

**K.J. CHOI**

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**Q. First question is you got to go out and play today. What was it like out there and kind of how did you get the feel for what the course was like?**

**K.J. CHOI:** Yeah, so I play here a long time ago, 2000 early and other course in the front side. Today's a pine course and first time hit it, so very beautiful and big bunkers that looks like a very, you know, is a -- the bunkers are deep and hitting ball in the short. Is a little different view, is more like it. Better than last time front side. So I hitting very well. My pro-am partner, he's very enjoyable today, so we happy.

**Q. What do you think the key is for you to come out and play well in the actual tournament this week? What are you focusing on out there?**

**K.J. CHOI:** I think this course is very easy going to tee shots and then more important second shot and the iron play. Sometimes in the hole by (indiscernible) and passed the back side in the downhill and some wind blowing is a very distance control. My focus more on (indiscernible) the greens and putting well, so very good key this week in top side and more comfortable iron play.

**Q. I know a lot of times in the month of May here in Georgia you kind of never know what the weather's going to be like. A lot of times it can being really hot, but it doesn't look like it's going to be too hot this weekend. Does that play a role as well on how you guys go out there and approach this?**

**K.J. CHOI:** Very interesting weather in Georgia. I play a lot at Augusta National in April, so now it's in May. I live in Dallas and there's some up and down in the weather temperatures. I very used to windy and cold. Very similar right now is Dallas.

Many pine trees in my country, Korea. Very similar. I love it, this course, that's why I come here. I more enjoyable and the many fans here, Korean community, very (indiscernible) and many move out of city and come together in Georgia. Very good eat in good restaurant and good iron play and the putt.

**Q. I was going to mention because you've kind of become one of the fan favorites for this particular event. Obviously you mentioned the Korean community, but what is it like for you being here and getting to meet some of the people and the fact that they really appreciate that you're here playing in this event?**

**K.J. CHOI:** Yeah, so we, Korean people first immigration 115 years ago, so is how I too come here. Many people over 100 in the first generation, second generation, third



generation very proud that I play here. The first generations long time in the waiting, before then more than 20, 30 years ago, no Korean player.

PGA TOUR is only 2000 play here and then go to Augusta and now it's on the Champions Tour. I play third year right now. So many waiting for the welcome to the Champions Tour, K.J., Y.E. Yang, Charlie all together to play. More exciting to anybody in more get tickets this week. More buildup to more grow up in the golf. Korean-American is very like it here, so that's why (indiscernible.)

**Q. That's what I was going to say because you were the first Korean -- golfer from Korea to get a PGA TOUR card. Now you look at the PGA TOUR, even the LPGA Tour, a lot of Korean golfers. Do you take a sense of pride in that that you were kind of one of those people blazing the trail for other golfers to come after you?**

**K.J. CHOI:** Yeah, so 1997 I coming out, I go to PGA TOUR try. So many people, oh, no, it's very difficult, can't speak English and the body is short and the distance is short. Compete is very difficult, but I can try. In '99 I make it, Q school passing. 2000 play in the start (indiscernible) 24 years.

So many younger player is watching TV and K.J. Choi on the PGA TOUR in America dream come true. Young guys, middle school, high school guys, now he's almost 30 years old. PGA TOUR is a more younger player follow me and more (indiscernible) in the play, more focus and the more patience and the more trying hard. So working hard is about future is more better. That's why Korean guys, ladies and men, doing better. The juniors and college of golf is a very goal of the PGA TOUR. So very gentle play start in 2000 and 2023 right now, so lot changed.

**Q. Last question, you've obviously mentioned you played in Augusta before, you're playing in this event now. Have you enjoyed your visits to Georgia in the past?**

**K.J. CHOI:** Yes, a couple days is many Korean good restaurant, eat a lot, I love it. More bigger in the Korean community. Ten years ago there not much, but now is very big, is modern, 220,000 people living here. So around here is more squeeze in the town is a very comfortable. Is a more enjoyable weather enjoy and golf course I like it, and putting very difficult but I tried, so very fast. And then some we don't know, have to hit out of greens sometimes. More patience is more enjoyable (indiscernible) my good friend here.

