



INTERVIEW TRANSCRIPT: PAULA CREAMER
Thursday, May 19, 2011

MODERATOR: All right. We would like to welcome Karrie Webb into the interview room. Congratulations on your 3 & 2 win. Can you just give us your initial thoughts on your match and how things went out there today?

KARRIE WEBB: Well, I was very disappointed that I actually picked Sarah on Tuesday. You know, I've known Sarah for quite a few years now and, you know, watched her progress with her career and she's been playing quite nicely, but she is so -- I didn't like the fact that I had to play her in the first round. Would have been better to meet her somewhere further down the track, I guess, but I was concerned how I would feel being out there. I mean, if it's someone that you're not necessarily friends with, you don't worry if you're making birdies or stuff like that and I worried if that would concern me.

But I played really nicely. We had a really good match actually. I was at 5-under and Sarah's at 2-under, so we both played really well. I hit my irons really well. I think I had six birdies, but four of them were quite, you know -- she gave me a couple, I didn't even have to putt. The one I played on the last was about three feet, so I hit the ball really quite nicely.

Q. How did your relationship that Paula was talking about start? Did you as a veteran player see her and say, gee, this is a woman who has promise, I'm going to help her out, or how did that work out?

KARRIE WEBB: Actually, the first time I ever played with Paula was here in her rookie year, played against her. Up until that point we really -- you know, I didn't know Paula very well at all. Obviously I knew she was a great player because she had won already a couple of times, but I actually -- I won that day and I actually think -- not that she didn't have respect for me because she'd never seen me play. I think after that day, that's kind of when things changed between us. My caddie Mikey probably initiated it a little bit more. He started giving her a really hard time, then I would chirp in on it. Paula gives it back as good as she can get it, so, you know, the back and forth, you know, friendly banter. And since then, you know, I think we've

developed a friendship when we're out here on the road. I love playing with her.

Last year when she was injured, I really felt, you know -- I felt that the Tour really missed her presence out here. I'm not going to say any more because she's walking in, but I think we really did miss her presence out here. She's a great personality. She's a fierce competitor and I'm looking forward to our match tomorrow.

Q. Did you see something in her that said, I could help her, I could do something for her, because that's what it sounded like --

KARRIE WEBB: Oh, yeah? I didn't hear that part. Yeah, I think you know, because it's an individual sport, sometimes it's very hard -- I'm always happy to help people if they come and ask, but there's a fine line between offering help and not. So I'm not sure what Paula's referring to actually, but I'm glad I've helped her out.

Q. Is there a little bit of, you know, for a veteran player like you and a young player like her, do you feel like there has to be sort of a little bit level of respect from some of the younger players towards the veteran players?

KARRIE WEBB: Well, I guess so because I felt I gave that respect when I was starting out to the older players. I think the younger players have it easy now because as a veteran -- when I first came on Tour, if you didn't respect the veteran players, they let you know it.

I don't feel like there's a group of us out here that -- you know, I mean, we'll -- if there's someone that we feel is not respecting us, we'll talk amongst ourselves but we won't actually say something to that player as much.

It was made pretty well known if you were disrespecting a veteran player when I was a rookie, so I was always on my best behavior. And, you know, to me, I've always respected the great players of the game whether they're younger than me or older than me. When I came on Tour, to me the greatest generation of the LPGA were not quite in their peak when I came on Tour, but it's the late '70s and '80s generation with Nancy Lopez, Beth Daniel, Betsy King, Pat Bradley, Patty Sheehan, you know, Juli Inkster. You know, all of those players made the Hall of Fame and they competed against each other week in and week out, so when I came out on Tour, I was just in awe of actually playing alongside them let alone I was actually competing against them. So yeah, you know, I feel very lucky to have been able to play early enough to play alongside them.

Q. Why were you such a low seed in this with two victories?

KARRIE WEBB: I think it was off last year's money list is how they did it.

Q. Because of the way it was pulled out of the hat, there's no advantage one

way or the other, but could there have been for you?

KARRIE WEBB: The only way I would have been a higher seed was if they did world rankings, but since they did it off last year's money list, I finished 23rd on the money list, that's why I'm 23rd seed.

Q. Seeding doesn't bother you, I assume?

KARRIE WEBB: Well, Paula and I shouldn't be playing each other in the second round if they did it off world rankings because I think I'm 8 and Paula's 10 or somewhere around there. We shouldn't be meeting probably for another couple of rounds, but they did it the way they did it and it's still going to be a great match tomorrow.

Q. Is that wrong the way they did it?

KARRIE WEBB: I don't think there's any right or wrong. You know, I think we have the Rolex World Rankings for a reason and, you know, I think that generally has the current form of players rather than someone who played not as well last year but started off the year well like myself.

Q. What's been the key to your success this year?

KARRIE WEBB: I don't really -- can't nail anything down specifically besides the fact that the ball's going in the hole quicker, but I got off to a really good start this year. I was able -- I played a couple of events in Australia before I started in Thailand, so I think I was able to get the roughs off there, which was nice. And probably Thailand, Singapore, which I won, and then the Founders, you know, I probably did a really great job mentally. My short game, my putting was really good, so the difference between winning and not winning sometimes is not necessarily doing everything great, it's doing the things at the right time and, you know, I think that's really the difference.

Early on in the tournament, I get up -- I miss a green, I get up and down and that keeps the forward momentum going rather than making a bogey and trying to play catch-up. I found that that's, you know, if anything, that's mostly the secret. I mean, it's -- neither here nor there, it's just a little bit of momentum going the right way.

Q. It seems in all the matches of the winners we've seen today, getting out for the early lead is key. I mean, how important is that?

KARRIE WEBB: It is and it isn't. You know, I don't -- you know, I didn't ever really feel comfortable with -- I had a 2-up lead through 10. I was 3-up through 4 or 5. I could have been 4-up -- 4-up through 6 and Sarah made a nice par putt, and then I was -- I hit the green in two on 7 and she missed the green, she chipped to about six feet, I 3-putted and she made it. Then it's 2-up and I hit it to a foot on the next, she

gave it to me and she made a 20-footer. So you're never really comfortable with the lead unless you get out to 4- or 5-up. Once it's back to 2-up, you only have to lose one hole and there's really nothing in it, so Sarah really kept me on my toes that way. You know, I was glad I hit the ball so well, I didn't miss the green, so I was always putting the pressure on her.

MODERATOR: Any more questions? Thank you very much, Karrie.

KARRIE WEBB: Thanks, guys.