

CVS/pharmacy LPGA Challenge
Blackhawk Country Club
Danville, Calif.
Sept. 22, 2009
Pre-tournament interviews

In-Kyung Kim, defending champion

JASON TAYLOR: IK, thanks for joining us today in the media center. You are defending champion this week, and I know you are excited about that. You have two wins in your career, but this is the first time you have been the defending champion. How does that feel?

IN-KYUNG KIM: It is good to be back here, again this year. Even though I didn't really have a good week last week at Samsung, I played this morning, and it just gives me a really good feeling and good confidence. I get more confident even just playing the practice round. Knowing that I can do this again, it's a great feeling.

Q. Last year you obviously did very well here on this course. Now that your back, what do you like about this golf course? Does this course suit your game well?

IN-KYUNG KIM: Well, I think it's really different this year than last year, because of the weather. But, I play better in the wind, in the tough conditions. Last year, the greens were firmer and the wind was blowing. I like this golf course because you can shoot really low score, but you really have to be patient on those greens. On the weekend, the greens will get faster, so it's just tough to read. You just have to be patient on this golf course.

Q. Do you like a course like this that's so strategic and it makes you think?

IN-KYUNG KIM: I mean, I think this golf course really fits my golf game. I'm more consistent, and yeah, you have to become consistent on this golf course. I think that you have to think smart on every golf course, but since my rookie year, I've played well on this golf course. I think I like the challenge of this golf course.

Q. Looking at the list of tournament winners for this tournament, there have been some pretty impressive names win here, including some hall of famers. Now that your name is on this list, how does that make you feel?

IN-KYUNG KIM: Well, I'm really honored to be with the past champions. I don't know, I've been working really hard this last year, and my rookie year I had a chance to win. I just remembered that I've been really patient. Knowing that my name is on the board with all the hall of famers and other past winners of this event, it gives me confidence and something that I've dreamed of for a long time. It's great that I won here last year, and I'm having such a great year this year, it gives me a lot of good confidence.

Q. You look forward to coming here?

IN-KYUNG KIM: Yeah, I can't wait to come back. I said that a couple times last year, and now I'm here. I'm defending.

Paula Creamer

JASON TAYLOR: Paula, thanks for coming in. I know this is a special place for you to come back to and play, so can you talk about how it feels to be here and preparing for this tournament?

PAULA CREAMER: Well it's always nice to be able to come back home. It is definitely a little bit hotter this year than it was here last year. But, it's always great to be able to come back to a place where you can see your friends and your family, and just where you grew up. I have a lot of memories here. I don't get to come back here as much as I would like, so this is always a real treat. I've come back here a couple times since last year, obviously. The golf course is definitely in a different shape than it has been in the past. It's more lush and it's pretty wet out there. I'm looking forward to the tournament to start. I know there is going to be a

pretty good gallery out there the next couple of days, and that is always something that I look forward to being able to play in front of.

Q. With the economy the way it has been, are you concerned about the future of the Tour at all?

PAULA CREAMER: You know, obviously the economy has an effect on our Tour. But you know, Ricoh just signed a three-year deal with the British Open, and we have a couple more new events coming. So, yes it affects us, but I think the big picture is that we're getting more tournaments coming back. I don't necessarily worry about that aspect if it as much as I do the leadership, and you know, things like that.

Q. What do you think the LPGA can do to increase the sponsorships?

PAULA CREAMER: Well, it's all about the relationships. It's all about being able to work with the people who have been with us for a very long time, and it's looking at sponsors who we need to respect, and kind of get that relationship back with the LPGA Tour that we've had in the past. I think that is the way we are going, and I think we are headed in the right direction.

Q. All the autographs and the media obligations that you do, is that ever a chore, or does that bother you any?

PAULA CREAMER: Oh no, it's never a chore. I'm able to play golf for a living, and able to sign a 9-year-old girl's flag or golf ball, it's thrilling. At the end of the day, I never feel like it's going to be a chore or anything like that to sign autographs. I have to really think about what I'm doing. However, it is something, it is a part of what I do. I sign before my rounds, I sign after my rounds, but I never sign during my rounds, but it's something I have been kind of thrown into. I was 18 when I came out, and here I am signing autographs and that is cool and fun, but you also have to remember you have to practice. You have to time-management yourself.

Q. Coming back home, do you feel you are a greater influence to the youth here?

PAULA CREAMER: I don't know, I think so. You know, being from Pleasanton, this is where I grew up, this is where I practiced, this is kind of where I became who I am. I think that if people see that, and if people watch, it kind of gives them a little bit of hope in their lives.

Q. Time management, is that tough to do here?

PAULA CREAMER: Yes, it is. Yesterday I went to visit my grandmother, she lives in San Jose. I'm trying to see as much family as I can. It is difficult, but I'm kind of lucky though, I have to play in the mornings because it is so hot in the afternoons. So, then I get all my work done, I get to go see some people I haven't gotten to see in a while. You know, restaurants are always something I like to go eat at, you know I love food, so I always like to go back to some of my favorites. Just being back in Pleasanton is such a good feeling. You know, it's just so beautiful here, you're so luck you've gotten to grow up here; it's absolutely gorgeous. And I am. I'm very lucky.

Q. Are you getting better at managing your time as you get more experience?

PAULA CREAMER: Yes, I am. I know kind of what I can handle. I try to do everything, but I can't do everything, unfortunately. You know, they are understanding that I can't be in seven different places at one time.

Q. You and Cristie Kerr both turned professional and came out here right after high school. Do you ever regret that at all?

PAULA CREAMER: You know, there are parts of me that wonder what would have happened if I did go to school and what I would be doing know. But, I've been given the opportunity to come out here and go through q-school when I was 18. I mean, turning professional was one of the biggest decisions of my life. I don't regret it. You know, I could always go back to school, and that's something I would do. It's just, right now, I feel like I've been blessed with this opportunity that I have been given.