

Michelle Wie Pre-tournament press conference
Tuesday, May 18, 2010
Sybase Match Play Championship

Welcome, Michelle. You played here in 2006 on a sponsor's exemption and made it to the quarterfinals that year. Coming off a difficult week how are you prepared for this week?

MW: I played 18 holes today so that's good in the rain. I was pretty proud of myself. It's a really great golf course. I'm really glad we got back here and get to play in the match play again. It was a pretty disappointing week for me last week but I learned a lot from my mistakes. I'm working toward a good week this week.

Last week it seemed you struggled a bit around the greens. Did you make any adjustments to your short game?

MW: The last day on the first 4 holes I played, the only 4 holes I played, my putting felt pretty good. I'm just gaining confidence and gaining momentum from that and trying to bring it to this tournament.

Can you talk about the difference of winning an event for you and what it did for your confidence?

MW: It was pretty cool to win and I definitely gained a lot of confidence. That happened back in November and I'm focusing on getting the second win. I'm trying to play better and better every week. Trying to the best I can.

I know you don't want to look back but it was a long time coming to get that first win. Did it feel like it wasn't going to happen?

MW: Of course, but it did so I'm happy with that. It felt that much better. It felt really good when it did happen and now I just want to win more since it felt good.

Do you feel like one of the girls out here now instead of the "phenom" that everyone said you were?

MW: I don't mind what other people say about me. I'm trying to become the best player I can be.

How much did the Solheim Cup help you bond with the other players?

MW: The Solheim Cup was an amazing experience. I knew the girls playing out here but not to the extent that I got to know them that week. I got to learn a lot from them and it was a great opportunity and I got to play with Cristie Kerr a lot because we were the secret pair. I got to pick her brain about everything. I thought this is the week that I can ask her anything and she'll actually tell me. It was great. We bonded really well. I had a lot of fun. All the girls were great. They told me how to prepare for it. It was great.

With Lorena Ochoa retiring a lot of people are looking for someone to replace her as the dominant player. Are you prepared to do that and what do you think about the pressure that comes with being the savoir or the Tour?

MW: You know, like I said, I'm just trying to become the best player I can be. I'm working as hard as I can to win tournaments and to play well and to be that dominant player. Everyone is vying for that spot now and everyone is working extra hard.

Do you think that some of the pressure that you've already been through at such a young age with getting that first win and playing with the guys helps you deal with the pressure of stepping up now to be the next Annika or Lorena?

MW: I've always put a lot of pressure on myself along with everyone else and I think pressure is a good thing. Expectations are a good thing and I'm just trying to use that to motivate myself and practice harder and try to be better.

What have you learned from Lorena and Annika?

MW: I definitely have a whole lot of respect for both of them. Lorena was great and I got to play with her a couple of times. She's such a nice person too. The way that she plays is fearless and it makes me want to do the same.

The LPGA doesn't do match play a whole lot. Do you like it? Do you prefer stroke play?

MW: It's kind of nice to change it up a bit. I remember I played a lot more match play in amateur events in USGA golf. It's nice to switch it up.

Inaudible.

MW: It hasn't changed a whole lot. I try to make the game as fun as I can. I feel like I play better when I enjoy it. Just try to keep motivated. I just have a whole sense of new determination.

Are you still working with Stockton on your putting? What are you working on?

MW: I'm not working with him currently. Working on the basics, I guess. Trying to make putts.

This past year you spent a year on Tour, have you found a formula that makes going from school to playing an easy fit for you?

MW: I'm very fortunate that Stanford works in quarter systems so I go for 2 quarters out of the year. I go from end of September to Mid-March. It works out perfectly. I miss a couple weeks here and there but from March till Sept for 6 months I have nothing and I concentrate on golf. I do certain things like practice and then I also get to be my normal 20-year-old self and I do things that add balance to my life. It does create a lot more of a workload at times but it's worth it and it adds so much more to my life.

Are you going to finish college?

MW: I am. I have 2 more years to go and getting my college degree is important as my golf. I always put education the same as my sport. Education is something that you should never give up just because you're doing something else. Getting a college degree is extremely important and I value that highly. So walking down the isle getting my diploma is going to be amazing.

Inaudible about friendship with Christina Kim.

MW: I first played with her when I was 13 at Kraft and since then we've been pretty close. She's always been really nice to me ever since I came out. She's always been a friendly face no matter what. We just get along together well. We don't take each other seriously and we can goof around. She's just a really cool person. I can learn a lot from her and her determination. It's pretty cool that we're both Korean-American and we come from...it's nice to have someone you can call your friend.

What do you think about how open and accessible and open she is?

MW: Yeah, she is. She's an amazing person.

Inaudible...

MW: After Solheim and after Mexico. Before the Solheim I worked really hard and before winning in Mexico I worked really hard and after achieving something great its nice to have the feeling of gratitude and it's almost like a drug that you want to keep doing it. After that it's a whole new determination where I want to put my entire self in my sport and what I get back is that much better.

Did you feel before that that you weren't accepted by the players?

MW: I think out here everyone is competing against each other. The Solheim Cup was a great experience for me because I got to know the older players better since we were all in the same area. I got to know them really well.

Given the irregular nature of the LPGA schedule, how do you handle the stop and go?

MW: Well, its definitely more of "groove" than I'm used to and it's nice. I'm used to playing one tournament and having one month off. So playing two weeks and having weeks off is a lot better. Obviously, we are getting back on track with the schedule. I think Mike Whan is doing a wonderful job. We're moving in the right direction. It's great.

Gold fingernails? Is that a subliminal message to the other girls this week as to who is going to take home the gold?

MW: They're actually (inaudible) I did the myself. I'm so happy another person noticed. Laughter.....Yeah.

Is winning on your radar screen...Inaudible.

MW: I'm trying not to look too far into the future. I'm just done worrying about what's going to happen in the future and what happened in the past. I'm trying to focus on each tournament and each shot and do the best I can. I'm trying to do the best that I can. That's all I'm trying to focus on.

Do you feel like you were trying to do too much in the past year...inaudible?

MW: Oh yeah, for sure. There was a point where I worried so much about the future and I worried so much about the past and did I do this right and did I do this wrong and what do I do now, but it's tiring. You just can't think about all this other stuff because you

loose your sense of the present. Before I came out after Q-school after when I came out here I just thought to myself I need to stop doing this. I'm just not happy. I'm not focused about right now. I need to focus about enjoying it whether the outcomes are good or not. Like last week...I've had a pretty disappointing last week but I knew that I was out there and I grinded and I tried to do the best that I can. That's really all I can do. After I did that I started to enjoy it a lot more. I feel like the results have gotten a lot better.

Did it stop being fun?

MW: There was a point where it wasn't but then I thought to myself I can either keep dragging myself down or I can start fresh and keep moving forward. There is a point in your life where you have to make that decision.

Inaudible.

MW: I think we're doing all that we can to play the best we can. The level of competition has raised the last couple of years and it's just becoming harder and harder to win. The scores are getting lower, people are playing better even though they are making the courses harder. I think it shows that there is a lot of competition and that we have a really good product out here.

You said that you were happy to come back here. Why?

MW: It's a great golf course. It's in great condition and it's a true championship golf course. They host us really well here and it's nice to come back.

I read somewhere you bake and sew? Where does that come from?

MW: I started to sew about a couple months ago. I really enjoy it. I love baking and I love drawing. Just doing activities that keep me entertained. It's fun to have other things to do when I'm not playing golf. I like having things where I can de-stress and then I can go and focus.

There is a misconception about your that you're not fun...inaudible...but do more players know your sense of humor now?

MW: Yeah, I guess a lot of people didn't know that. But I laugh at my own jokes and you know I think that if people have a certain view...well, we all do that to people we don't know. But it's nice getting to know the girls out here. There's a lot of people I didn't know and it's nice to get to know people.

Who is here with you this week?

My parents and Nickole, my manager.

A lot of girls I didn't know before. It's nice to get to know people.

Last Question