

PRE-TOURNAMENT INTERVIEW
17 October 2023



KEEGAN BRADLEY

LAURA VESCOVI: We would like to welcome the 2022 ZOZO Championship winner, Keegan Bradley, to the media center. Thank you for joining us.

We'd like to start off with just some thoughts and memories about your win last year here in Japan and your excitement to be back and defend.

KEEGAN BRADLEY: Yeah, this was the start of a very special year for me. The ZOZO Championship will forever hold a special place in my heart. I love playing in Japan, and winning a tournament for me outside the United States is a big deal. So I'm very happy to be back and excited to get back out there.

LAURA VESCOVI: After winning ZOZO Championship last year, you definitely carried a lot of that momentum throughout your season, you went on to win again at the Travelers Championship. Now that you've had some time off, can you just reflect on what this season really meant to you and what you took away from it?

KEEGAN BRADLEY: Yeah, it was a great year. I'm very proud of the year that I had. Before the ZOZO last year I had made some significant changes in my diet and a certain way I was going about playing golf in my career. It was a risk that I took and it paid off. This tournament coming back here brings back a lot of great memories.

LAURA VESCOVI: You've had some time off since your last start, this is your first start back on the PGA TOUR. How did you spend your time?

KEEGAN BRADLEY: Well, I took a little time off, but I've been able to spend a lot of time with my family, bring my kids to school, pick them up from school, but also practice a good amount. It's been a really nice time to get back and live a normal life for a couple months or a month, but I was eager to get back up and play.

LAURA VESCOVI: Transition a little bit to the golf course as you return to Accordia Golf Narashino Country Club, what do you like about this golf course and what was it about 2022 that allowed you to win?

KEEGAN BRADLEY: This golf course reminds me a lot of the courses that I grew up on, tree lined, have to hit the fairways, bentgrass greens. It's just a great golf course, small little greens. I love playing this course. You have to have a lot of imagination and work the ball into a lot of these flags, so it's a great course.

LAURA VESCOVI: And what would it mean for you to defend your title here?

KEEGAN BRADLEY: Yeah, I feel like when I come here to this course I have a good chance every time I tee it up. I would love to come back out here and win this tournament again, it would mean a lot to me.

Q. Keegan, just how important is it for athletes like yourself to have breaks away from the game?

KEEGAN BRADLEY: It's great. It's really important, especially now in my life with my family and my two small little kids. They have a hard time understanding when I have to leave all the time, so it's nice to have a long extended period of time home where I can sort of let my guard down a little bit with my golf and really focus on them and focus on living a normal life and regrouping. I haven't been able to do that in probably a decade. It's been really, really nice.

Q. Do you feel revitalized every time you have a break at home doing fatherly stuff and coming back out? Do you feel like ready to go and recharged?

KEEGAN BRADLEY: Yeah, I do. I was very excited to get on the plane to come here and play, which isn't always the case for me coming back playing for the following year. I was -- I feel, you know, it's a little bit funny feeling as well as not playing in so long, tournaments, but hopefully I'll shake that rust off pretty quick.

Q. Your first appearance here was 2020. Not here, it was in the U.S. Did you feel the Japanese influence there and what were your impressions that year and moving forward to get to Japan?

KEEGAN BRADLEY: Yeah, I did. I really, really love playing in the country of Japan. I love the fans, I love the little cities that we've been able to explore. They're so clean and the food is so great. Being able to come over here as an American and win this tournament is a big deal. I really look forward to coming to Japan, it's been one of my favorite places to play.

Q. When you finished in 2020, did you really want to make that the goal to come back here in 2022? What was it about 2020, did you feel the Japanese influence in America?

KEEGAN BRADLEY: Yeah, it was a great tournament. Really, the year I played here with Tiger when he won, that was really a great weekend. I played the last 36 holes with him and Hideki played right in front of us, and it was just a great atmosphere. I was able to sort of sit back and watch Tiger for 36 holes with the lead and I learned a lot from that day, through a couple days.

Q. What's it like to be a part of that lineage of winners from Tiger, Hideki, Cantlay, big winners? What's it like to be a part of that?

KEEGAN BRADLEY: Well, I think anytime you win a tournament with Tiger's name on it, no matter where it is, it's really awesome. When you win a tournament, you get the trophy and you immediately kind of scan the names that have won. There's certain names that pop up, but Tiger's at the top of the list for all of us out here. If Tiger's on your list of champions, your tournament goes to a completely different level.

Q. Have you seen the course yet this year?

KEEGAN BRADLEY: I haven't, I just got here.

Q. What are you looking forward to when you go out there?

KEEGAN BRADLEY: Well, the greens are very small. Luckily, now this is my third or fourth time playing here, so I know the course. When I go out there, I'm just getting a feel for the greens. Especially when I play overseas this first day is really just not -- staying awake really, but I look forward to getting out there.

Q. Specifically, how do you plan to attack hole No. 1?

KEEGAN BRADLEY: The first hole, it's a tricky little hole because there's a tree out there that blocks the green if you hit it too far. It's a 3-wood out to the right and then the green is really undulating, but the tee shot, as every hole out here, is summer important.

Q. And how do you plan to attack hole No. 4?

KEEGAN BRADLEY: Yeah, No. 4 is a hole that you're very happy to get behind you. You've got to -- honestly, you have to stand up there and just hit a great drive. You're going to hit it up the water to the left because if you hit it to the right or in the bunker you have to lay up. It's a very difficult hole, just one that you have to make four pars on.

Q. Keegan, I know that rest is a really vital part of you guys having success out here. I'm just wondering how much of a challenge it is with the travel, and how are you feeling?

KEEGAN BRADLEY: Well, when you come play overseas, especially when you kind of get here -- at the British Open I'd get a little earlier and get more acclimated, but the first couple days of when we're here, you hit a couple bad shots on the course you don't really -- you sort of have to just let those go because you're a little bit out of it, a little bit tired. But now at this point in my career I've sort of learned how to handle all this. I'll go out there today, today's really about getting loose, walking around, and then tomorrow in the pro-am I'll be able to sort of focus a little bit more on my swing and my game.

Q. (No microphone.)

KEEGAN BRADLEY: Yeah, I just want to thank the fans of Japan for coming out and

supporting the ZOZO Championship and all of us players out on the course. I look forward to seeing you guys all this week.