



COLLIN MORIKAWA (-20)

Q. Collin, I want to talk about how you were able to rebound. You bogeyed two of your first three holes. You came to the seventh tee and you were four off the lead. What did you do to shift the script?

COLLIN MORIKAWA: Yeah, I kind of thought back and when I lost that playoff at the Web.com, who knows how many years ago, I came in with the mindset there's nothing to lose. When I made that turn, I knew my game's been playing well and I just kind of went out there just to make birdies. I've been making a lot of birdies out there and knew if I didn't play well, I didn't play well. It's something I'm going to look back on in my career and it's going to be one day. But to come back and shoot six under on the back was really special, definitely a lot of momentum heading in.

Q. How would you describe that 18th hole, watching Matt make that eagle and knowing you had to top it to go to a playoff?

COLLIN MORIKAWA: Yeah, a whirlwind. I mean, Bryson I saw made eagle right in front of us and I knew we had to hit a good shot for us to really give ourselves a chance. We both hit good shots. Seeing Matt make a putt, kind of knew he was going to make a putt, I knew I had to make mine. So it kind of just came down to just, hey, good putt. I hit everything I wanted to do and just didn't play enough break.

Q. And your continuing education of becoming a PGA TOUR member player out here, you were in the furnace of the pressure today. What did you learn about yourself?

COLLIN MORIKAWA: That I love this, I love being out here. This is exactly what I've wanted to do my entire life. It's kind of emotional just being here because this is what I want to do. I can't see anything else. So I'm excited to keep playing. Next week should be fun and hopefully we'll keep going from there.

Q. Have you seen enough of Matthew to know that when you're waiting on the putt that you're going to have to make yours because he's probably going to make that?

COLLIN MORIKAWA: Yeah. I mean, Matt's a good putter. Matt's a great putter, actually. The way we were playing today, it was going to go in, one of us was going to at least drop one in. So after he made his, I knew I just had to put a good stroke on it. I had nothing to do, I couldn't control what he was going to do. Like I said, I hit a really good putt. I thought it was good from the start, and once it got about halfway I knew it was a little low, so what can you do.

Q. How close was that putt at 17?

COLLIN MORIKAWA: A little horseshoe lip. I hit a really firm one on 16 and I knew my putt on 17 was going to be fast. Still hit that one pretty firm, but it was kind of center cup with a few feet left and it just kind of hopped and broke a little right.

Q. A lot of smiles. Does this hurt?

COLLIN MORIKAWA: It does, you know. Like I said, I'm out here to win, but to come out here, this is my fourth start, finished T-2. A lot of confidence, a lot to kind of build off of this and moving into the next few weeks.

Q. How comfortable was it playing with Matthew? You guys have played a lot. Does that make it easier for you?

COLLIN MORIKAWA: Absolutely. We were able to talk about anything. We kind of looked back at some memories when we played a long time ago even when we were in high school. But yeah, Matt and I are really good friends. Just to be able to play next to him in the final group, for one of us to come out on top is really special.

Q. How many times would you say you've played together, you two?

COLLIN MORIKAWA: I really don't know.

Q. Twenty?

COLLIN MORIKAWA: At least probably. We played quite a few -- we didn't see him too much in college, but we did see each other in final round groups.

Q. The group of you guys were collectively pretty hyped coming out of college and turning pro all together. Does this sort of collectively answer a question about whether you guys deserve and belong to be out here?

COLLIN MORIKAWA: Yeah. I mean, there's no such thing as deserving; you've got to earn to get out here, you've got to earn your way to get out here. And Matt did his job. I think Viktor had a top-10, I believe, so he's playing really well. Justin played pretty good today. Yeah, you've got to earn your way out here.

Yeah, we did have a lot of hype, but it's cool to see us all playing well, kind of competing against each other and just going off against one another. That's what we've been doing our entire lives pretty much as juniors and college players. To keep that going out here is really cool.

Q. What will you tell other players about this tournament?

COLLIN MORIKAWA: Minnesota's awesome. I haven't been out here for a while, but no, the tournament was run spectacularly. This golf course was amazing, conditions were fantastic. You know, I look forward to having it back out here and hopefully coming back.

Q. One of the consolations is your finish gets your special temporary membership on the Tour, which allows you to seek unlimited sponsor exemptions. That's got to be at least a perk?

COLLIN MORIKAWA: Yeah. Heading down to the end of the season and obviously there's one more notch I want to reach, but it is a good feeling, you know, to finish T-2. You're never going to be fully disappointed on that. It's another week and I think this is really going to help me just kind of move forward in the next month or so.

Q. Are you playing next week?

COLLIN MORIKAWA: I am, John Deere, yeah. I think we're all going to be out there.

Q. (No microphone.)

COLLIN MORIKAWA: Absolutely.

Q. What happened, you had a couple bogeys early and then you just really kept playing well?

COLLIN MORIKAWA: Yeah, on the range I wasn't hitting my driver well. I play cuts and I like to play down the left side and it was just peeling a little more than I wanted, but that's going to happen. You're going to hit bad shots. The three-putt I can control, that shouldn't have happened on two, but I think the par save on nine was really good. My caddie kind of, we talked through, we laid up, we hit to a good number, we hit it to, whatever, six feet and made that putt. That's when everything kind of turned and kept going and I was able to build off that.

Q. Did you ever get down or did you say, hey, this is what I've got to do?

COLLIN MORIKAWA: No. I mean, I knew at the end of the day I was going to put everything out there. You don't know what the score's going to be. Twenty-one under, 6 under par, you know, maybe take that before the start, but you're out here to play your best golf and make a lot of birdies. A lot of guys were making birdies.

Q. Did you and Matt exchange a glance or anything when Bryson, you heard him make the eagle ahead of you?

COLLIN MORIKAWA: No, I didn't look at Matt. The only time I looked at Matt after that was right before he hit. But I looked at my caddie. You know, that didn't change anything. He made eagle and I had a good number with a little cut 5-iron, downslope lie, so I had what

I wanted to do. I hit the shot I wanted to right on that slope, came back and gave myself a good look, just didn't drop.