

Interview Transcript: MORGAN PRESSEL

May 21, 2010
Hamilton Farm Golf Club

MODERATOR: You won in 19 holes today. Congratulations.

MORGAN PRESSEL: Thank you.

MODERATOR: If you can just open up with comments about the whole day.

MORGAN PRESSEL: Yeah, tomorrow I would like to play well on the front 9, minus the first two holes, because I've been playing them pretty well. I started off with two kick-in birdies and made quite a few errors there over the next five holes, I guess, and I kind of gave it back. I managed to hang in there. I made a birdie on top of her on 10, birdied 11. She gave me a little bit of a gift on 13, but then I went two down again on 14, so I was still in a bit of a hole and managed to pull it out. It was crazy.

MODERATOR: Can you go over the one extra hole?

MORGAN PRESSEL: Yeah, like I said, in the morning I had a kick-in and today I hit it to about three feet this afternoon with a pitching wedge, and it was a putt that, it's kind of very tricky to read because it doesn't break, even though it looks like it does, and I knew it in practice. And Sophie played it to break and it didn't, and I played my straight and it went in.

MODERATOR: Questions?

Q. Morgan, are there certain holes that kind of suit your eye more than others out here? I mean, 17 and 18 you played very well, but it seems like there's a stretch of holes on the front 9 you don't play particularly well on.

MORGAN PRESSEL: Well, I haven't hit the green two days on 3 so far, so if I hit the green there tomorrow, I should be okay. I three-putted 13. I'm sorry, I'm so backwards with the nines. I three-putted 4. After hitting a good shot, missed a putt on 5. You know, 16 I hit a miserable chip. I didn't play the hole that poorly, I just hit a bad chip. It was just a little sloppy, it just wasn't sharp. But I hit a great 4-hybrid in there and it lands pin high and just goes over the green. I tried to -- at that point you're a couple

down, I've got to attack the pin. Sometimes you get a little bit too greedy.

Q. Amanda Blumenherst was just in here talking about her decision to go to college for four years and then turn professional. You made a very different decision when you turned professional. Could you talk about your reasoning at the time for that?

MORGAN PRESSEL: Yeah, it was -- it was the right decision for me. You know, I committed to go to school with her at Duke and I knew that she was planning on staying. I mean, even before she went to school, she said she wanted to stay four years and it proved to be a pretty good decision for her. But everybody's different, and I played in, you know, plenty of LPGA events beforehand, some sponsors exemptions, won the Women's Am, and I felt that I was ready and that writing essays on English literature wasn't going to help me in my career.

Q. Again today, 2 down with 2 to play, did you have a sense of deja vu there?

MORGAN PRESSEL: Absolutely.

Q. What was your mindset today 2 down with 2 to play?

MORGAN PRESSEL: Absolutely. You know, I knew that -- I mean, I figured that Sophie was going to birdie one of the last two holes, so it was going to be a little more difficult in that sense. But I didn't expect her to bogey 17, even though I still could have made a putt there. On 18, I just -- I feel very comfortable with my wedges. I mean, I've hit them -- I don't know, I think I've hit one bad wedge this week. I mean, every time I hit a wedge, I have a good-looking birdie. That's why the 17th and 18th holes set up well for me.

Q. Just mentally, are you exhausted after these two days, or what is your mental state after going three two days like this?

MORGAN PRESSEL: It's exhausting, it's exhausting to play that many holes, it's exhausting to put yourself in that position to where -- I mean, I was shaking on my putt on 18, and they may not look like it because they went in the center, but I was nervous. I miss that putt, that's the end of my tournament. I wouldn't have been a really happy camper, so I stayed tough and it went in, and then the putt on 1 went in. But I definitely -- definitely deja vu. Both days, I figured if I got it into extra holes that I could win the match, and that's what happened. Tomorrow, no extra holes.

Q. Keep it going then, right? We're asking all the players today about sort of the state of the LPGA. Some big names have left, retirement age, whatever. In your opinion, what does it take to make the LPGA really relevant in the minds of golfers and fans who want to watch it and looking for star power and looking for things to draw people to the courses and to the TVs. What are your opinions on that?

MORGAN PRESSEL: Well, I think that anybody that comes out to watch us, I think that our biggest thing is to get people out and get the sponsors involved, because once the sponsor plays in a pro am or once a little kid comes out to watch, they've got memories for a lifetime, and I was that little kid and it inspired me tremendously and I was a very big fan of the LPGA. And sponsors time in and time out say the LPGA Prime experience is the best. You know, the girls are just, they're great with the media, with the fans, with the sponsors, and I mean, I think that having a little bit of extra drama -- a little drama this week playing match play, it's always a little more dramatic, but with Lorena having retired, we've got, you know, four, five, there's a long list of girls who are going to compete for that top spot. I think it's going to make the Tour very interesting in the coming months, in the coming years.

Q. This is a follow-up. Who did you admire as you were getting into the game as a young girl and who do you see as the rising stars or the examples, even yourself for kids that are watching this who are 8, 10, 12 years old and really starting to get into the game?

MORGAN PRESSEL: I admired Nancy Lopez. I still admire Juli Inkster as she's still out here grinding away, and she didn't have her best day today but it was very impressive. I remember watching Karrie Webb and Annika Sorenstam and Se Ri. They were really -- when I was getting involved in the game, they were the top and they were the three fighting for the top spots. I would go to the tournaments down in south Florida and watch them play and it was a thrill for me.

MODERATOR: Question up front?

Q. You mentioned before, were you and Amanda supposed to play at Duke together?

MORGAN PRESSEL: Well, she's a year older than I am, so we would have been there at the same time, yes.

Q. Do you know each other through junior golf or anything like that?

MORGAN PRESSEL: Yes, we do know each other pretty well through junior

golf. I know her family, yeah.

Q. Does it surprise you at all that she did what she did today against someone like Karrie?

MORGAN PRESSEL: It's a great match. She played great yesterday, too. I heard the match with her and Stacy Lewis was pretty unbelievable, and I talked to Stacy after and she just said, I played great. And Amanda's played some really good golf as of late, the last three tournaments, and she's a great match play player. She won the U.S. Am. It doesn't surprise me. Maybe Karrie had an off day, I don't know what happened, but I mean, it's very possible Amanda just played great.

MODERATOR: Okay. Any other questions? All right. Thank you very much.

MORGAN PRESSEL: Thank you.