

**PRE-TOURNAMENT INTERVIEW**  
**June 11, 2019**



**LEXI THOMPSON**

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**CHRISTINA LANCE:** We're here with World No. 4, Lexi Thompson, coming to us fresh off an amazing win at last week's ShopRite LPGA Classic. She's also the 2015 Meijer LPGA Classic winner.

Lexi, before we get here to Grand Rapids, I want to go back a couple days to Atlantic City and that eagle on the final hole to win. That had to be such an adrenaline rush for you. What was that feeling like on the final hole there?

**LEXI THOMPSON:** It really was an adrenaline rush. I knew my position because I accidentally looked at a leaderboard on No. 17's green. I tried not to the whole day just so I can play my own game and just focus on just putting a good round together in that wind. So I knew my position, but I was just trying to birdie that last hole. I know you should definitely make birdie on it, if not eagle.

Then I hit my drive in the rough, so I was like, oh, it might be a little harder now judging out of the rough and with the wind. So there was a lot of thinking going into the shot and the yardage and how I was going to play, getting to drop that putt was an adrenaline rush. My hair was sticking up on my arms, it was the best feeling, and just to hear the crowd roar was pretty amazing.

**CHRISTINA LANCE:** The support is always great. So you got that win, the tie for second at the U.S. Women's Open, on a roll coming here to Grand Rapids, and the last four years you're coming off four straight top-10s. Do you feel even better coming into a week at a place that clearly seems to agree with you?

**LEXI THOMPSON:** Well, I definitely feel good about it. I mean, I love this golf course and it's definitely playing a lot softer than the few years that we've played it, which I really like. It's in great shape. I got to play a full 18 today, got to see the reroute of the holes, so was a lot different for me.

But this course brings a lot of great memories and just the tournament in general, and really the community supports this event and vice versa. So it's just amazing to be here. I love being here in Grand Rapids.

**CHRISTINA LANCE:** You mentioned the reroute. What is that like almost seemingly going to a different golf course where you find yourself walking to a different tee?

**LEXI THOMPSON:** Yeah, it's so different. My caddie, Benji, was trying to tell me I think on No. 12 last week in the middle of the round, he's like, "Oh, yeah, do you know about the

reroute?" This hole's that hole, and then he got really into it. I'm like, "Oh, no, no, no, you're confusing me, now I'm going to start thinking about it and please stop."

But it's a good setup, I think, finishing on 18 where the Grand Taste is. I think that's a great idea because that's where a lot of the fans hang out and, like I said, it's in great shape for us. So just to see the reroute, it's different but it's good.

**CHRISTINA LANCE:** You'll get used to it.

**LEXI THOMPSON:** Exactly. It'll wear on me.

**Q. Lexi, a lot has been made of your new putting grip since the U.S. Women's Open. Are you continuing with that and how does it work? Do you feel more comfortable every day with it?**

**LEXI THOMPSON:** Yeah, I'm getting more and more comfortable with it. I changed Tuesday of the U.S. Women's Open. My brother Curtis came to the tournament and he's always tried me -- like he's always told me, "Oh, you should try it, you should try it, it works great," because he uses the claw as well, and I've always pushed it off. He finally wore on me, so I caved and then I used it for that whole practice round and the rest and these last two weeks. So I feel very comfortable with it. It's all just a matter of practice and getting the feel for it and making sure it flows because it's a lot different than just the overlap grip. But it's getting more comfortable for me and I love it. I think it works better for my stroke.

**Q. Lexi, is there any difference coming into a tournament after coming off a win, especially a dramatic finish the way you did last week?**

**LEXI THOMPSON:** Difference? I would just say I feel good where my game's at. Not much of a difference. It was an adrenaline rush, like I was saying. There was a lot going on that Sunday, didn't get much sleep and then took yesterday off. But no, I mean, I feel great where my game's at, so not much difference. I just feel good where my game's at, I feel confident, and just coming into a new week, new golf course. Yeah, just try to get to know the golf course and go out with the same attitude that I have been the last few weeks.

**Q. You touched a little bit on the reroute and finishing on a par 5. Obviously you just won with an eagle on a par 5 last week. Do you get excited to see the 18th hole be a 479-yard par 5, one obviously you can reach in two?**

**LEXI THOMPSON:** Yeah, I think it's great to end on a par 5. That's kind of a risk-reward that's long enough to where a few people can reach it. And, you know, I don't know. It is a challenging par 5 because you do have to carve it up the right side, because I could go through if you go straight out. So it is kind of a little bit of a risk-reward hole. But people want to see birdies and eagles, so I think definitely finishing on that hole you will see that. Yeah, like I said, I think it's a good finishing hole, but so was No. 18 originally.

**Q. Lexi, just out of curiosity, for this field here, how does this kind of compare to what you've gone up against this season? Do you see it as a stronger field in your eyes or how does that look?**

**LEXI THOMPSON:** Well, I heard, was it eight out of the top-10, nine out of the top-10? Yeah, I think that's amazing to see. I think that's what tournament sponsors really want, to see the top players coming to their event.

But in my case, I don't really think about it or really think that much into it. I'm just going out there playing my game, making sure my game's fully prepared for the week, and if we focus on each other, each other's games, it will get to us and we won't play to our full potential. So really just going to focus on what I'm doing and what I'm working on.

**CHRISTINA LANCE:** Further questions for Lexi? We have a couple First Tee reporters here. Any questions you might have for Lexi?

**LEXI THOMPSON:** Feel free to ask, I'm here.

**CHRISTINA LANCE:** Lexi, maybe I'll ask you to give them a little bit of advice. When you were their age looking to what you wanted to do in life, what were your thoughts and what is some advice you'd give to our junior reporters?

**LEXI THOMPSON:** How old are you guys?

**JUNIOR REPORTER:** I'm 12.

**JUNIOR REPORTER:** I'm 13.

**LEXI THOMPSON:** Okay. Well, I mean around that age, I mean, everybody KNOWS that I made it to the Open at 12, but around that age I knew that I wanted to play professionally. That's kind of where it kind of opened my eyes that I wanted to be out on the LPGA Tour playing against the best.

But I played other sports as well, so it's important to see where your heart's at in life and what you want to do, what makes you the happiest. I think really whatever makes you the happiest, you should commit to and that's where you'll make it the farthest in life.

With golf it's just important to have friends to go out and play with, make it fun, make it enjoyable, play little games and then really get into the technical stuff. Get a coach and everything if you really want to make a life out of it. It does take a lot of hard work, but at the same time it's one of the best games. You learn so much about yourself, you meet so many amazing people along the way and it's definitely a great sport to be in. But just enjoy it.

**CHRISTINA LANCE:** Go out and have fun.

**LEXI THOMPSON:** Exactly.

**CHRISTINA LANCE:** Anything further for Lexi? Well, thank you so much. Have a great week.