

FAMILY CIRCLE CUP

35th Anniversary

Charleston, SC

@ Daniel Island

April 19, 2008



A Family Circle Magazine Premier Event

AN INTERVIEW WITH:

CHRIS EVERT and MARTINA NAVRATILOVA

MIKE SAIA: Chris Evert and Martina Navratilova are available for questions.

Q. Can each of you guys just talk about your favorite memory of this tournament?

MARTINA NAVRATILOVA: "Ladies of the Evening." Yeah, I think "Ladies of the Evening" was it for me when Chris was the umpire and coach. Remember that when you wore the hat backwards?

CHRIS EVERT: Yeah; right?

MARTINA NAVRATILOVA: Tennis memories, of course, but I think it goes beyond that. Particularly the reason why we really came was for the Lee Jackson dedication, and this tournament is pretty synonymous with my memories of Lee, so that's what it's about for me.

CHRIS EVERT: Yeah. First of all, I never played here in Charleston, but I mean I obviously played at Hilton

Head when the Family Circle Cup was there, and what I loved about it was that there was from January, February and March it was all like indoor tennis, which this one dominated, and it was like the first clay court tournament. I was like, oh, finally, finally. Maybe I can like win a tournament, and I get back on the clay, and it's outdoors, and you know, the atmosphere. I don't know. I just loved playing outdoors and it was just healthier to me, and we stayed in the condos and we stayed right inside and my mom would come and cook dinners. Lee would cook dinners, and it was just a family-oriented tournament, and this Family Circle, again, was very special because it was, I think, the first tournament that was televised on NBC, on network television. And it was huge prize money.

MARTINA NAVRATILOVA: \$30,000, which Rosie won?

CHRIS EVERT: And you and I must -- what, we were like going to school then, we must have been like 14. I always give Rosie a hard time: "How did you win that first year anyway, Rosie"?

MARTINA NAVRATILOVA: I wasn't in the country yet, and you weren't playing. You were in school?

CHRIS EVERT: Yeah. And then Jack Jones and John Moreno. I just remember it was a family environment. It was great memories.

Q. What can you say since 1973 when this tournament started how far women's tennis has come since then?

MARTINA NAVRATILOVA: Go ahead.

CHRIS EVERT: How far has women's tennis? Well, obviously, you look at

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the money. You look at it as a business. Business wise, there's more money in the game. There's more, because of the equipment change, I think, the play is different. The women are hitting the ball harder and their fitness has improved, and Martina really was the first one. Martina and Billie Jean really were the first two that introduced weight training and all-court sort of fitness into tennis. You just didn't do everything on the tennis court.

So I think the standard is higher. Prize money is more. But all in all, having said that, I wouldn't have traded being in the 70s and 80s for anything because there was much more camaraderie and there was less pressure. So I'm happy I came along when I did. What about you?

MARTINA NAVRATILOVA: Yeah. You know, you said it. I wouldn't pick a different time period at all. So you know, we were lucky that we went through the generations. We were still playing when Billie Jean and Margaret Court, Virginia Wade were still playing at their peak, and then we went through to the next generation of Steffi Graf and Monica Seles. And then I was lucky enough even to have played here a couple of times. So it's -- the game has changed a lot, but some things never change, so it's nice to still have the same sponsor. This is the longest sponsor in the sport, I think ever, men's or women's, Family Circle Magazine. So that's a great event. So the game sort of has grown. You can see the imprint of the game just in this tournament. If you just take snapshots of this tournament, there's a history of the game, which is great.

Q. What do you consider your greatest win of your career, personally?

MARTINA NAVRATILOVA: Do you have one? They always ask me that.

CHRIS EVERT: I always go back to the '85 French, when I beat you, sorry. Well, that's a compliment to you.

MARTINA NAVRATILOVA: Yes. It is. I think of it as such.

CHRIS EVERT: That's what I always go back to because I was -- I think I was nearing or I was 30 years old, and Martina was 1 in the world; I was 2, and basically everyone had counted me out as ever winning a Grand Slam, a major again, and just because the match was so seesaw. No, we didn't play our best tennis, but it was so exciting. She'd have a lead and then I would catch up and then I'd have a lead and she would catch up. And it's just exciting, and I think that, you know, kept me in the game another couple years, for sure, after winning that one, and I think that also -- you know, I don't remember really feeling emotional when I was younger winning majors. When I was 18, 19, it was like I was pretty much on automatic, and when I got older and I started to lose more and it was more of a struggle and going through adversity, I think you appreciate your wins a lot more, so I remember -- nobody thought that I had emotion. Well, at the end of my career I probably had more emotion definitely than the beginning of my career. What about you?

MARTINA NAVRATILOVA: Yeah. I was probably happiest my two matches when the first time I beat Chris, and it was in Washington at the Virginia Slims of Washington, and her mother was there, and it was the nine-point tiebreak in the third set, and it came, of course, to 4-4, so double match point. Whoever wins the point wins the match.

CHRIS EVERT: You're kidding. I lost that match? What happened at 4-4?

MARTINA NAVRATILOVA: I was serving. You took the deuce court.

CHRIS EVERT: That explains it.

MARTINA NAVRATILOVA: I was up 4-2 serving, and then I lost the next two

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points, and then at 4-4 I hit a serve down the T and you hit a backhand return and I hit a forehand volley. I was so nervous, I hit a really short forehand volley cross-court and you couldn't get to it. It was so bad it was good. That's how I won the match, and it was the quarterfinals, and I still had to play two more matches, and I won the tournament. It was my first Virginia Slims -- well, the indoor one I won the year before in Orlando, but Chris didn't play that one. That was on clay. I wouldn't have won that one if Chris had been playing, but I was so excited I couldn't go to sleep. And I played Margaret Court and Virginia Wade -- no, actually, Kerry Reed, I think, in the finals. She beat Margaret, I think, and I beat Virginia, so I still had to win two more matches. So that was exciting for me. And then the first Wimbledon, because the first Wimbledon, I think, is special. And then the last one because I had to really work on it, and I think that's when you appreciate things the most. I had to change my footwork and make some adjustments, and I also had been counted out as too old, and I still won that ninth one in '90. So you can't pick any one, but those were special.

Q. I was talking to Bud Collins earlier, which is always fun. He said maybe today's players don't appreciate where trailblazers such as you ladies have taken this sport. Do you find that sort of the same thing? Do you think they realize the history of this sport and where it's come from?

MARTINA NAVRATILOVA: Well, I don't think they appreciate it as much as we did because when we first came around, it wasn't really there. We were there at the birth of professionalism and being able to make a career out of tennis and

getting all the attention and accolades, and so we appreciate it because we lived it. These kids, when they were born, it was already there, so you know, the history, the sense of history.

The WTA does a very good job, I think, of educating the players and letting them know where it all came from, but still, you weren't in it, so it's like talking about World War II to them. They weren't alive, so they just don't quite appreciate it. But we're trying to educate them as well as we can.

CHRIS EVERT: I think the difference is exactly that. I mean we were -- Martina and I were the generation after the main players, Billie and Rosie and, you know, Nancy Richey and Virginia, and that era really were the ones that started professional tennis, and then we sort of rode on the coattails a little bit, yet at the same time we were being groomed to be the next leaders, and Martina and I were both president of the WTA. So you know, I don't think -- you know, I think it's unfair to criticize them for not knowing the history.

MARTINA NAVRATILOVA: No.

CHRIS EVERT: But it doesn't really affect them in their lives right now. I think they have enough to worry about. I think there's more to worry about now being a professional tennis player. There's more that goes along with it, responsibility wise and endorsements and appearances and exhibitions, and they have their entourage. They have to pay a lot of people. And I just think it'll a little more --

MARTINA NAVRATILOVA: It was a lot simpler then.

CHRIS EVERT: Yeah, it's a little more consuming now.

Q. Can you talk a little bit about the importance of education? A lot of the professional gals are not

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finishing their education. What's the importance of that to you ladies?

MARTINA NAVRATILOVA: Did you finish high school?

CHRIS EVERT: Yeah. I did. Finally, yeah. No, I did. You know, it's different nowadays, but I really feel the Europeans were the ones that started that. When we were playing, they used to come over here and play full time on the Tour. Did you finish high school? You didn't finish high school.

MARTINA NAVRATILOVA: I left the country. I was about a week from finishing high school. I still went to school until I was 19 years old almost.

CHRIS EVERT: A lot of them would come over at 13 or 14, and you're right. You know, I don't agree with it. I don't agree with it, and I think that there are ways that you can still do school and play tournaments. I mean on-line schooling, tutoring, home schooling, whatever. If you're going to make millions of dollars, you can have somebody travel on the Tour with you with a couple of books. So I mean I'm an advocate of getting an education for sure.

MARTINA NAVRATILOVA: It's all about finding the balance and being realistic also, so you know, obviously there is few that make it to the top, but most of them don't, and so you need to have that fall-back option, and I think for most of the girls it would be better if they just went on to college, got a year or two under their belt there, and then they can still finish their education later, if they succeed, and if they don't, then they still have that to fall back on, so we're both advocates of staying in school as long as possible and then certainly finishing up so you have a well-balanced outlook on life and don't put all the eggs in one basket, because it's not necessary. You

don't need to be playing tennis five hours a day when you're nine years old, which some of the kids are doing. And then, of course, they burn out and you can't sustain it, and then you've lost your childhood, so you need to find a balance.

Q. You both won this tournament several times. Which titles for each of you was the most memorable?

CHRIS EVERT: I don't remember. I don't remember. I mean do you remember all your finals?

MARTINA NAVRATILOVA: No. I remember playing Gaby Sabatini, and I remember playing Jennifer, because I think it was the first time we ever played, and there was a lot of hype about Capriati. And then I had sort of a problem with my tooth when I played Gaby, the night before, and I had to go to the dentist in the morning and get it fixed. That was a bit of a struggle for that. So I remember that match because I wasn't sure I would play because my tooth was missing. But other matches. Did we play in the finals here? We must have, but I don't remember. Maybe we never played each other in the final here. That's why we can't remember them. See?

CHRIS EVERT: No. Because there was also Amelia.

MARTINA NAVRATILOVA: Yeah, we played Amelia a few times. You killed me one year and I killed you one year. That was my one double bagel, in Amelia final.

CHRIS EVERT: In your whole career? No. In the -- really?

MARTINA NAVRATILOVA: When I lost.

CHRIS EVERT: Duh. No, you beat a lot of the -- seriously. Oh, I feel honored.

Q. What can we expect from the both of you over the next couple of years with your career or personal life?

MARTINA NAVRATILOVA: Well, Chris is getting married.

CHRIS EVERT: September!

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MARTINA NAVRATILOVA: September? Oh, don't talk about that.

CHRIS EVERT: Well, don't talk about my personal life, then, if I'm not going to talk about your personal life. Well, I think professionally. What do you --

MARTINA NAVRATILOVA: Well, I'm doing a lot of speaking engagements. I'm the health and fitness ambassador for AARP, of which Chris is also a member. Right? If not, I'll have to send her a card.

CHRIS EVERT: Yes. Thank you. And they wanted you and not me. This is true.

MARTINA NAVRATILOVA: I have our Grand Slam, which is if you go on my website, martinnavratilova.com, you'll find a little more about it, but basically I've partnered with an artist, and we create paintings with tennis balls. It's a lot of fun. And I do commentary for Tennis Channel. That's pretty much it, professionally.

Q. Any more books?

MARTINA NAVRATILOVA: I might be doing another one with AARP for the older generation's health and fitness book, people over 50.

CHRIS EVERT: Let me think here. Well, I have three boys at home, and everybody says, well -- when I say I have three children, and they go, "yeah, but what do you really do?" I'm like, "do you know what having three kids is like?" You know, it's -- really, the last 15 years I've chosen to stay home and be a mom. I mean that's basically what -- and I still want to do that. At the same time, as my kids get older -- I have a boy that in two years will be in college -- I want to start to do a little bit more outside work, and I have a charity event that we've raised over 16 million dollars for prevention of drug abuse, and I'm one of the publishers of Tennis Magazine. And what else? I'll be getting married this summer. Oh, yeah.

MARTINA NAVRATILOVA: Oh, that.

CHRIS EVERT: Oh, that. I'll be getting married this summer to a great guy.

Q. Congratulations.

CHRIS EVERT: Thank you. And actually, one thing I've loved to do like every three months I take a week and I travel with Greg to watch him in a golf tournament. Actually, tonight we're going to Shanghai, China, and he's going to be playing a tournament over there, so I love traveling with him. And you know, it's all about balance. My kids kind of give me a hard time about that, and I'm like, you know, it's one week every three months. A lot of moms work full time, and they do not accept that answer. But...

Q. Do you play golf yet?

CHRIS EVERT: No. I don't play golf. He's started to play tennis. I don't have time. Oh, I have a tennis academy. I forgot about that. Oh, yeah, I've got a tennis academy with my brother. And we're actually partnering with the USTA for their developmental kids, so that's a big deal, and I love doing that, but that -- I mean, thank God, I drop my kids off at school from 8, and then I go right to the Academy till like 11, so that's not taking me away from them. So I have a busy life. We both have busy lives.

MARTINA NAVRATILOVA: You know how some things stay in your head. I remember a picture of you in People Magazine in like 1975 blasting out of a sand trap. You played golf. I remember that photo, and she looked good in that shot. Good form. So I was impressed with that.

CHRIS EVERT: That was a setup. I don't know why I did that.

MARTINA NAVRATILOVA: Couldn't see the ball, but it was right out of the sand flying.

CHRIS EVERT: I remember that, too. I think that was for a clothing line or something.

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MARTINA NAVRATILOVA: I don't remember. I just remember the photo?
CHRIS EVERT: She's a good golfer.
Q. Would either of you ever do like "Dancing With the Stars"?
CHRIS EVERT: No.
MARTINA NAVRATILOVA: Hell, no. Are you kidding me?
CHRIS EVERT: No, we were talking about that when we were in Chicago together. We were both invited. Every year they invite both of us, and it's like no, no and no.
Q. Because?
CHRIS EVERT: Oh, I'm not a good dancer and -- I'm not a good dancer, period. So why would I want to do that?
MARTINA NAVRATILOVA: High heels. Hello. What we were just talking about. Can you see me in those high heels, no frigging way.
CHRIS EVERT: Your idea about wearing a tuxedo was pretty good.
MARTINA NAVRATILOVA: Yeah, if I could wear the guy's clothes I would be ok, but something in between. Not too butch, but definitely not the dress and high heels thing either. So that won't work.
Q. You'd probably do "Survivor," right?
MARTINA NAVRATILOVA: No. That's a little too much on the other end. No, hunh-uh. Actually, I'm going to Germany for a show called "Beat the Star" and it's sort of an athletic and brainy competition with an athlete and a normal person, well, normal. So to speak -- for an English show that I'm going there next week. But yeah, this dancing thing. My hat is off to Monica that she put herself out there. And she got so much better. The first night she wasn't so good, but the second time I thought she was brilliant. I was like "wow."
CHRIS EVERT: Yeah. That took courage.
MARTINA NAVRATILOVA: Took so much courage. And she is so shy and

really low key. I was surprised that she did that. I was like, "my hat is off to you. I don't know how you did that." Because we're neighbors in Florida, and that's extremely gutsy, so no. Thank you, but...
CHRIS EVERT: But you did the show -- it was Regis when he was hosting it and now -- the show. What's it called? Come on, guys.
MARTINA NAVRATILOVA: Oh, "Millionaire." Oh, yeah, that's easy.
CHRIS EVERT: "Millionaire." Don't say that's easy.
MARTINA NAVRATILOVA: Well, you just have to answer questions. That's the thing.
CHRIS EVERT: I know. You know what, I've been asked to do that, and so I watched a couple shows and there were a couple of nights I didn't know the \$200 answer and I was like, you know what, I think I'm going to skip this.
Q. And then you follow up. What's the importance of education?
CHRIS EVERT: Yeah, no, but I'll get the \$25,000 question, but I won't get the \$200 question.
MARTINA NAVRATILOVA: I would bust on the nursery rhymes because I don't know them because I didn't grow up here. It's the American questions get me.
Q. So much going on in your lives right now as you talk about now. Do you miss it? Do you miss the competition of playing tennis?
MARTINA NAVRATILOVA: You've been out of it for 20 years almost.
CHRIS EVERT: No. No. I don't miss it. I have never missed it since I retired, and that's a good thing. I think that's a good thing. It shows that I have been full in my life. I've lived a full life since then. I went from retiring to having children, and that was -- you know, that was the best thing that has ever happened to me in my life, so no. I don't miss it at all.

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MARTINA NAVRATILOVA: No. I loved it when I did it, and then I love what I'm doing. And basically tennis prevented me from doing other things, and now I have so many other things that I want to do. I couldn't do both. I loved it when I was doing it, and now I'm loving what I'm doing right now, so we've found a balance. What I do miss is just getting into the nitty-gritty of the game and figuring things out and getting on the practice court with my coach and talking about the game, but then I get it when I do commentary, so you know, I'm pretty happy about everything.

CHRIS EVERT: I think I miss being in the best shape that you could be in.

MARTINA NAVRATILOVA: Taking care of your body like that.

CHRIS EVERT: Best shape I could be in and best shape she could be in are different shapes, but I think I miss just knowing that I've really trained hard and my body feels good. And then I still get competition at my academies. It's so funny, when we started this ten years ago, I would go and I would compete against the 18-year-olds and I would still do really well, and now like I go and I compete with the 12-year-olds. You know, the best 12-year-olds in the country, in the world are not bad and I have some nice games with them. But it's fun. It's still fun to compete on a different level -- to have that feeling that I'm smart. I might not move as fast as you, but I'm smarter than you.

MARTINA NAVRATILOVA: Yeah, that's for sure. It's the movement that goes. You try just as hard, but you just don't get there.

Q. Maria Sharapova and Serena Williams are developing quite a rivalry. Could you ever see those two reaching the level that you two?

MARTINA NAVRATILOVA: How many times have they played each other?

Q. Seven.

MARTINA NAVRATILOVA: Seven? Well, we have 80.

CHRIS EVERT: Yeah, it would be great for women's tennis if there could be a rivalry like we had. Could they do it? Yeah, they're still in their early 20s. They could rack up another two or three years, if they were No. 1 and No. 2. Doesn't work if you're No. 1 and No. 6, you know.

Q. You two have a special chemistry. 30 years ago when you were playing, would you have ever thought that you'd be sitting there together, friends, or you appear to be friends. Is this shocking for you?

CHRIS EVERT: I don't think we ever thought about it 30 years ago, but you know, I think because we were so different. Everything -- you know, she was Czech; I was American. She was emotional; I was unemotional. She was serve-and-volleyer. I was baseline. I mean everything was so different that at the end of the day when we would be playing in almost every final, we'd be in the locker room together, you know, we developed a respect and a caring, and we'd sometimes look at each other and just laugh because we were so different.

MARTINA NAVRATILOVA: Here we go again.

CHRIS EVERT: And the press, in all fairness, the press tried -- they kind of try to get you to say something bad about the other person or little nitpicking just to get that rivalry going, and we had our moments. Believe me. We never got along smoothly the whole time, but still, we did have a close relationship, considering that we were competitors.

MARTINA NAVRATILOVA: It was interesting because when I came on the Tour, Evonne Goolagong was the big star and playing Chris, and I remember Chris saying, you know, that Evonne is her biggest rival. I'm like "hmm, just wait. What about

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me?" At that point I had beaten Chris a couple times, but she was still so far ahead, I just wanted to get on the radar screen, and little do you know that it ends up being the greatest rivalry in sports. So that was, again, I feel very privileged that I'm one-half of that. Of course, you don't think about it when it's happening, but I think in the late 80s, middle 80s when it was like 60 times we played and it was 30-30, actually, at that point. I think 30-30 was the count, wins and losses, and you know, that's when you start saying, "wow, this is really special." So but that was like 20 years ago maybe. 30 years ago, no. You don't have an idea.

Q. Chris, how have you balanced your career with raising children and what advice would you give to other moms trying to do the same?

CHRIS EVERT: Well, you know, when you say career, I really, you know, raise -- how would I balance? What I try to do is do everything before 3:00. That's how I try to balance it. If I had to go to the Academy, if I had to do an appearance, whatever I had to do, I try to get my work done at 3, and when I pick those kids up at 3:30, I'm theirs till 10, you know, till they go to bed. That's pretty late, I know. By the way, I am the worst as far as implementing rules. And I'm such a softy. You want to go to bed at ten? Ok, that's fine. How old are you? Six? Ok, that's fine. Yeah, I'm not very good at boundaries, but you know, I'm present there for my kids. And I feel very lucky that I was able to have my career before I had kids because there's no way I could play and have kids at the same time. Something would have to give.

MARTINA NAVRATILOVA: You should talk to Lindsay about that perhaps. Try to balance it. Good luck. I don't know.

Q. Whether it's with game style or just attitude towards the sport when you're playing, do you guys see any of yourselves in any of the current players?

MARTINA NAVRATILOVA: Well, for me I think the closest would have been Hingis or now Henin the way she plays because she's attacking a lot more than she has in the past, comes to the net. A lot more, good all-around player. Hingis didn't have the power to really impose herself the way I played, but Henin certainly does, so I would most relate to the way she plays.

CHRIS EVERT: I always thought Hingis was -- I always thought Hingis was closer to my style, and you know, because she -- just because she was a good thinker on the court and she moved the ball around well, didn't have a great volley, didn't have a great serve. Hello.

Q. Chris, U. S. women's tennis, after the Williams sisters and Lindsay, it doesn't look like there's a wave of potentially dominant players. Maybe what's good for the world isn't so good for the U. S., but are you concerned about that?

CHRIS EVERT: Well, you know, I think you said it right. I mean the world's catching up. I mean we didn't have players from Croatia when we were playing. We didn't have players from China or any of these countries now. Tennis is No. 1 sport in a lot of these countries, and the other thing is is that there was only tennis, golf and figure skating when we played, in America. And you look at softball and you look at soccer and you look at lacrosse, and so you know, maybe --

MARTINA NAVRATILOVA: Basketball.

CHRIS EVERT: A lot of good great athletes are going to other sports, team sports. I mean a lot of kids -- really, I find it because all three of my boys play high school tennis, and tennis is an individual sport,

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and they also play team sports, and I see the kids feel more comfortable playing a team sport. You have that camaraderie. It's not all the pressure.

MARTINA NAVRATILOVA: So much easier. So much easier.

CHRIS EVERT: There's not as much pressure. And I just feel like our good athletes are going to other sports, which is great. That means that girls have more choices. I think we kind of skipped a generation right now. In the 16s and 18s I don't see anybody in American tennis, but I do see some potential in 12s and 14s, because the kids practice down at our academy, and I see some -- I see number ones in the world in American girls in 12 and unders. You know, I think it's going to be probably another five or six years before we see any. And I hope nobody from the USTA heard me say that.

END OF INTERVIEW

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