, you've experienced a win so young, but how much farther do you think your game can go and how much do you look to improve every time you're out there on the golf course?

LEXI THOMPSON: Yeah, I think my game can improve a lot. I mean, it always can with this game. It's changing every single day. Just continue to improve on little things in my game, like short game that I've been working on a lot. Your swing changes every day, so you can always improve. It's never perfect.

Q. I know you've been successful on your own, but being so young, do you ever seek advice from other members of the Tour, even though you're competing against each other? Do you help each other out?

LEXI THOMPSON: Yeah, there are a few players out here, even Nancy Lopez. She's not out here but I got to know her on Junior Solheim, I got to spend a week with her. Knowing players of that caliber are there for me, it means a lot.

Q. Then you talked about the course a little bit saying it was in great shape from what you've seen so far. What have they told you about the golf Xs and Os of the course and what you're going to have to overcome in order to be successful here?

LEXI THOMPSON: Pretty much just get your ball in the fairway. There's a few demanding tee shots, and it's playing softer now so I can hit my driver pretty much on every hole. Yeah, just put it on the right side of the hole out there and keep it in the fairways, I think that's pretty much what they said to do out here.

Q. And my last question for you, you said you enter every event hoping to win. Can you talk about that from this course's perspective and how you're coming into Kingsmill here hoping to get another LPGA victory?

LEXI THOMPSON: I feel pretty good about my chances here. My last few practice rounds have gone really well. Just going to go out and hope for the best, just focus on one shot at a time, do my routine, just have fun out there.

Q. Thank you very much.

LEXI THOMPSON: No problem.

MODERATOR: Thank you very much, Lexi. Enjoy today, have a great time in the pro-am, and best of luck this week.

LEXI THOMPSON: Thank you.