

FINAL ROUND INTERVIEW
14 October 2018



MARC LEISHMAN (-26)

MODERATOR: Marc, CIMB Classic 2018 champion, your fourth PGA TOUR tournament win, the first international and Australian winner of this CIMB Classic. Tell us, how are you feeling right now following your fourth victory?

MARC LEISHMAN: Yeah, I feel unbelievable right now. On Tuesday I got here and I thought I was going to have to call Callaway and get them to leave some more golf balls in my locker, I was hitting my driver a bit sideways. Sorted that out and this is the result. I want to thank Callaway, I want to thank all my other sponsors for giving me what I need and the tools certainly worked this week.

The golf course was amazing. Yesterday started off great and struggled on the back nine, but I think that helped me today. I knew that even though I got off to a good start, I still needed to grind because there's some tough holes out there. Managed to hit some good shots and this is the result. It's great to get back in the winner's circle, excited to be back in Malaysia and leaving with this.

MODERATOR: Tied for the lead at the start of the day, but again like yesterday, another hot start with so many birdies to start the day. What was the strategy when you stood on the first tee knowing that it was a gettable front nine?

MARC LEISHMAN: Well, this is the type of golf course that if you hit fairways, you can make a lot of birdies, so that's what I wanted to do, hit fairways. You need to get off to a quick start because, like I said, those holes on the back nine, there's some tough ones.

So I got off to a good start and then I won't say hung on, but it was nice to be playing the last few holes with a little bit of a buffer. Those finishing holes, they're short but there's a lot of trouble around, so if you're not hitting good shots you can become unstuck. I was happy to walk away and be able to enjoy that walk up the last hole.

Q. Marc, a couple of questions. We all know that you went through a very tough stage in your life and now that you won two tournaments last year, one this year, how satisfying, how is that feeling now that you've gone through all that?

MARC LEISHMAN: Yeah, it's amazing. A lot of things -- I won't say everything, but a lot of things happen for a reason and I feel like that was one of them. It was a very tough time that we went through about three and a half years ago, but certainly made us stronger as people, made us appreciate just the everyday things, appreciate our kids more, appreciate friends, family, everything.

I won't say it made golf less important, but it made me realize that golf's not life or death. We've been through that and that's not fun. Yes, I want to win trophies and lucky enough today to be leaving with one, which my kids will be very happy about, by the way, but if I wasn't to walk away the winner today, that's all right, too. As long as I give it my best shot, that's what it's all about.

I guess having that -- what we went through, that made me realize all those things that I just said. I'll definitely enjoy this win and hopefully I can be back here next year and defend.

Q. I also wanted to ask you, Marc, (inaudible) but then 22-year-old Shubhankar Sharma said it was such an amazing experience to play with you. How important is that as a golfer for you to have (inaudible)?

MARC LEISHMAN: Well, I think it's -- I've said this before, but I think it's a lot easier to be a good human than it is to be, I don't know, to be an ass, I guess. I think that takes a lot of energy. Shubhankar's a great lad. I am sure he learned a lot from these past two days and that's what it's all about. Sometimes you learn more from the tournaments that you don't win. I think this is one of the wins where I did learn a lot and that's not always the case. Yeah, I'm sure he'll learn and he's going to go on to big things.

Q. Marc, you went into the final round with three in the lead and whole of Asia here is rooting for Shubhankar. How did that play out on your mind and how did that affect your play?

MARC LEISHMAN: It didn't effect me at all. I'm an Australian who plays on the PGA TOUR, so I'm used to not having the crowd for me, but that's all right. When there's a tournament in Australia, everyone goes for the Australians. If anything, it probably makes you a little bit more determined to do well. But that's just what it's about, you follow the people from your country or your region, as you should.

Q. Marc, coming down the final holes with the lead that you had, did you have to tell yourself anything?

MARC LEISHMAN: I've always -- I won't say -- I've never been one to kind of take things for granted, and having a two- or three- or four-shot lead on this golf course isn't actually that much. A bad tee shot here or there, a three-putt or whatever it might be can swing things around and someone else could birdie the last four holes coming in.

I just knew that I had to make a couple of birdies coming in, probably with five holes to go -- yeah, on 14 tee after bogeying 13, I just said to myself you need to try and get to 25 under and was able to get to 26. I had a score in mind at the start of the day and I had to reset that after 10 holes. Got off to a pretty good start, so I did that and didn't quite reach it, but it was definitely good enough.

Q. (Question about the Presidents Cup.)

MARC LEISHMAN: Yeah, I guess being the home team like we just spoke about, the crowd will be on our side. Whether you look at that as a little bit more pressure or not, I guess it's just the pressure put on yourself. But yeah, that's going to be good. I'm excited to go down there with Cam Smith. I'm hoping I can play like I did this week. Who knows who we're going to play with. I know India's in the cricket -- in Australia this summer so we may play with Indians. I don't know who we're going to play with. It's going to be a lot of fun.

I'm excited about the World Cup at Metropolitan as I am about the Australian PGA and next week in Korea. Yeah, the World Cup's going to be a very fun event in basically my hometown. All my family's going to be there, my friends are going to be there, so I'm looking forward to that.

Q. The Presidents Cup will also be in Australia in 2019. Captain Ernie Els was here this week and a lot of international players. How much are you looking forward to Presidents Cup on home soil in 2019?

MARC LEISHMAN: Yeah, for sure. Being back at Royal Melbourne's going to be awesome. I've played three President Cups so far, two in America, one in Korea, so to play one in Melbourne again with all my friends and family there is going to be awesome. Hoping I can continue this form, be a leader on that team. Hopefully Shubhankar, I'm sure he'll be on the team and there's so many other great players that will be on that team. Hopefully we can give the Americans a bit of trouble next year.

Q. Marc, I would just like to know if you are the kind of player when you are on a final day, do you go into a kind of zone where you know that, okay, the day is going well and you're going to play well? Did you go into that zone in the last few holes?

MARC LEISHMAN: I guess it's just a more determined mindset, I guess. No one wants to lose a lead on the back nine. I had that lead and I was very determined not to lose it. Yeah, I wouldn't say it's a zone, it's just more I think I just get very determined. That's the word, I just get very determined. I wouldn't say it's a zone, but determination goes up.

Q. What is on your bag? Is that something new? What does it do for you?

MARC LEISHMAN: Yeah, since the start of last year my -- he's six now, but he wanted to write his name on my bag. At the beginning I'm kind of like no, then I was like yeah, write your name on my bag, so he wrote his name. Then my other son wanted to write his name.

So now every golf bag that I have, they write their name on it and they love doing it. They see it on TV. And then every time I look at my golf bag, I think of them doing that or I think of my kids and that's never a bad thing to think of your kids. Yeah, that's a pretty cool thing that they do and it will keep happening.

Q. Marc, your first start to the new 2018-2019 Tour season, off to a flying start. How

important is it for you to do well at the start of the season, especially with FedExCup points and going back to Korea next week where you've had some success there last year as well?

MARC LEISHMAN: It is definitely very important to get off to a good start. You don't want to get to the Masters next year and trying to get into that 125 or 100 or whatever it is. I guess it makes you -- having success early in the season, I think it just makes you think about winning more and you can take a few more risks, which sometimes you need to do to win. I guess sometimes early in the season if you're one or two back, you don't want to do anything silly because you don't want to go from second back to 12th or whatever. But once you've got a good early start, you can really just think about winning and that's exciting for next week and the rest of the year. So hopefully I can try and lift a few more trophies and make this my best year yet.

Q. How do you celebrate a win and do the kids get a present?

MARC LEISHMAN: Yeah, I'll take something back for the kids, I'm not sure what it will be yet. I'll definitely take something back for them.

Generally, I would have a few beers out of the trophy. That's going to be difficult with this one, but we'll sit that in the middle of the table tonight and have a few beers and just talk about it and just have a good night with friends really. I'm looking forward to doing that tonight. But yeah, certainly a few beers, some good food.

Q. Just talking about kids, is going back to Hawaii in January as part of the perks of winning on the PGA TOUR, the Century Tournament of Champions?

MARC LEISHMAN: Yeah, I'm very excited about that. I was actually talking to my wife about that two weeks ago and we booked flights to go back to Australia and we had to book sort of return ones back to America and I just booked them for Maui thinking that I'll either be playing in the tournament or we'll go for a vacation there. Now I'll be playing a golf tournament, I know Audrey will be very excited, as my kids will be. Hawaii's an awesome spot, that's one of my favorite places in the whole world. To be able to play two weeks there at two of my favorite golf tournaments is certainly something to look forward to.

MODERATOR: Any more questions for the champion? With that, we're concluded. Marc, many congratulations.