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PNC Father Son Challenge – Preview

**Annika and Tom Sorenstam**

Welcome to the 2019 PNC Father Son Challenge, Annika what had you heard about this event and what made you want to tee it up against these other legends this week?

Annika: First of all I love the concept, a parent and child. We’ve always been in to golf and family and when we were approached, I can’t think of a better thing than to play with my Dad, he introduced us to the sport and we have lots of memories together, if it wasn’t for the sport, I wouldn’t be here. Mike (Husband) is on the bag, my sister is on his bag, we’ve got our mum walking the fairways, friends and families are here too. It’s a really cool thing. Scramble is a really fun format but mostly it’s about the memories.

Was this the first year you’ve been approached to play in the field?

Annika: I think so, we’ve never really discussed it before.

Did any of the other pros give you a nudge to say you should come and join the field?

Annika: We live here so we always heard about it and with IMG’s involvement too. I would say that I have been lucky to play with some of the greats like Gary Player, Lee Trevino and Mr Nicklaus, so I knew they were playing but I think the concept of this family golf is what I care about. The Annika foundation is all about young girls and providing opportunity so another great step forward to be here playing and grow the game.

Your initial thoughts on the course?

Tom: Good question, it was in great condition, although I think the hole was in the wrong place.

You are a 13 handicap, Tom, you’re an established golfer, have you ever played in front of tv cameras?

Tom: I’ve never done it before. I told Annika that I will probably feel like she did when she first played with the men and that first tee shot will certainly be a tough one for me.

Were you surprised when Annika first called you to participate?

Tom: She never told me, she send me her schedule for the season and looked at it and I saw ‘PNC Father Son Challenge’ in December, I called her up and said, who are you going to play with? You of course she said.

On your preparation for Saturday, does Annika give you any tips on the range for Saturday?

Tom: She has a sister who has been giving me a lot of lessons the last two weeks, I’ve been to the driving range every day.

Annika: He normally doesn’t wear a glove, now his hands are so worn out he has to wear two.

Tom: They call me Tom no gloves.

Annika, you’ve seen this event for so many years, how many times have you come by to watch?

Annika: We’ve watched it on TV but we’ve never actually been down here. I’ve been aware of it for a while though and it has been great to see PNC step it over the last few years, I played with them this morning, they are a great group of people and it is nice that they see the value of family and golf together.

When you were watching it did it ever occur to you when they would invite their first LPGA pro?

Annika: I don’t know if I ever really thought about it, again, it’s a great concept and it’s neat to be invited, I didn’t even know if I were the first or not until they told me, that when I realised it. I’m just glad I qualify with a major on my resume.

Tom: You could have ten places.