

ROUND 3 INTERVIEW
July 6, 2019



COLLIN MORIKAWA (-15)

Q. Collin, 12 of 14 fairways, 17 of 18 greens, 28 putts. It was really a good day. It's a small sample size, but is this the best round you've played as a professional?

COLLIN MORIKAWA: Yeah, absolutely. You know, going back to some of the other rounds, I've kind of been up and down and I've had good parts and had to really just hold on. And that's what I think college helped me the most, I got to prepare for the bad rounds and make the most out of them. But today everything was going pretty good. Obviously I had the little hiccup on 15, I think, but for the most part, a lot of confidence heading into tomorrow.

Q. I saw you at Travelers and you played very well. Of course, you haven't missed a cut yet in your four stops. You're so calm out there. Is that something that's always been your MO, because you're really a calm, cool, collected guy out there.

COLLIN MORIKAWA: No, absolutely. Like I said to everyone, we're out here to enjoy it as much as we can. Obviously this summer's very thankful for these guys coming and turning pro, so I'm out here to learn as much as I can.

Obviously tomorrow, you know, I want to finish it off. I'm not here just to enjoy it, make the cut; I'm here to contend and win. Thankfully through three rounds I've put myself in that position. I've just got to keep doing what I've been doing and, yeah, tomorrow should be pretty fun.

Q. Different from college, there's scoreboards everywhere. Do you find yourself today, were you looking at the scoreboard or did that not matter because it's the third round?

COLLIN MORIKAWA: No, I like knowing where I am. I'm able to filter everything, what I need and what I don't need. I don't think it's going to change how I play. I have my game plan, I'm going to stick to that.

So, no, it is nice to know where you are, but you have to focus on that one shot you're going to hit because tempo, if I get out of that rhythm, things can happen.

Q. When you see familiar names like Matt Wolff up there -- you're smiling.

COLLIN MORIKAWA: Yeah.

Q. Is that a good thing, maybe playing with him tomorrow?

COLLIN MORIKAWA: Yeah, no, that's really exciting. We've had a few rounds together, especially coming down the stretch. It's just a lot of fun. So to see him playing well, to see Justin, Viktor, all of us play well this week for the most part, it's really exciting to see where we're going to take it.

Q. Collin, just a couple comments over here. You were talking about the importance of relaxing, taking deep breaths, but also contending. You're obviously doing that, in great position for tomorrow. Just comments about today.

COLLIN MORIKAWA: Yeah, obviously I got off to a good start. I think my ball-striking's kept me in this week and finally was able to make some putts. Yeah, no, I like this course, it fits my eye a lot, it fits my eye off the tee, which is really comfortable and I think that's the most part. You've got to see it from the tee and see it all the way from the last shot that's going to drop.

It's pretty much stress-free today other than the three-putt. Just hit my lines, hit a lot of good shots and played to my strengths. Ball-striking has been my strength ever since I've been a little kid and kept up on that.

Q. Just wondering, Viktor last week had a great finish and you and Matthew are now in contention as kind of feeding off each other inspirationally, I guess, more than anything?

COLLIN MORIKAWA: It helps to see them all play well. Obviously the guys I was playing with today, you know, played well and it helps when everyone's making birdies and you kind of feed off each other. You just roll one in after another.

Yeah, no, it is cool. You know, who knows where this is going to take us, but we're just trying to make the most out of it this summer. I mean, this is awesome to be out here, this is what we've always wanted, and to be in this position, it's going to be exciting tomorrow.

Q. Four guys just out of college, just turned pro. Do you feel kind of like a connection to the others?

COLLIN MORIKAWA: Yeah, I think, I grew up next to Matt like 30 minutes, Justin I've known forever, and Viktor I've kind of gotten to know a lot throughout college. For us to finally come out here together is going to always be special. We're going to be able to look back at Travelers where our first start was where everyone was there and kind of build off that. I think that's kind of how you guys are going to place us when we were all four at that media day.

Yeah, who knows what paths we're all going to take. It's so early on, but it's good to see all of us kind of playing well.

Q. You lived 30 minutes apart, you said?

COLLIN MORIKAWA: Roughly.

Q. So you saw each other a lot?

COLLIN MORIKAWA: Saw him a lot here and there. We played some high school golf against each other just him -- it was him, Spencer Sussman and Sean Crocker, who all went to the same high school.

Q. And who came out on the top end of those deals?

COLLIN MORIKAWA: You're going to have to look that up. I have no clue. It could be someone else for all I know.

Q. Did you expect the kind of results you guys have put up so far?

COLLIN MORIKAWA: Yeah, I mean, it is golf out here. It's on a lot bigger stage, but our games played very well throughout the spring. We're going to have to control our nerves, remember who we are, what brought us out here.

For me, it's just building a routine, building my routine that's going to work every single day. You kind of tweak one thing or another, but for the most part you come out here, stick to what you've been doing in college and junior golf and that's what you've been working for. Not to come out here and change everything, but to do what you're doing.

Q. You started your college career here, now you're battling for the lead. Do you like this place, Minnesota?

COLLIN MORIKAWA: Yeah, no, absolutely. No, it's been really fun. Yeah, that is pretty cool, I forgot that my first collegiate event was out here in Minnesota. No, it's been awesome out here, the weather's been great, fans have been awesome.

Q. Did you model your swing after anybody's?

COLLIN MORIKAWA: No. You know, it's just kind of been a work in progress. I love it.

Q. How much are you paying attention to the leaderboard like when things are changing, when Matt's going really low, throughout your round?

COLLIN MORIKAWA: There's not many leaderboards up until you get to like 7, I think. I was playing well throughout the first six holes and I didn't really know how anyone was playing, but I like to look at leaderboards, I like to know where I stand. I'm able to kind of filter everything out, what I need to know and what I don't need to know, but it's not going to affect how I'm going to play. This is my game plan, I've got what I need to do on each hole

and that's what I'm going to be doing tomorrow.

Q. What have you kind of learned over these first three weeks of being a professional you've kind of taken into what you're going to do tomorrow?

COLLIN MORIKAWA: They're long days, you need a rest. I think I learned that from my first couple starts as an am when I played like at Safeway. I was out there grinding more than I normally do and that's not me. Like I said earlier, you've got to stick to your routine. These guys know what they do and that's what works for them. I've got to figure out what works for me. This is only week four for me, so it's still a work in progress, but that's why I've got my team, my coaches, to kind of figure all that out and see what works best.

Q. Did you message anybody back home overnight, anybody that got shook?

COLLIN MORIKAWA: Yeah, so my family did feel it a little bit. I know they're safe and hopefully everything's going to be okay out there. Yeah, it was kind of scary.

Q. Are you a basketball fan?

COLLIN MORIKAWA: I am, I'm a Lakers fan.

Q. What did you think of (inaudible)?

COLLIN MORIKAWA: We were going to have to -- I think Lakers are going to have to spend a lot of money and we were going to have no one, but obviously we signed a few other guys for some small contracts. L.A.'s exciting. Dodgers are playing well, Lakers, basketball's going to be exciting. I'm always going to be a Lakers fan.