



2011 U.S. WOMEN'S OPEN



Annika Sorenstam greeted Stephen Bartolin Jr., the president and CEO of The Broadmoor, during a press conference Wednesday at The Broadmoor for the 2011 U.S. Women's Open. The event will be July 4-10, 2011, at The Broadmoor.

PHOTOS BY CHRISTIAN MURDOCK, THE GAZETTE

A FULL SWING FOR SORENSTAM

Retired star remembers first win while kicking off festivities at The Broadmoor

BY JAKE SCHALLER
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Annika Sorenstam returned Wednesday to the scene of the triumph that ignited her Hall of Fame Career.

Sorenstam was at The Broadmoor, where she won the 1995 U.S. Women's Open — her first LPGA victory — to help kick off ticket sales for the 66th Open, to be held at The Broadmoor from July 4-10, 2011. She is serving as the tournament's honorary chair.

Back in '95, Sorenstam was a tour rookie who shot a 2-under-par 68 in the final round to pass third-round leader Meg Mallon and win the first of her 72 LPGA titles, 10 majors and three U.S. Women's Opens.

"It certainly kick-started my career," said Sorenstam, who fought off a case of nerves down the stretch.

Sorenstam retired after the 2008 season at age 37 and still near the top of her powers. She said Wednesday that she had not entertained the idea of competing in the 2011 Open.

"No, I have no plans, especially when I heard (about) the set-up," of the course, Sorenstam said at a press conference, jokingly refer-

“When I stepped away, I used the words, ‘stepped away,’ because I didn’t know, if I get the motivation, if I want to go out there and grind, I know I can. Today I do not have that, and that’s what it takes. ... right now I don’t have the desire.”

ANNIKA SORENSTAM
Former star on the possibility of returning to the LPGA Tour

ring to how U.S. Women's Open director Tim Flaherty described how The Broadmoor would play for the tournament — “firm and fast” and more than 7,000 yards, the longest Open in women's golf history.

Sorenstam said her “plate is very full,” as she has a foundation, a golf academy, a clothing line, a fragrance and also designs courses and now makes wines. She said she plays “social golf — which I didn’t know existed,” and does so from “the ladies tees, up front, and enjoy it with my friends.”



Annika Sorenstam hit the ceremonial first shot of the 2011 U.S. Women's Open on Wednesday at The Broadmoor.

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GOLF: While Sorenstam won't play in 2011 Open, she didn't rule out return to tour



CHRISTIAN MURDOCK, THE GAZETTE
Annika Sorenstam posed for a picture with a fan after a press conference for the 2011 U.S. Women's Open at The Broadmoor. Sorenstam is the event's honorary chair.

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But after the press conference, Sorenstam said she was not positive that she'd never play professionally again.

"I don't know," she said. "When I stepped away, I used the words, 'stepped away,' because I didn't know. If I get the motivation, if I want to go out there and grind, I know I can. Today I do not have that, and that's what it takes. You can't go out and just play, because it's so tough out there. And right now I don't have the desire. So we'll see. If it happens, it happens. If not, I'm very happy."

In April, the LPGA's No. 1 player, Lorena Ochoa, also retired. That leaves the tour without arguably its top two

talents and names of the past several years. Asked who could fill the void she and Ochoa left, Sorenstam said, "I think right now it's kind of open."

Sorenstam mentioned new world No. 1 Jiyai Shin and world No. 2 Ai Miyazato along with Michelle Wie, Paula Creamer, Natalie Gulbis and Cristie Kerr, of whom Sorenstam said, "now she's more considered a veteran. Even though she's very young."

As for the influx of young players on the tour, Sorenstam said, "it's a change."

"I think when you're a kid, yes, it's a dream to be a professional, and it's great to have that dream," she said. "But I tell the kids, 'Don't rush.'"

TOURNEY UPDATE

WHAT: 66th U.S. Women's Open
WHEN: July 4-10, 2011

WHERE: The Broadmoor

TICKETS: Three options:

Trophy Club Package - includes daily tickets for all seven days (Monday through Sunday) with access to the exclusive, climate-controlled Trophy Club pavilion near the third green, the grounds and the grandstands along with a complimentary program. For a limited time the option will be available for \$399 (more than \$50 off the list price)

The 4-Pack - includes four tickets and provides access to the grounds and grandstands.

All four tickets can be used on one day or spread out throughout the week. For a

limited time this option will be available for \$99, a discount of more than \$40.

Individual tickets - Available for the championship rounds (Thursday through Sunday), they allow access to grounds and grandstands. They are available for \$45.

In addition - Children 17 and under are admitted free with a ticketed adult. Tickets for military personnel are 50 percent off the list price. All parking is free.

Military Day: On the Monday practice round, all military personnel - active and retired - and their families will be admitted for free.

To get tickets: 2011uswomensopen.com, King Soopers outlets or call 877-281-6736

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