



**TOM KIM**

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**MARK WILLIAMS:** We would like to welcome Tom Kim into the interview room here at the 2022 3M Open.

Tom, you're playing here on a sponsor exemption after a couple of great weeks in Scotland. You finished third at the Genesis Scottish Open, which was a co-sanctioned event on the PGA TOUR and DP World Tour, and then had a really nice week at St. Andrews last week. Basically, by that performance, you covered enough points to earn special temporary membership of the Tour, which you've accepted. So I guess I could just ask you to comment on being here as a sponsor exemption and looking forward to maybe establishing yourself as a member of the Tour and what that's going to be like.

**TOM KIM:** Yeah, it's really nice. It's been a dream of mine to play here full time and obviously a good couple weeks give you that position to do well. I'm really looking forward to it. I really want to say thank you to 3M for giving me a spot, for giving me a chance to try and achieve my dream and do something special.

**MARK WILLIAMS:** I was looking at some stats and the last 18 worldwide starts you finished in the top-5 in nine of them. That's pretty impressive consistency, really good performing with a win included in there in Singapore. While that's been going on, I know you played as a youngster and had a lot of success, has it always been a dream of yours to get to the PGA Tour, and just the second question is, how do you maintain that consistency that you had in the last year?

**TOM KIM:** Yes, first of all, that's -- I feel like that's the reason I play golf is to try and play here full time. I feel like I'm far from trying to be as consistent as the best guys in the world where I still have so much to learn and so much to be better at. I feel like if you would say being consistent, just looking at the guys who are dominating on the PGA Tour and you see how good they play, it just motivates myself to be at their level and try to get better every day.

**MARK WILLIAMS:** And you've had a chance to look at the golf course. Just your thoughts on the course and how it sets up for your game?

**TOM KIM:** It's in spectacular condition, it's absolutely amazing. It's a really, really good golf course, I really like it and hopefully I can set up a good game plan and have a really good week here.

**Q. When did you get in here to Minnesota?**

**TOM KIM:** I got here on Sunday midnight.

**Q. So then Monday you get word from the Tour about the temporary exemption. This whole week, what's it been like for you? How's all the travel coming back from the U.K., coming to here, how are you holding up?**

**TOM KIM:** Yeah, it hasn't been the easiest. I wish it would have been easier, but just really grateful for the opportunity. I woke up on Monday, I had a few good hours of sleep. Normally if this was somewhere else, I'd be kind of tired, take the day off, but just really grateful and happy being out here. I came here right on Monday and played the 18-hole pro-am and enjoying every minute.

**Q. Two made cuts over there, now you come here, you're really close to that number to gaining full membership next year. Are you just riding this momentum right now? How do you feel heading into this week and knowing you're going to be in for the next couple?**

**TOM KIM:** I feel like just take it one day at a time. I feel like can't get ahead of yourself. These guys are the best players in the world, so got a lot of golf left to play and I have to try to keep pushing. This is a week where I feel like I can take advantage, so just keep pedaling.

**Q. Has any of this success surprised you over the past couple months, few months? Where does that confidence come from if it doesn't?**

**TOM KIM:** No, I feel like I -- it's just been a daily progress. I haven't felt like I've accomplished something spectacular yet, I'm far from it. I'm just trying to get better every day and to be full time here and win here, I would say that would be the success. I'm still far from it and I'm just trying to take it one day at a time and just try to get better.

**Q. Has anything in particular clicked with your game in the last few months or is it really just doing that one day at a time and figuring it out little by little?**

**TOM KIM:** I think figuring out little by little I would say was the key. I've been consistent with my game for a while and just making a couple more putts and hitting a couple more good shots was really the key to I feel like the third at the Scottish Open. It's my best finish on the PGA Tour, so just that hard work little by little kind of combined and had a good week there.

**Q. What was your kind of plan? Like if you weren't to come over here, what events were you going to play? Had you mapped that out at all for the summer?**

**TOM KIM:** Yeah, so if it wasn't for this week, I'd probably be playing on the DP World Tour right now for a couple weeks. I had a full schedule in the U.K. and plans really changed at the Scottish Open where I was really close to that number and I got in after The Open where I wanted to come over here and it kind of happened on the weekend of the British Open. Yeah, definitely a nice one.

**Q. What do you do to kind of stay fresh and keep your energy with the transatlantic travel and all the golf?**

**TOM KIM:** Just eat a lot, make sure you get some sleep, I think that's the main key, and just not overdoing things too much with practice. It's kind of warm out here, so just want to stay kind of fresh.

**Q. Is there anything in your routine you have to change like practice-wise going from links golf to this type of golf over here?**

**TOM KIM:** Yeah, definitely hitting on grass. Last week didn't have any grass at all, so hitting a lot of rough shots. The rough is kind of thick here this week, so getting kind of used to the thick rough and kind of hitting out of some thick juicy lies again, I would think that would be the big key adjustment for this week.

**Q. And I know you've told it before on different media platforms, but could you retell the story of your name Tom and why you go by Tom?**

**TOM KIM:** Yeah. So I got the name from Tom -- well, my full name was Thomas before when I was young and it came from Thomas the Train. I loved the show when I was young and I thought it was a good idea just to name myself Thomas, and it kind of reduced to Tom where some guys kind of gave me the nickname, hey, Tom. Kind of went on from there and kind of reduced to Tom.

**Q. Do you remember what you liked about the show, about Thomas?**

**TOM KIM:** I have no idea, no idea.

**Q. Do you laugh about it? Do your parents tell that story, too? Is it a fun story in the family?**

**TOM KIM:** Yeah, so I'm well aware that I loved the show where I had the lunchbox, I had the pajamas and everything. I don't know exactly why because I haven't watched the show obviously. I'm 20 years old now, but yeah, it's a fun story.

**Q. And what do you think kind of this course, what will be your keys to succeed here and how do you anticipate the course playing this week?**

**TOM KIM:** I think making a lot of putts. I feel like it's not the longest of courses so you have a lot of birdie opportunities where the conditions are perfect, so you're going to have a lot of good putts, a lot of good look at birdies, so making a lot of putts and hitting some wedges close.

**Q. The way golf is right now, the number of young players playing well, all the major**

**champions in their 20s, you're finally 20 now, what do you just think about the state of golf and how the young talent has kind of risen to the top here recently?**

**TOM KIM:** Yeah, I feel like a lot of young guys are now so good and the level of golf is just moving in a really, really fast pace where the young guys are veterans now, and where normally before where if you had a lot of experience out here you were the better one, but now so many young guys have so much experience already that they're so good at a young age. So it's just when you're young, you've got to keep pushing, you've got to keep learning, you've got to get better. You can't have that period where you're kind of stuck for a little bit, you've got to keep getting better and better and keep learning.

**Q. I know you like to think day by day, you mentioned it, take one day at a time, but have you thought ahead about the Presidents Cup and is that a goal for you, and if so, what do you think you could bring to a team environment?**

**TOM KIM:** That's the dream, right? I really want to be on that team. At The Open, our captain, Trevor, actually walked a couple holes with me and Si Woo, so it was nice to talk to him about that. Just being young, I love that -- I've never played much team golf, so I feel like if I -- for me, as energy-wise, I'd be a really big help and if I could just go onto that team and somehow just play well there, that would be definitely a dream come true.

**MARK WILLIAMS:** Anything else for Tom? All right. We really appreciate you coming in.

**TOM KIM:** Appreciate that.