

PRE-TOURNAMENT INTERVIEW
13 February 2019



MINJEE LEE

KATHIE SHEARER: Well, Minjee, good to see you again. What did you take out of last week?

MINJEE LEE: Well, I didn't play too well. I didn't make Sunday. So, yeah, I mean, I'm going to take out some positives that I had. I did hit a few nice shots here and there in the wind, so hopefully I can get some of the putts to drop this week and we'll be all right.

KATHIE SHEARER: And give us your thoughts on the course. You played in the pro-am today.

MINJEE LEE: Uh-huh, this morning.

KATHIE SHEARER: Did you like it?

MINJEE LEE: Yeah, I do. I didn't really remember too many of the holes, to be honest, since the last time I have been here. So it was nice to go out and see the course again. The conditions are really good. The fairways are rolling out really nice. And the greens are probably a little bit on the soft side. But the course is in great condition, and I think we're going to have a really great week.

KATHIE SHEARER: Wonderful. Questions, please.

Q. Minjee, are you good at letting things go? Because you're defending the title.

MINJEE LEE: Last week?

Q. You missed the cut. So, are you able to kind of move on from that, or does that sting a little bit?

MINJEE LEE: I mean, obviously, I have expectations for myself, and I would have liked to have had a good result. But it's the first tournament of the season, and I think it's -- yeah, I just got to let it go. And obviously just take every week as it comes. So, this is a new week and hopefully it's better.

Q. Minjee, do you feel like there is a burden from Australia on your shoulder this week, sort of being the highest ranked player and we haven't had a winner here for a while?

MINJEE LEE: I don't know. I'm not sure if you want to call it a burden, but obviously there's

some expectation there, and obviously I want to play well, because it's my country's Open. So, yeah, probably more expectation on myself more than anything.

Q. And Minjee, how about expectations in the Lee household, now that your brother is doing so well?

MINJEE LEE: Yeah, I mean, he's doing really well, so he wants to -- I don't know. He wants to beat me all the time. So as long as I'm one step ahead, I think I will be all right.

Q. Do you play much with your brother?

MINJEE LEE: Not too much. I mean, we're always on -- we're always on a very busy schedule, so whenever I'm home he's never there, and vice versa. So, not too much.

Q. Does it feel differently playing in Australia, you know, the pressure obviously with the crowds? Does it feel different than when you're playing overseas, or can you just talk about that?

MINJEE LEE: It is different because obviously I'm Australian, and a lot of local crowds come to watch the first couple days and obviously the weekend. And the crowds are a little bigger here than when I'm playing anywhere else, so -- but I like that. I like how everybody comes out and supports you. It's just a really great feeling.

Q. Watching you play last week, it didn't look like you were hitting it badly at all, just the putts.

MINJEE LEE: Yeah, a little bit of the -- the putts weren't dropping, so yeah.

Q. Is your game -- we're used to seeing you, such a good putter. What do you do when you have a bad week? Go away and fix that inside five days?

MINJEE LEE: I think I just got to see some of the putts roll in the hole. I really didn't -- as you said, I really didn't hole anything last week. So, I don't know, it was a little bit windy and the conditions were tough, but hopefully I can get something going on the first couple days and it will be better.

Q. So, just a feel thing, just a visual?

MINJEE LEE: I think so. I think you just sort of let it go. If you have a bad putting week, it's not -- it doesn't mean you're going to have a bad putting week this week, so you never know. It's golf.

Q. Minjee, (inaudible) was saying yesterday that she couldn't quite get to grips, or she couldn't quite understand Australian courses. Now, obviously you would, but you play most of your golf outside of Australia. What do you think she meant by

that? And is this to your advantage if you understand Australian courses?

MINJEE LEE: I'm pretty sure she's probably talking about maybe the bunkering and maybe the -- like the tightness of the fairways, because it's probably sand based. So, yeah, I think it's a little bit different. It's a little tighter. Even chipping, it could be a little grainy, but obviously in a different way than Bermuda grass. So she's probably talking about those things.

And I played a lot of amateur golf in Melbourne and Adelaide and everywhere else that's got Sandbelt courses, so yeah I'm probably a little more used to it.

Q. Do you like it?

MINJEE LEE: The Sandbelt? Yeah, of course.

KATHIE SHEARER: Any more questions, ladies and gentlemen?

Well, we certainly hope all your putts drop this week and you're back in here to see us. Thank you so much for coming in today.

MINJEE LEE: Thank you.