

PRE-TOURNAMENT INTERVIEW
10 October 2018



BEN LEONG

MODERATOR: We have Ben Leong from Asia joining us in the press conference today. Ben, this is your second appearance in the CIMB Classic. Can you just share your thoughts playing here again this week?

BEN LEONG: It's great. It's kind of a shock definitely. Never expected to be here sitting getting interviewed definitely. I mean, golf course looking great. Everything superb and just a bit of weather a bit bothering, but all in all it's good. It's good to be back. It's good to be playing on the PGA TOUR. And yeah, definitely I say a big thank you to Gavin withdrew and gave me this chance. I guess as a Malaysian golfer, I think we need to learn from Gavin definitely because that's what you call looking at the bigger picture. Definitely wish him well and can't wait to team up with him in the World Cup.

MODERATOR: How did you react when you just found out that you were playing the CIMB Classic, because it was something which wasn't in your plans I would imagine and then suddenly here you are playing here. How did you react?

BEN LEONG: Speechless, honestly. I was blank, definitely. Me? Why? After a good round in Taiwan and the news came to me and they asked me would I like to play because Gavin withdrew. I was like no, I don't want -- no, just kidding. Yeah, I was at a loss for words definitely and here I am. All good now.

Q. How important is it coming into this week with a good finish in Taiwan last week?

BEN LEONG: I'm sorry?

Q. How good is it for you personally to come into this week after a good finish in Taiwan, in some form, I guess?

BEN LEONG: Feels great, definitely, playing TPC KL, a PGA TOUR event and teeing up with the big boys once again. I don't really have much expectation even though it was a good, good week. And nothing about Taiwan, but -- because that golf course, anything can happen. You can play well and the score doesn't show and you can play bad and the score's like 4 or 5 under. So no expectation. Able to be teeing up this week here is a bonus, so not much expectation.

Q. (Inaudible.) You got the World Cup. Do you think perhaps luck is on your side?

BEN LEONG: Maybe my -- maybe I'll name my second son Gavin. Gavin definitely gave me a lot of luck definitely and I think I gave back as well. I guess you guys remember I

played in 2016 CIMB qualifying and missing a shot and gave it to Gavin. You know, no hard feelings at all at that time. Things happen for a reason and always look at the positives, so here I am.

Q. Your first appearance was 2015 here. What did you learn from that? How will you take it to this week?

BEN LEONG: I definitely learned a lot. You pretty much can't mess up here on the PGA TOUR, these guys are just that good and you kind of can't have a bad round here. One bad round and that's it, your chances of -- well, don't say winning, your chances of finishing high are very low. You have to narrow your misses and you've got to stay patient definitely.

Q. The TPC KL course is a course that you are familiar with as well. Just tell us a bit about the golf course, how's it playing.

BEN LEONG: The fairways definitely are a lot firmer, the balls are rolling even though with this rain, greens are a lot firmer as well. What I see I think the scores are going to be the same as before, it's going to be low because conditions are great. Yeah, I mean, if you want to move up, you've got to shoot at least 6 under a day. Anything less than that you're probably just going to go down and just going to stay there.

Q. (No microphone.)

BEN LEONG: No, not at all because these guys are that good.

Q. Correct me if I'm wrong, but I suppose your (inaudible) this week will not count on the Asian Tour Order of Merit, but if you had the choice to playing Pakistan, what are your motivations of playing here? What's perhaps the motivation to be playing here this week?

BEN LEONG: Being in this environment. The PGA TOUR, it's the best in the world and the big boys are here. You look at them, you definitely learn. So definitely that's what I'm picking up from this week. You see them, you see how they prepare, the technique, the golf swing when they putt, how they manage the golf course and the way they go around here at TPC could be different than how I do. So it's a great learning experience. We never stop learning.

Q. I know they asked you about Gavin and everything, so (inaudible). How do you feel about that?

BEN LEONG: Yeah, definitely. It's always a motivation to see local fans coming out and supporting you. Definitely motivates you a lot more, you want to do better.

Q. How much cut did Gavin ask from you from your earnings this week?

BEN LEONG: He texted me and said, you know, go get 'em, go have fun. It was great. He was a real gentleman, definitely.

MODERATOR: Any more questions for Ben?

BEN LEONG: Thank you.