

Interview Transcript: AMANDA BLUMENHERST

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Hamilton Farm Golf Club

MODERATOR: Great playing today. You defeated Karrie Webb 7 & 6, so congratulations on that. I believe you had six birdies.

AMANDA BLUMENHERST: I did, yes.

MODERATOR: So if you can talk about the day overall.

AMANDA BLUMENHERST: Well, I was able to start off really well, which is -- I always love starting with a birdie or starting 1-up, just kind of get the momentum going. I hit a great drive and stuck it pretty close, made a nice little putt, and from there I just hit every fairway. Hit, I think, almost all the greens. I missed one green and got up and down, made a nice putt. So just was putting well, hitting the ball really well. It was just a very, very solid day of golf.

MODERATOR: Is there one hole that stands out as a real significant hole?

AMANDA BLUMENHERST: There was, number 8, the par 3. Karrie hit it to I think about 4 feet. Well, I went first and hit it to probably 15 feet and then she stuck it to about 4, and it was a par 3 and I made my putt because I knew she was going to make hers. So that was great. Didn't really give her a chance to get one back.

MODERATOR: Great, good job. Questions?

Q. There always seems to be year after year the, I don't know if you call it a quest for the next great American player. Based on your background, your name gets mentioned in that context. What do you think about that? I mean, do you hear that? Do you think about it? Do you even care?

AMANDA BLUMENHERST: I definitely hear about it and I think it's absolutely a wonderful honor to be mentioned as maybe the next great American golfer. It's something that I would absolutely -- I dream to, I aspire to, hopefully I'll be able to fulfill it someday. Going to college and playing four years and getting my degree, I think that just also adds a lot to being -- if I am the next great American golfer, that I can show girls the benefit of going to school, that it

isn't a waste of time or that it isn't -- you know, you aren't losing money because you're going to college, it's an amazing experience and something that everyone I believe should do.

Q. Obviously playing Webb today, she's a Hall of Famer, former number 1 player. What was your just mindset before the match start playing a player of her accomplishments?

AMANDA BLUMENHERST: Well, I played one group ahead of her at the ANZ Masters and she shot like I think 61 that day, so I definitely was hearing all of the cheering and everything. And I know, I mean, I know how great a player she is, so definitely had 1st tee butterflies and I was nervous. But I also have been playing very well the last two days, and even the tournaments leading up to it, so I was confident in my game.

Q. Has it been tough this year with kind of the stop-and-start nature of the Tour, to get it kind of -- really get it going and then you're off for two weeks?

AMANDA BLUMENHERST: We've been calling it feast or famine. You have five tournaments in a row and then you have several weeks off. But I've actually kept quite busy with the Mojo and then playing in this, where some girls aren't playing in these events. So I actually feel like I have a very full schedule. During the off weeks I'm taking some time off, relaxing, watching baseball games, just -- and then also practicing, too. But really it hasn't affected me that much much.

Q. Your boyfriend plays minor league baseball?

AMANDA BLUMENHERST: He does, yes. He's a Ft. Wayne Tin Cap with the Padres organization.

Q. Since you're so close to the amateur part of your career, I imagine match play is kind of still ingrained in you, you don't have to draw back to a long time ago. I mean, are you feeling comfortable this week? Did you feel comfortable going in?

AMANDA BLUMENHERST: I am, I absolutely love match play. I kind of was joking, I wish everything was match play. But I really started getting the knack for it around my sophomore, junior year of college, and then really, you know, for the last four years I've really enjoyed it. I've had a lot of fun with it, the Curtis Cups and all the team events, so I was really looking forward to this week and I was hoping that I would be able to play in it. And then when I got the invite

and then earned my way in, it was great.

Q. Why did you decide not to come out of Duke early? Why did you decide to go through the four years?

AMANDA BLUMENHERST: It was always my plan to go four years, even in high school, always thought no matter what happens, I'm going to play four years of college golf, get my degree. And after my first year, freshman of the year and player of the year, so I had a lot of people asking why aren't you turning pro? But I absolutely love school. I love being in class. I loved -- I mean, I'm kind of a dork. I liked participating in class discussions. I liked -- I didn't like the homework, didn't like the tests, but loved being there on the campus, and also I really felt myself mature as a person and also as a golfer. My game improved quite a bit.

Q. You talked about loving match play and having a knack for it. What is the knack? What is your match play philosophy?

AMANDA BLUMENHERST: I was just speaking with someone, that you really shouldn't be any different, you should be exactly the same, stroke play, match play, you're playing the golf course, but for some reason it is different. And for me there's kind of a little bit more of an adrenaline rush. I think each hole you have to try to play my best every time, stroke play, match play, it doesn't matter, I want to see how low I can go. But there is just something different, and I almost feel like it's the atmosphere or it's just the thought of if you have a bad hole, it really isn't that big a deal, it's just one point or 1-down, where stroke play, that can make a difference. I also make a lot of birdies in stroke play and that helps a lot in match play.

Q. Has waiting so long to turn pro and then finally being able to do it given you a different perspective, maybe appreciate it more when you finally decided to say, hey, this is now what I want to do?

AMANDA BLUMENHERST: It is. Also, I think, you know, graduating from school definitely created a kind of a safety net where I feel when I go to a golf tournament and if I don't play very well, I don't have to feel like this is it, if I don't make it, I have nothing else to fall back on. So I think just having that in the back of my head allows me, just kind of freeze me up a little bit, enjoy each tournament a little more and just be more relaxed.

Q. I guess it was about two weeks ago Alexis Thompson said she was going to turn pro at 15 after the Curtis Cup. When you think back when you were 15, could you have even imagined turning professional at

15?

AMANDA BLUMENHERST: I remember being 15 and being excited to, like, make pars. So I mean, you know, it was -- I just couldn't imagine, I could not imagine turning pro at 15. I mean, when you think about it, golf you can play forever, and in 15 years when she's 30, that's kind of -- I think everybody's at a golf peak. The average age they say is 30. That's 15 years for her. And then if she wants to keep playing, she could be on the Tour for a really long time and that's a lot of golf. You know, that's -- it's also a lot of your childhood that you're missing. She's going to be missing prom probably and missing going to college. So I think that it's really tough and I definitely wouldn't have made that choice.

Q. You mentioned how much you like school and everything like that. Do you miss it?

AMANDA BLUMENHERST: I do. I actually, I couldn't believe it, I've been out of school for over a year. I graduated May 10th of last year and I couldn't believe that I've not picked up a school book or been taking notes for over a year. It's gone by so fast. I was devastated -- well, I was very excited when Duke won the basketball. I was thrilled but at the same time why, one year, I was so close. But it was -- so I definitely miss being in school, but at the same time it is nice going to a tournament and not having to bring a backpack full of books and not having a test to study for.

Q. Are you keeping an eye on the NCAA championships this week?

AMANDA BLUMENHERST: Yeah. I sent my coach a text. I thought it actually started yesterday but I was a little off, so I know Duke has a little ways to go, but I'm always pulling for them.

Q. As a newcomer to the LPGA, how do you look at the LPGA now? It's kind of a transitional time. Lorena's left it and a lot of the bigger names have started to move on. You're that next wave. Do you see that wave carrying and getting the popularity to the point where everybody would like to see it again?

AMANDA BLUMENHERST: I do. I have a great group of friends and fellow competitors who played college golf with me, and they're amazing and they're going to be a lot of fun to watch. Most of them are on the Futures Tour right now and doing the European Tour. But I feel like just given a little bit of time, they're going to come out here and the Tour is -- it's exciting already but there's going to be some fresh blood.

Q. Do you think that the Tour needs -- I mean, everybody needs a star in whatever the sport is. What's it going to take for the LPGA to kind of grab the spotlight again and make it something that people really want to tune into when it comes on TV during the week?

AMANDA BLUMENHERST: I think the economy needs to get a little bit better, but not just that. You know, I really -- I have so much faith in my graduating class, Class of '09, that I also think that really the golfers that I grew up playing junior golf with who didn't turn pro, who went to college, they're going to be so much fun to watch. I really think that that wave of girls who went to college, graduated, it's going to be a new face for the LPGA.

MODERATOR: Any other questions? All right. Thank you.

