



JOHN CATLIN

Q. Here we are, John. After a few top-10s and here we are. How do you feel?

JOHN CATLIN: Fantastic. I mean, this is where I wanted to be since I was 12 years old. Surprisingly, it feels more like home than I ever thought it would. I thought I would show up and you would be nervous, you wouldn't really quite know how you feel. It just feels like another week on a really, really good golf course with very, very accomplished players. Yeah, all the hard work is why I'm here and that's what's going to sustain me, so I've got to keep that up.

Q. And this is possibly the best way to qualify, winning last week and then coming here, isn't it? That really gives you that confidence?

JOHN CATLIN: Yeah, yeah, absolutely. You know you're in good form, you know you have a chance to play well again. You never know, golf's a weird game, but having that confidence is definitely going to help.

Q. You're from the U.S.

JOHN CATLIN: Yes.

Q. When was it when you were younger when you actually told yourself that one day I'm going to play on the PGA TOUR?

JOHN CATLIN: 12 years old. I watched Tiger Woods at the U.S. Open at Pebble Beach 2000.

Q. At the venue?

JOHN CATLIN: No, no, on television. That's what really kind of sparked my interest. Then I started playing and I realized like, hey, I've got kind of a knack for this. I've been playing since I was 3, but I've played pretty much every single sport and then I committed to golf when I was 12 because I said I want to play the PGA TOUR. I told my mom about it. She's always been supportive of that, so that's why I'm here.

Q. Have you played the golf course? How do you find the golf course?

JOHN CATLIN: Awesome. It is immaculate. The fairways are very firm, so are the greens. Because it's new, it takes some time for it to settle in, but it's in great shape. It's kind of nice having it be new, it kind of makes everybody on the same playing field. Like if I had come

here last year where everybody had kind of seen the course six or seven times, I would be a little bit behind the eight-ball, but because it's somewhat new, we're all kind of under the same roof, so to speak.

Q. Can you reflect on the last few years? Did you think that this opportunity to play the CIMB Classic would come so soon in your career considering how you come to Asia --

JOHN CATLIN: Probably not. Especially the first two years, the Asian Tour was kind of a struggle, but I think for me it kind of had to be that way. It's always had to kind of be a little bit difficult, right? It makes me work harder.

I remember the first time I played with Gavin when he came to New Mexico, I was just in awe of how good he was. I was like, well, I'd better get better, this guy's just going to surpass me and I won't play another tournament as long as I'm here.

Similar to showing up on the Asian Tour, you play with these guys, like man, these are great players. I have to play well just to make the cut. Kind of an eye-opening experience. I think that's what kind of sparked my hard work. Then showing up here, this has been probably the easiest transition so far. I'm just like, all right, it's another week. Making it more difficult makes it that much sweeter, like I earned this.