



INTERVIEW TRANSCRIPT: SUZANN PETTERSEN
Sunday, May 22, 2011

MODERATOR: We'd like to welcome the 2011 Sybase Match Play champion, Suzann Pettersen, into the interview room. Congratulations on your victory today.

Can you just give us some initial thoughts on that really tight match that you had with Cristie?

SUZANN PETTERSEN: Well, thanks. It's been a long way for me to finally get my second victory. I worked awfully hard and that it would come in a match play tournament a little bit surprised me, but at the same time it just feels even better.

The match with Cristie today, I knew I had to try and get off to a pretty strong start, just show her that I was right there to kind of make putts the same way she does to her opponents, and felt very good coming into the back nine. I don't know if it's been a lot of golf or a few mental errors late in the day, but we both left a little bit out there. It almost looked like none of us won this. And then she gave me a 2-up lead on 15 and leaving 16, I knew she was going to birdie 17. If you watch Cristie, she's going to birdie 17.

So it came down to 18 again. 18's been awfully good to me. Well, it's -- I played some of my best friends on Tour and you know each other's game, but as much as I want to win, I wanted her to win, so it's tough when you have to play people you like and people you like to spend time with, but I dug deep for this one and I'm so happy.

MODERATOR: Can you take us through 18 and kind of knowing you have the 1-up lead, like you said, you knew Cristie was going to birdie 17, I guess that putt.

SUZANN PETTERSEN: Well, 18, I mean, it's a par 5. It's not an easy lay-up. You have to hit a 3-wood. I mean, so once you get it and you have your third shot in hand, either you hit it stiff on that green or you leave yourself a makeable putt, and I thought mine was going to spin back a little bit, at least I played it safe. I'm sure if I missed mine, Cristie would have made hers, but the best way to do it was to take care of business myself. Great putt, right in the center. And it just shows that the few

changes I made with my putting is really working, so that feels good.

MODERATOR: Questions?

Q. After you won, hands went up in the air, you collapsed, thumbs up. How much of a relief -- you know, 20 months, how much of it relief is it to --

SUZANN PETTERSEN: Well, it's 20 months but it doesn't really feel like 20 months. It feels like a lot longer. But like I said yesterday, I've had some great tournaments except winning, and I can finally put the dot over the I and it just -- the tip of the iceberg. It doesn't get much better than it. I don't know, but being healthy, being fit, it obviously is an advantage when you have to play six rounds, 36 yesterday, 36 today, and I had a flu. I mean, I don't know how I crawled myself around on Thursday against Natalie, but it's -- when you love what you do, you dig deep, I guess.

Q. How much does an event like this take out of you mentally compared to a stroke play event, playing six rounds in four days in a match play situation?

SUZANN PETTERSEN: Match play can go either way. You can have an easy day out there and leave the course on 15 or you can have one, two, three extra holes. You never know what to expect and you never know where it's going to end. It really gets all of you when you have to play 36-36, especially when it's all on the line, every putt, every shot is on the line. So I'm not going to play golf tomorrow, maybe Tuesday.

Q. This may sound a little bizarre because people think you come from a country that has no summer, but these conditions, are these familiar to you, comfortable to you, or is that overstating the case?

SUZANN PETTERSEN: The conditions?

Q. Yeah, I mean, cold, wet, windy.

SUZANN PETTERSEN: Well, I mean, yes and no. I mean, I grew up playing like this. This was a beautiful day in the summertime back home, but you get spoiled as well when you spend so much time in America and when you live in the sunshine state. We don't play when it rains down there.

So I think the hardest thing today was it was actually that much colder and that much heavier that actually affected the yardages you were hitting it, but actually it took a few shots and a few holes to kind of get a feel for actually how far the ball was flying because this morning it was not going a long way and this is a long course. I don't think there's any course on Tour we play where you have to hit so many long irons into par 4s. I think 10 is only -- 10 and 13 is kind of the shortest hole, which is short, but the rest, you have 7-, 6-iron, 5-iron, 4-iron. It's a great test and I've been putting

really well this week so that was probably why I won. The biggest difference why I haven't won is because I putted well this week.

Q. Suzann, I noticed your left-handed drill and your other drill with the head cover under your right arm. Tell us a bit about how all that got started. You've been doing this for some time in regular tournament play, I guess?

SUZANN PETTERSEN: My full swing, when I have the head cover there, it just makes sure the right arm stays in front of me and halfway back I can just coil it. What I'm trying to do is just not to lose it before my left arm is parallel. That's just a feel.

With my putting, I just tried to simplify it all, get away from the technical part and give my hands kind of a chance to have a role in this game because I feel like I have great hands and I just -- for quite a bit, I've been taking it out, more in my shoulders, so I just feel a little better now with my hands, more involved. I just think it's a lot more feel in it.

Q. The putt you made on 18, was there any break to it?

SUZANN PETTERSEN: Well, my caddie wanted me to play it a hole outside left and I said no, it doesn't break that much. It was a putt, after I looked at it, you kind of see the line. Obviously you have to hit it on the line and hopefully it's going to do what you see. It was maybe half a cup out left.

Q. (Inaudible.)

SUZANN PETTERSEN: I don't know, 15 feet maybe.

Q. Can you just tell us a little bit about what golf is like in Norway, what your season is like and what your golf day is like? What's the most holes you ever played in a day?

SUZANN PETTERSEN: We used to play 36 a lot as a junior. We played 36-36 every weekend. The summer back home is from May through September, if you're lucky, a little bit of October. The courses have just opened. They'll probably reach their peak in like two months maybe, for a week, and then it's downhill from there. But golf is a growing sport back home. It's probably the biggest growing sport except for football, but it's very different, different golf courses. They're very, very tight. I mean, these fairways look like runways, especially as wet as it's been.

Q. The last time you won, I was reading a story saying Tiger Woods texted you something on the day before you went out. I mean, how supportive -- did anybody do anything as dramatic this time or how much support have you gotten this week?

SUZANN PETTERSEN: I had a lot of great support. I did actually get a text from Tiger saying "well done" after I won my second match, so he's following. It's great. I have a lot of great fans out there. They're very supportive. Obviously with all the social media we can do now, we can kind of interact a little bit more. I have to thank them all because yesterday it felt like it was me against all of you guys because I felt like it was the Solheim Cup all over when I walked up on 18th green. But you learn, you learn to handle it and you love it. It's a situation you want to be when you love the pressure and nothing better than winning a match play event.

Q. How fine a line is it -- I mean, you said yesterday you've been playing really well, you've been satisfied with your game, but how fine a line is it when you say I'm satisfied but I'm not winning and, you know, screw it, I mean, I'd rather win?

SUZANN PETTERSEN: It boils out to winning tournaments, so if you judge your season from winnings, last year was a disappointment. But at the same time I tried to take a lot of the positives from it. It was a lot, lot better than '09. Winning is what it's all about.

To be honest, as good as I felt in my game overall this week, if I hadn't won this week, I would have been disappointed because it felt like my wedge game was really good, it felt like my putting was good. So I teed off with Cristie on the first and felt like I had a chance.

Q. We had over three inches of rain from last Saturday and obviously there was talk beginning of the week that we wouldn't even get the six rounds in.

Can you just talk about what a great job the staff did and Hamilton Farm in getting the course ready and playable for you?

SUZANN PETTERSEN: It's been unbelievable how well drained the course has been. It's been pretty awful weather. We had to cancel the pro-am. It think it's the first time in history the LPGA's cancelled the pro-am the night before. For me, it was perfect. I spent another day in bed.

But the greenskeepers -- even when we came out on Thursday, the greens were rolling pure. Obviously the fairways were wet, but it hasn't been an issue and the greens have been as good as they could possibly be, so a great thanks to all the staff. I know they go up early in the morning and roll the greens, but they've done a fantastic job.

Q. Solheim Cup, is the match yesterday, the Lewis match yesterday? Did today feel like Solheim Cup also?

SUZANN PETTERSEN: You know what I think? I think I'll have a message from

Alison Nicholas saying "Europe, 1-up."

Q. Did you ever think that you would have to win a tournament by playing 103 golf holes in four days?

SUZANN PETTERSEN: Well, if you have to play this event, you have to.

Q. Did you think you would have to go through that many golf holes?

SUZANN PETTERSEN: At least if you're fit, you can last to the very end. It's been tough. It feels like I've played some great opponents. I played Natalie Gulbis, Stacy Lewis, Yani Tseng, Na Yeon Choi. They're all up there and they're great players. It's been a tough road, but I guess I actually -- when I chipped on 15, my ball rolled through some bird shit and I think that's good luck. So I gave it to my caddie and he just looked at me and said, "Maybe this is for us." So you need a little bit of luck is all.

Q. Considering the caliber of player that you've beaten and you look at the eight players that were left going into the quarters yesterday, does that make it more satisfying?

SUZANN PETTERSEN: Sure.

Q. The players you beat --

SUZANN PETTERSEN: Everybody was there except Jiyai, who lost in the first round, except for Jiyai, you probably had quarterfinals and semifinals, you can pick straight off the World Ranking or the money list. So great tournament, great for Sybase. You have the best players fighting it to the very end and that's what you want.

MODERATOR: Thank you very much. Congratulations.

SUZANN PETTERSEN: Thank you.