



INTERVIEW TRANSCRIPT: CRISTIE KERR
Thursday, May 19, 2011

MODERATOR: Cristie, thanks for joining us. Congratulations on defeating Amanda Blumenherst today 3 & 2. Birdied four of the first five holes and kind of got off to a strong lead.

Can you take me just through match a little bit today and some general thoughts on what happened out there?

CRISTIE KERR: Sure. Well, I played really well today. I switched irons two days ago because I just was not hitting my irons well and got a new feel with some new irons and started hitting it better and got off to a quick start. Birdied, I think -- trying to remember the holes now. I think I birdied three out of the first five holes and then made a great save at the sixth hole, and you know, I was 4-up through eight holes I believe and, you know, she started to come back.

I made a huge putt on the 10th hole for birdie because I knew she was going to make that one, and then got back to 4-up on the 11th hole and she hung -- she hung in there and she made some great putts to stay in it.

She took me to the 16th hole and we both hit it close, and I was just inside her tee shot on the par 3 and she missed her putt and I was just able to lag it down there, so that was kind of a synopsis of the round.

I drove it really well, hit my irons really well, and I putted -- I made a lot of putts. I switched putters this week, too, so just kind of finding some new feels in my game and it felt really good today.

Q. Wholesale changes like that the week of a tournament that's a little unusual.

CRISTIE KERR: Well, I had played around with these clubs the last couple weeks that we had off and I said, well, I'm going to give my irons one more chance when I get to the tournament and I just didn't hit them well, so I didn't really have a choice. Why play something that feels worse, right? It's a hard enough game.

Q. Ridiculously long because of the moisture and all that out there, or is that a bit overrated?

CRISTIE KERR: No, it is playing longer, but they were able to, on some of the really long par 4s, move the tees up a little bit. We're still hitting long clubs in, but instead of a 3-wood, we have a 5-iron and that's enough into some of these greens.

So it is playing long. I thought it would be a little bit more wet in the fairways than it was. I mean, they got so much rain yesterday, I was able to get nine holes in and practice before the three inches of rain fell at about 3:00 yesterday. But they've done a heck of a job with getting the golf course in shape and I think they made the right call at the pro-am. You know, having a couple hundred people out there I think would have just destroyed the course, and it's unfortunate but I think they were -- it was a tough call, but I think they made the right call.

Q. The birdies at the start, were they a result of approach shots or --

CRISTIE KERR: I'm trying to think. I hit a great approach into 1 and just missed the putt. Second hole, I was about 15 feet. Neither of us hit it really close on the par 5 and I made my putt. I made a great par save at the par 3. I hit it over the green, kind of hooked it and I made about a 15-footer for par. She ended up -- you know, looked like she had the advantage on that hole because she was kind of on the front left part of the green and she knocked it way by the hole, and I said, well, I'm kind of still in this hole, and she missed it and I made it to go 2-up. The next hole, hit it close. The par 5 next hole, I made probably about a 12-footer, so I did a lot of things right.

Q. (inaudible) play from in front when you get off to a good start like that?

CRISTIE KERR: Well, I think in match play, getting off to a good start's everything. You certainly don't want to have to fight and come back the whole round. Ideally, yeah, if you're one or two down, you can come back and win matches, for sure. But it's a lot more -- you can play in your comfort zone a little bit more when you're up. You don't really pay attention as much. So that's what my game plan was, to get her down quick and to keep applying the pressure.

Q. What brands are your new irons and putter?

CRISTIE KERR: They're Callaway, Callaway Diablo forged irons. You know, I've always switched back and forth. I've putted with about three putters my entire career, either that Marksman I won a couple tournaments with last year. I have a 2-Ball, Odyssey 2-Ball, I've putted with that many times. It's got a line on it, which is a little different for how I used to putt with that putter, and played with a Ping Craz-e, so three or four putters. I don't really switch around that much, but I have -- when I like a putter, I tend to make a lot of backup putters just so, you know, if something happens

or change the feel up or -- you've got to see the ball going in the hole or even if you just have to change.

Q. And the shafts, are they men's regulars or stiffs?

CRISTIE KERR: They're just men Plus 10 steel shaft. They're in between a stiff and a regular.

Q. A couple years ago you said you had a place in New York. Is this a tournament where you can commute back and forth and sleep in your own bed?

CRISTIE KERR: No, no, the New York apartment is a great place to be able to hang out for 30 or 40 days a year, but it's mostly an investment property. But now with traffic, it would be at least an hour both ways. There's no way.

Q. When did you start to realize that you weren't really feeling it with your other -- was it something you could sense coming on?

CRISTIE KERR: Yeah, you know, it's -- I haven't hit my irons real well all year. I think this is probably the best I've hit my irons this year, which, hey, sometimes you just need a switch, you know? My coach, Bryan Lebedevitch, is here and we worked on some more basic kind of stuff and just really broke it down yesterday and I just started hitting it much better and I was a lot more comfortable on the course. I was standing very far away from it and just things have kind of started falling into place.

Q. Can you take momentum from this into tomorrow, or is every match sort of -- you know, does nothing carry over?

CRISTIE KERR: Well, I mean, you want to hope it carries over but every day's different. And, you know, everybody who plays tomorrow will have won today, so I guess you start fresh and try to do the same game plan over again.

Q. The way the schedule is set up this year, how important are the next six to eight weeks? I mean, if a player were to get hot, play well the next six, eight weeks, you could make your year, and I guess the opposite would be true, too?

CRISTIE KERR: That's the game plan. I feel like we've -- since our championship last year to this point, it feels like I've had six tournaments in six months and, you know, it's hard for me to play golf like that. I couldn't go over to Australia or Asia beginning of the year prior to Thailand because I had to take care of my mom. She had surgery in Miami for removing part of her colon. She had diverticulitis, so that's major surgery at her age. So I felt like I haven't played much golf and it's frustrating and you're like, well, it doesn't feel right, and then you realize, well, I haven't play much golf. I'm happy that we have a bunch of golf coming up ahead now.

Q. Does match play suit your personality more so than stroke?

CRISTIE KERR: I like them both, but they're different. I mean, I'm a Libra. It's hard to get a straight answer out of a Libra. So it's a different, you know, challenge. You have to -- you have to play your opponent but play your own game. There's a lot more strategy involved than just knocking it on the green and putting it in the hole. It's fun, it's fun to be able to get to play this.

Q. Kevin Na-type experience in stroke play over the years?

CRISTIE KERR: I don't know what that is.

Q. Kevin Na --

CRISTIE KERR: I probably don't care to.

Q. -- 16 in the woods a couple of weeks ago --

CRISTIE KERR: I don't know.

Q. -- on the PGA TOUR.

CRISTIE KERR: I don't know. There's not many woods on this golf course so I'm not going to worry about it this week.

Q. On Tuesday you were a couple minutes late for the draw? Were you disappointed --

CRISTIE KERR: I was there 30 seconds late.

Q. Were you disappointed they wouldn't let you draw?

CRISTIE KERR: No, it's fine. I guess I was there late and there's something nice to be said that you don't pick who you're playing against anyways. I don't know, I don't think it matters. I was there, though.

Q. You said obviously with your mom and schedule, you haven't played much. When you were changing -- I mean, how much weigh rust versus this just isn't feeling right?

CRISTIE KERR: I think it was a little of both. For me I need to be playing to kind of know what to work on and obviously we haven't had many tournaments. Definitely rust and definitely okay, what are we working on, not exactly sure, so they all kind of add up. But it's nice, you know, from Mobile to now I only took like two days off.

Before Mobile we had three weeks off after the Kraft and I took two of those weeks off because I need something to be motivated to practice for and there were just -- there were like two tournaments in five or six weeks and that's just hard for me.

Q. You've won before. Is that a driving goal for you, or is it more majors, more wins, more -- or is it a combination?

CRISTIE KERR: Well, yeah, I think obviously it is a goal and I've been there and I like how it feels being on top. You know, to do that, I'm going to have to win some tournaments and win some majors, so it all kind of goes together. It would be nice to do both.

MODERATOR: Thank you, Cristie.

CRISTIE KERR: Thanks, guys.