



LAURA VESCOVI: Thank you for joining us today, welcome to the ZOZO CHAMPIONSHIP. Talk to us a little bit about any history you might have here at Sherwood and your excitement to compete here this week.

COLLIN MORIKAWA: Yeah, so I've probably played here twice, so that's nothing that any course knowledge will help me. We played it my senior year. We came out here before an event just to play 18 holes with a couple members.

I came out here when I was really young to watch Tiger's event, but I couldn't tell you anything about that day other than I remember waiting underneath one of the balconies for signatures, never got one I think and that's about it.

It's good to be back in L.A., good to be back in southern California where I grew up. Every time we're able to play a tournament in California it always means a little more to me, so it's good to have another home event I guess three weeks in a row for me now.

LAURA VESCOVI: I have a question that was pre-submitted. Can you talk about the ability to play overseas? What does that do for your game to be able to go internationally and just, you know --

COLLIN MORIKAWA: Yeah, I think having a game that travels, it's a huge adjustment. It's not just bring your golf game, but it's making sure your body's physically ready to travel across the entire world or whatever it may be. I've only played in Asia and I haven't played in Europe yet, so that will be exciting once that happens.

It's just about being as consistent as possible. You want to be able to bring your game whether it's in the United States or Asia or wherever it may be and play really good golf. I think that's just an adjustment on figuring out courses as quickly as you can and being mentally and physically prepared to play some good golf.

Q. Collin, going back to your original comment, do you remember what year and maybe how young you were when you came here and who didn't want to sign one of your autographs?

COLLIN MORIKAWA: No, I don't remember the year, I don't even remember how young I was. Yeah, a lot of no's to your question, I'm sorry. I'm sure I was either waiting for Tiger or Phil. But when fans are out here and you're just a small little spec in the fans out there, it's tough. It didn't ruin my day. It wasn't like that was going to make my life or not, whether I was going to make it out here, but I do remember waiting underneath one of these balconies

waiting for something.

Q. And my original question was going to be about the Masters. How do you plan on preparing for this year's Masters and will you make a scouting trip out or have you already made a scouting trip out?

COLLIN MORIKAWA: No, I haven't made a trip and I won't. I'll kind of show up on Sunday and kind of go to the course from there. That's just been the way I've done everything. It's not like I've gone to out any course and tried to figure it out before, whether it was a major or whatever it may be.

I've watched Augusta on TV for years. I've watched it every year and yes, I know the course, but I don't. I think me and JJ, we'll do a great job kind of showing up Monday or whatever it may be and just figuring out the course, how I need to play it, not how someone else needs to play it. Course knowledge helps wherever you are, so the guys that have played this lots of times, yes, it's going to help, but that doesn't mean I can't go out there and play really good golf and hopefully contend Sunday afternoon.

Q. Collin, you talked about having to learn a golf course real fast. What's the key to doing that, especially at Augusta?

COLLIN MORIKAWA: I think it's just figuring out how to play from tee to green and then from there, how do you figure out the greens. That's a very basic answer, I just realized that, to look at a golf course and figure out how to play it. But I think it's for me to figure out what kind of shots I need to hit, right? Other guys are going to be hitting their shots, I need to figure out what I need to do, where I need to aim. Tee shots aren't that complicated sometimes unless you have a lot of blind tee shots; it's just figuring out what tree or what background thing you need to aim at.

For me, it's just getting comfortable with the course. Some courses after one round I can go in my head and figure out okay this is 10, 11, 12 and I can play the course in my head. Some other courses I might show up to, I might not be able to do that, I might need another practice round to really get a sense and get comfortable with it.

So I'm going to have to see how Augusta's going to be in my head. Yes, I can say some holes, but it doesn't mean I know every slope out there and that's how comfortable I want to get by Thursday and I think I'm very capable of doing that.

Q. How much more time do you think you would need to get comfortable with Augusta as opposed to a regular PGA TOUR stop?

COLLIN MORIKAWA: Oh, I don't know. And I don't want to put any of these things in my head where I'm going to have to show up and, man, this is going to be so much harder to prep for than another event. I think I've done a really good job every course I've gone to for the first time in figuring it out and I feel like I'm very prepared. I never feel on a Thursday like,

oh, man, I wish I had one more practice round. I don't think that's going to be the case at Augusta.

Yes, I'm going to want to be out there a little more just to figure out some greens, figure out the slopes, but I'm not going to just go out there at 8:00 a.m. in the morning and leave at 6:00 p.m. just because it's Augusta National. I'm going to spend my time-wisely and really get my rest because at the end of the day you want to feel as prepped and pressure fresh by Thursday.

Q. And last, your standing now, third in the Race to Dubai. Have you given any more thought about how you're going to handle that?

COLLIN MORIKAWA: Yeah, no, it's definitely a possibility and I think it's becoming a little more likely to head out there and give myself a chance to possibly win the entire thing. It's been a weird year for the points and we've talked about that before, but I've given myself a chance to win it and I signed up for this membership because I knew I was going to be playing the WGCs, I knew I was going to be playing the majors this year and that was going to count a lot towards getting some points. If I played well, yeah, we put ourselves in a position. So I've done that, I've done my part. I still have the Masters and I still want to kind of build upon that, but yeah, it's looking a little more likely as the time goes on.

Q. I'm sorry, one last thing, do you know what you're going to play from here to the Masters? This and what?

COLLIN MORIKAWA: This and the Masters.

Q. Hey, Collin. Sorry if you already answered this, but what are your plans for Augusta in terms of heading out there? When will you play in advance and that sort of thing and how will you go about that?

COLLIN MORIKAWA: Yeah, so I won't go out there before and I'll just kind of show up like a normal week and just get my prep. You look at Winged Foot, right? A couple guys went out there a couple weeks before or whatever it may be to figure out the course, but it always plays a little different. If I showed up a month ago to Augusta, it's going to play different than how we're going to see it in a few weeks. So I'm going to show up there Monday or Sunday or whatever it may be and just start figuring out the course like I would any course that I've been for the first time and do my prep work that I need.

I think I do a really good job of figuring out courses, figuring out slopes and I just have to get comfortable with the shots I'm going to hit. It's nothing different other than yes, you're going to get a couple different side-slope lies that you might not see at a regular tour event like Vegas, but for me, I think I do a really good job getting prepped for weeks.

Q. Just real quick, have you ever played here before, Collin? I think you said no, I just want to make sure.

COLLIN MORIKAWA: I've played here I think twice. The last time I would have played here was senior year spring, so 2019 spring. We played a round here before another college event that was kind of in the area.

Q. Because it's kind of close, is this one of the ones that you wanted to play growing up because it was always Tiger's event for so many years?

COLLIN MORIKAWA: Yeah, I don't know, that was never me. As a little kid, I never thought about I want to play this event, I want to play that event, it was just how do I get to the PGA TOUR and how do I start playing well.

Q. I would like to throw in a few questions for the Japanese audience media. What was your favorite memory from playing ZOZO CHAMPIONSHIP last year?

COLLIN MORIKAWA: Yeah, I think it was like one of the just tee shots on the first tee with fans that had their little ladders and sitting down, just kind of lining the hole. I've really never seen that, I've never been in a crowd like that. So to see the energy from the fans, it brought so much life. It made me enjoy golf just so much more.

And I truly miss those weeks that we can have fans like that back in Japan because those are memories that I'm always going to remember forever because those are the kind of tee shots that you'll always see that just make the weeks a little more exciting.

Q. Obviously the tournament, ZOZO CHAMPIONSHIP, taking place in Japan, there are additional aspects to going to different countries, visiting a new city. What do you most look forward to as we plan to play the ZOZO CHAMPIONSHIP again in the coming future in Japan?

COLLIN MORIKAWA: I can't wait for the food. The food's so important to me. Obviously the food was amazing last year and I can't wait for next year hopefully.

Being back in the U.S., I'm glad we're able to have this tournament. Being back in California, it's home for me. Doesn't feel that different, it's not like I'm going to somewhere that I've never been, but I really look forward to going back to Japan, seeing everyone and eating some really good food.

LAURA VESCOVI: Thank you, Collin. Good luck this week.

COLLIN MORIKAWA: Thanks, everyone.