

ROUND 3 INTERVIEW
22 October 2022

KURT KITAYAMA (-12)



Q. How are you feeling going into tomorrow?

KURT KITAYAMA: You know, not really thinking about it right now. I feel pretty good. I hit it well, gave myself some good opportunities. Just not going to think too much about today's round. Overall, feel pretty good still.

Q. What was good today? What was working well?

KURT KITAYAMA: I'm not sure. I felt like I hit it decent. Everything like felt pretty average today, like not great but not bad. Just kind of hung in there.

Q. What was the key for you coming down the stretch?

KURT KITAYAMA: Just staying patient. Wasn't really giving myself great looks, so when you have 20-, 30-footers, just got to stay patient, just tough.

Q. You're right in there with some giants in the game really. Does that add to the excitement of having a chance on Sunday?

KURT KITAYAMA: Yeah, absolutely. You know, you want to play against the best and it's a good leaderboard up there. Going to have to play good tomorrow.

Q. Kurt, what can you draw on from, you know, along with your wins in Oman and Mauritius, but also being there at Honda and being there at Renaissance?

KURT KITAYAMA: Just staying patient, I think, because anything can happen in the final round. Just try to be there within striking distance or with a lead coming down the stretch. It's just going to take a lot of patience, I think.

Q. Can you explain to the impatient people exactly what staying patient means?

KURT KITAYAMA: Like if I have a 15-footer, not jamming it by or getting aggressive where you can't be really. Going after pins that aren't really accessible, stuff like that.

Q. Is that your nature?

KURT KITAYAMA: I feel like I handle myself pretty good in that aspect where I know when to try and go after a pin and when to play safe.



Q. You've been in a situation for several years where you were fighting for status, fighting for a card. As you come out here now, do you feel kind of freed up? Does it make it play any different or is there any kind of mental advantage to that?

KURT KITAYAMA: Maybe a little bit, but I think after how the year went last year where I had a terrible fall, a terrible start to January, knowing that I can go out and finish high up, I don't stress as much, I think. I think that's big.

Q. Kurt, those two years that you started with on the Korn Ferry and then when you come back after your three, four years of world traveling, how much did that season you? How much more equipped do you think you were, because 44th or 41st on the FedEx?

KURT KITAYAMA: Last year?

Q. Yeah.

KURT KITAYAMA: I think 40th.

Q. That's a pretty strong start for a first timer, isn't it?

KURT KITAYAMA: Yeah, definitely. It just helps with dealing with adversity. I think just knew like there's just so much new things that you encounter when you're traveling abroad. So when it comes here, it seems a lot easier dealing with everything outside of golf.

Q. Kurt, I remember in Mexico coming down the stretch, you and Jon battling on Sunday afternoon and you saying afterward that there was a lot that you learned that day, things that you pick up on in the way that he carried himself in winning that tournament. What's going to be top of mind tomorrow as you draw back on that experience?

KURT KITAYAMA: Yeah, that was a good battle against Jon, he's a great player. Kind of watch how he handles himself even when he -- he does get angry, but he's able to manage it very well and come back strong. It's going to happen, you make bogeys, it's going to happen especially on a tough course like this. So not getting too upset, just staying pretty calm, I think.

Q. You list on your bio you played high school basketball. Were you good?

KURT KITAYAMA: For my area, I feel like I was decent.

Q. Scrappy point guard or what kind of type of player were you?

KURT KITAYAMA: Yeah, I was a point guard. Yeah, I felt like I held my own.



Q. You gave it all up for this?

KURT KITAYAMA: Wouldn't be on this stage if I was still playing basketball.

Q. I went back and looked, Kurt, I think the exchange rate in Malaysia had it at \$10,000, \$10,635 or something like that.

KURT KITAYAMA: Yeah, that was a hell of a lot of cash or their currency at one point.

Q. What's their currency in Malaysia?

KURT KITAYAMA: I think the rupiah or something, or maybe it's the ringgit, I'm not sure.

Q. I trust they were bills and not coins, though, right?

KURT KITAYAMA: Yeah, they were bills.

Q. Of your three wins, what do you consider the most significant to you and why? I'm not missing one, am I?

KURT KITAYAMA: No. Probably Oman, I think. I started off like 6 over through four or five in the third round and ended up -- we had a delay and we came back the next day and shot even or under par that round, and then went on to win on the final round. That one I think was probably the biggest one that I remember.

Q. Did it prove something or show something to --

KURT KITAYAMA: Yeah, even when I struggled, I was able to come back and regroup. Yeah, to be able to come back like that.

Q. When you won the ADT, did you already have your Asian Tour card and they just hadn't started their season? What qualifying school did you do?

KURT KITAYAMA: Yeah, I did have my card, but it was like --

Q. They hadn't really started there?

KURT KITAYAMA: It was Singapore, ADT, I think I was like filling in a gap since I was over there and then some other tournament. It was more just like it was perfect to go play on a week off or something.

Q. What did you ever do if you missed a cut? Did you just stay at a course and wait until your flight or did you ever try and leave early?

KURT KITAYAMA: If I was coming home, I'd try to leave early. If I was going to the next



event, I'd practice that weekend.

