

# **U.S. WOMEN'S AMATEUR CHAMPIONSHIP**

Q&A with Beth Murrison, *USGA*  
August 9, 2010

BETH MURRISON: Jennifer, congratulations on your great play today and making it to the final. Can you talk a little about making it to the final of the Women's Amateur?

JENNIFER JOHNSON: It's just really exciting. I just can't believe it. You know, tomorrow is going to be a long day and there's a lot of golf, so I've just got to be patient and not think about the outcome so much, because that can get in the way.

BETH MURRISON: Have you ever played, not necessarily 36 in a day, but this sort of format where it's a 36-hole final, or this much golf in one day?

JENNIFER JOHNSON: The California State Women's Am, I played in a 36-hole final.

**Q. How did you do in that?**

JENNIFER JOHNSON: I won that, I think 5 & 4.

**Q. Was that this year?**

JENNIFER JOHNSON: Mm-hmm.

BETH MURRISON: Can you talk about your match today, you built a lead and Alexis started to chip away at it, just sort what have was going through your mind while that was going on.

JENNIFER JOHNSON: On 16, her putter got really hot. She made two great putts. I thought she was going to make that one on 18 and I was ready for extra holes. But I was just trying to, after the drive, put myself in the spot to get up and down on 18.

**Q. You seem even-keeled, and when Alexis got it back to all square, you didn't seem to be bothered by that; you're very low key in terms of your emotion; is that a correct assessment?**

JENNIFER JOHNSON: Yeah, I work on that, trying not to because if you get too emotional out there, that can be your worst enemy.

**Q. Are you like that off the golf course?**

JENNIFER JOHNSON: No, I'm just, off the course, I laugh a lot. Like I don't smile much on the course, but I'm not like that off the course.

**Q. How much has your caddie helped you this week? What has he helped you**

**with?**

JENNIFER JOHNSON: I think he's been a pretty big advantage because he knows the greens well and all of the bounces and where he wants the ball and where not to. It's been good.

**Q. How much of is it the technical aspect; is there a calming influence to that, as well?**

JENNIFER JOHNSON: He's really low key and doesn't say much, but he does when he needs to. I think we just work really well together.

**Q. I think people maybe looked at your match today as you were the underdog; did you feel like the underdog?**

JENNIFER JOHNSON: Not really. I mean, we're both, we compete against each other a lot, and, no (laughing).

**Q. At 7, the first time you had been all square, and when you hit the shot at No. 8, you turned around...**

JENNIFER JOHNSON: Yeah, 5-wood. That was a really good shot. I just like fed right to the hole.

**Q. Do you think that might have been the turning point?**

JENNIFER JOHNSON: The two holes that I lost on 5 and 6, that was just really stupid. I mean, that chip was awful, and I just bladed that little lob shot. But I meaning, it was all my fault, because par won the hole. I didn't really get too down on myself after those holes.

**Q. Not having trailed all week, has that allowed you to play a certain way, to not take risks or anything like that does it get comfortable to sort of play out there?**

JENNIFER JOHNSON: Out there I don't really think about that. But I just try when I get the opportunity to get up a point, I try and take advantage of it, because you know, sometimes the matches are really close, so it's just hard to get a huge lead.

**Q. Do you remember what your game was like at 14, and maybe can you compare?**

JENNIFER JOHNSON: Yeah, she's really mature for her age. I certainly didn't hit the ball as far. Yeah, probably the length and I didn't manage my way around the golf course as well as she does. I think just her distance and stuff.

**Q. Have you elevated your game this week, or is this just your game? Is this the**

**same as any event you played, even the Women's Pub Links, are you just the same basically every time out, or is this a particularly good week for you?**

JENNIFER JOHNSON: This is pretty much my standard game. Sometimes I putt a little better, and pretty much, yeah.

**Q. So this is just Jennifer?**

JENNIFER JOHNSON: Yeah, I mean, today, I wasn't good around the greens, and I hardly, I made one birdie. So that's not very good scoring.

**Q. We were talking about her focus; do you feel like you focus well when you're out there, you're even keel; is concentration part of that, too?**

JENNIFER JOHNSON: Yeah, I try and stay focused out there and try not to think about anything else besides the shot.

**Q. I know you're playing against somebody else, but do you pay attention to Alexis or any other opponent?**

JENNIFER JOHNSON: I do like on par 5s, or you have to, if she hits first and she putts her shot, just placing it, I'll be less aggressive if she's missed a green.

**Q. What does a Jennifer Johnson temper tantrum look like, and when is the last time one of those happened on the golf course?**

JENNIFER JOHNSON: I threw my club down, that's about it.

**Q. When is the last time you did that?**

JENNIFER JOHNSON: I did it on the 18th tee.

**Q. Having a big gallery out there, is that something you enjoy? I don't know how often that happens.**

JENNIFER JOHNSON: Yeah, I don't usually play in front of that big of a gallery. Some tournaments, you don't have any gallery. I was a little nervous on the first couple of holes but then I just got used to it.

**Q. Did playing at the Kraft help?**

JENNIFER JOHNSON: Yeah, that helped. That was really nerve-wracking on this first tee, but you kind of calm down after you get playing.

BETH MURRISON: Jennifer, thanks for joining us and congratulations again. Good luck tomorrow.