



INTERVIEW TRANSCRIPT: MARIA HJORTH
Thursday, September 6, 2012

MODERATOR: All right. I'd like to welcome Maria Hjorth into the interview room. Maria, thanks for coming in. Great round today, 6-under par 65, including an eagle. Can you just take me through your round and tell me what you did on the eagle?

MARIA HJORTH: Yeah, I played solid today, gave myself some good chances, made a few -- a couple really good par saves out there, too, which always you need to do. And the eagle, I hit a really good drive and then I had 220 to the pin and I hit a 3-wood to a foot.

MODERATOR: You've had a bit of an up-and-down year this year. Can you just talk about what this round could do for your confidence and about your year thus far?

MARIA HJORTH: Yeah, it's been mostly down this year, not so much up. It's great. I've been feeling pretty good in my game but nothing has really happened. I've got my husband on the bag this week, which it's just a great feeling working together. The last time we worked together we had a win, so hopefully we can keep on going and keep the tradition going. I just felt really confident and really relaxed, great feeling out there today.

MODERATOR: I know your daughter Emily is out here with you this week. Can you just talk a little bit about life playing on the Tour and also being a mom and how it is having her out this week?

MARIA HJORTH: Yeah, it's great having her out. I haven't had her out that much this year. Obviously my husband has been home quite a bit. We even have a nanny traveling with us this week, too, that helps out. But it's different having them -- having them out. You realize, I think, when you're all by yourself how much time you get to yourself. When she's around, obviously you want to spend time with her, too, so you obviously make sure that you put some time aside and spend time with her. But it's different. You just have to make sure that you balance everything, that you have great balance as a mother and as a professional golfer, but it's a great life.

MODERATOR: Questions for Maria?

Q. Of the top scores, it's everybody's best first round of the year. What do you attribute to the low scores?

MARIA HJORTH: Yeah, I mean, definitely the course is playing soft; that always helps, I think. The fairway becomes wider because the ball doesn't roll as much. Obviously you can hit it straight up to the pin, but on the other hand, the greens get a little bit bumpy because you're going to have a lot of footprints and spike marks out there. I just think there wasn't really much wind. We had a little bit of wind when we came out the second time, but other than that, it was just in a way a pretty easy -- easy the way the course was playing today actually with just soft and no wind.

Q. You had a win with your husband on the bag and then you played really well today. How often do you guys talk about working together more?

MARIA HJORTH: No, it's not happening very often, this is the last time. He's, you know, trying to go a different direction and not caddie anymore. Yeah, it just happened to be this week because my other caddie and I just, you know, separated and I needed someone for this week, and we kind of planned it a long time ago that he was going to work this week. But he's just kind of a one-off. Obviously we work well together, but I don't think it would work doing it full time, for sure.

Q. What is his new direction?

MARIA HJORTH: It's a little bit more into the coaching part, coaching and the mental part of golf. He's got some great experience with obviously being a caddie and being in the golf business for a long, long time. He can read people so well and really see what's going on, going on in people's minds, although obviously he's not a mind reader. But he knows so much about golf and he's got so much experience that I think it would be a great way for him to still work within golf but within a different area.

Q. (Inaudible.)

MARIA HJORTH: On the PGA? Three years.

Q. Maria, all six players that have won here are former major champions. Is there something about the course that kind of identifies the best player or brings out the best players, rewards the best players?

MARIA HJORTH: I think so. I think the course is playing maybe a little bit longer with being a bit softer. I think it's a ball striker's course, and I think you have a lot of great ball strikers winning this tournament. Obviously it's playing different, I think, this year because I remember the greens being pretty firm sometimes and playing a little bit different, but unfortunately we seem to be having some rain here most of the time we come here.

Yeah, I think if you're a great driver of the ball, you're going to put yourself in great positions and maybe have a little bit shorter irons into the greens than other players. So I think definitely, you know, it's a ball striker's course.

MODERATOR: Any other questions for Maria? All right, Maria, thank you.

MARIA HJORTH: Okay, thanks.