
MARK WILLIAMS: We would like to welcome Hideki Matsuyama to the interview room at the Genesis Open along with Bob Turner, his interpreter. Just ask that if you do have questions in English or Japanese, Bob will translate for the benefit of our transcriber and answer as well.

Hideki, you've had last week off after coming off a win at the Waste Management Phoenix Open. Obviously you've hit a great run of form in the last four, five months. Have you had a chance to reflect last week on your victory and your past couple months' play?

HIDEKI MATSUYAMA: It was a good week last week, to be able to reflect back on the win at Phoenix, successfully defending my title there, so it was really a good off-week for me.

Q. You can go to World No. 1 if you win this week. How aware of that fact are you and how excited by it are you?

HIDEKI MATSUYAMA: Ben, I did know that that is a possibility and I can't control what Jason does this week. All I can do is go out and try my best and hopefully things will fall into place.

Q. The follow-up, what will it mean to him if he does get to that No. 1 place?

HIDEKI MATSUYAMA: It's always been one of my goals and it would be a great goal to be able to achieve. But whether it happens this week or next or sometime in the future, I'll just keep working hard and hopefully that will happen.

Q. Two questions. When did he first realize which tournament or which week or which period of time did he realize that he was among one of the elite players in the world and that he could compete with anyone in the world? Second one is, even though it's far off, three years away, how excited is he looking forward to competing in the Olympics at home?

HIDEKI MATSUYAMA: To answer the first question, maybe it hasn't happened yet. Maybe I don't realize this yet, but all I can do is my best and that's what I plan to do, just keep grinding and practicing and working hard. I'm really looking forward to the Tokyo Olympics and participating. I know that they've been having a little bit of difficulty with selecting the course or they've selected already, but hopefully all will go well and again, I'm really looking forward to playing and representing Japan.

Q. I know you're working on your English and making progress, but is there possibly a benefit over here to not speaking much because people like me wouldn't bother you

as much?

HIDEKI MATSUYAMA: I do want to learn English, it's one of my goals also. In fact, I'm looking forward to the day that I'll be able to communicate better with good friends like you and also the pros that I play with.

Q. To follow that, you still talk with pros fairly easily, I think. Why do you think they like you so much?

HIDEKI MATSUYAMA: Don't ask me.

Q. Hideki, what kind of relationship, if any, have you been able to forge with Aoki or Katayama or Ozaki, the other greats of the sport in your country?

HIDEKI MATSUYAMA: Jumbo Ozaki, Tommy Nakajima, Isao Aoki those are legends and I haven't had the privilege and opportunity to play with them as much as I like, but I do know of their records and the legacy that they have left. But Katayama and Shigeki Maruyama I have been able to play practice rounds with them, play in tournaments with them and they have taught me a lot to help my game.

Q. You've been playing really great this season. How do you think you compare to other young hopefuls like Justin Thomas?

HIDEKI MATSUYAMA: Justin and I have gotten off to a really good start at the beginning of this season. Hopefully both of us can continue playing well and at the end of the season we will still be as close as far as the rankings are concerned.

Q. Have you spent much time with Jumbo-San and if so, what's the best piece of advice that he's given you?

HIDEKI MATSUYAMA: Again, he hasn't spent a lot of time with Jumbo and it's difficult for me to put into words the advice that has helped me the most. It's just kind of a personal thing and so I feel uncomfortable to share that right now.

Q. Early today Jason Day said he felt that you were still underrated here in the U.S. and on the world stage. Do you feel that? If so, does that spur you on at all, does that make you more determined to prove that you belong at the top?

HIDEKI MATSUYAMA: To have a player like Jason Day say that I might be underrated is a great compliment and an honor. Someone that I look up to very much in Jason and to have him say that makes me happy, but also to be able to live up to that expectation and to try to get better is a motivating factor for me.

Q. On the course you look as if nothing really bothers you. You have a pretty even-keeled temperament. Have you always been that way or have you had to learn

to be that way? Even in the final round in Phoenix, there were people in that playoff yelling in your backswing and it didn't seem to phase you at all.

HIDEKI MATSUYAMA: I try not to show it but I mean when things like that happen, it's not real pleasant and especially in the middle of the backswing, but you just can't let those things bother you. But I do, I do get angry. I don't know if you remember a couple years ago at Doral we had an incident and so I'm not innocent of all anger, I guess.

Q. Just on that, is he aware of I guess the memes and whatnot of him being disappointed with a lot of shots seemingly and them landing very close to the pin. That's a thing that he's known for here.

HIDEKI MATSUYAMA: Sometimes how you're playing and the results don't coincide and so for me, when I do a one-handed finish, to me it's a missed shot. It's just the result was good. So again, sometimes they don't gel.

Q. He's not doing it on purpose to upset the commentators?

HIDEKI MATSUYAMA: No, that would be fun, yeah.

THE INTERPRETER: He does that to me all the time. I've learned when I see it, oh, it's probably going to be close. It used to drive me crazy.

Q. When you were younger, did you ever throw a club?

HIDEKI MATSUYAMA: And even now I throw a club or two, yeah.

Q. So you mentioned that they're still selecting the courses for the 2020 Games in Japan. Do you think that the Riviera would be a good course if L.A. is selected for the Games in 2024?

HIDEKI MATSUYAMA: That's a great question. I would be thrilled if Riviera was chosen. We play here and a lot of the players, I know the course very well and it's an outstanding course.

Q. Since you alluded to it, there is the controversy of the course because of its membership policies in Tokyo. What do you think will happen?

HIDEKI MATSUYAMA: There are some membership questions right now, but I played well there at Kasumigaseki, won Japan Junior there. Asian Amateur. When I won there, that's kind of what made it all possible why I'm sitting here today. So I hope they get things worked out and I hope Kasumigaseki will be the site of the Tokyo Olympic golf competition.

Q. Just curious, if he could play one round of golf, who would be the other three people in his group and why?

HIDEKI MATSUYAMA: Tiger Woods and then I'll think about the other two.

MARK WILLIAMS: All right. If we have nothing further for Hideki, we appreciate you coming in and we would just like to say that as the No. 1 ranked player in the FedExCup standings, you'll be paired in the first round with the No. 2 ranked player Justin Thomas and also the No. 1 ranked player in the world, Jason Day, so all the best for that. Thank you.

HIDEKI MATSUYAMA: Thank you.