

**ROUND 4 PRESS CONFERENCE**  
**22 October 2023**



**COLLIN MORIKAWA**

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**CHUAH CHOO CHIANG:** Like to welcome the 2023 ZOZO CHAMPIONSHIP winner, Collin Morikawa.

Collin, thanks for the time and for joining us. Your sixth PGA TOUR victory, a six-stroke margin, how does it all feel?

**COLLIN MORIKAWA:** It was incredible. Yeah, it feels incredible. Every win's so different, and every experience, whether it's winning or losing, you learn a lot, but this one just meant the world. I mean, obviously having this kind of two-year drought, you know, just struggling at times, not really contending, to do what I did through this entire week, Thursday, Friday, and then how I started my round yesterday with a double bogey, it just -- that's the golf I miss playing. To see that and to see it again, it's very exciting kind of just to close out this year and head into next year.

**CHUAH CHOO CHIANG:** And what does it mean for you to be able to do it here in Japan where you have so much family heritage?

**COLLIN MORIKAWA:** This has been one of those tournaments -- there's a few tournaments that are highlighted on my schedule, whether it's L.A., Tiger's event at the Genesis, or this one, you know, when you have something to look back on, right? Being half Japanese and looking back at that and just being able to connect with the people out here, it means the world.

When you're able to just kind of touch on that little aspect a little bit more, sometimes it pulls a little bit more out of you. When you're able to represent the United States, right, whether it's at the Ryder Cup or the Olympics, it just drives you that much more.

I knew at the beginning of the week that the fans out here are obviously rooting for the Japanese players, but I like to count myself as apart Japanese player in that, so I felt the love. The fans have been incredible and I look forward to coming back many, many more times.

**CHUAH CHOO CHIANG:** At the trophy ceremony out there you spoke a little bit about the support from Kat. You got a little bit emotional out there. What has it meant for you to have Kat by your side throughout this journey, especially through the last two years when you went through that little drought?

**COLLIN MORIKAWA:** Yeah, she's been there rooting me on by my side. She doesn't need to give me a little boost of confidence, but she does. Just knowing that every day I have

someone that believes in me not just because I play golf and I might be able to win, but just because of who I am. She means the world to me and I'm very lucky to have her day in and day out no matter what our lives would be like.

So it's nice, but it's also nice to win. She hasn't been to a win since -- it's been a long time since she's actually been at the tournament since we won, so it's nice to have her here.

**Q. How much pressure do you feel when you know people start talking a year or two, you're not winning? How much does that impact on you? From our perspective, it's like impossible to believe somebody who's so accomplished would have doubts. Do you have doubts?**

**COLLIN MORIKAWA:** They weren't doubts. It wasn't like I didn't believe I was going to have another win or whatever, when that was going to happen. It was just more about when it was going to happen, right?

You think about -- and I think the thoughts in your head start piling up of like, OK, well, what did I do differently, what do I need to change? I think that's when sometimes people go too far in one direction.

I haven't really done too much, to be honest. I just needed to -- I had to take two steps back and really understand the foundation of what made me so solid of a player, you know, say in '19, '20 and '21, and I really did that after we finished Playoffs. Not that I took two steps back, but sometimes you have to understand from a very basic level of why does your golf game work, right?

And I think I stuck to that this week. The putter got hot, which is really nice. I haven't had that in quite some time. Put together quite a few great iron shots. I mean, we parred hole 5 today, the par 3, and J.J. looked at me, he was like, oh, you broke the streak. We had four birdies in a row on par 3s counting starting from yesterday into today, so the irons feel really good. And that's been my strength. Even when I haven't been hitting it great, it still is proving to be my one thing I can rely on.

**CHUAH CHOO CHIANG:** You spoke earlier about spending time on the putting green on Wednesday for about two and a half hours. Did you find anything out there that night?

**COLLIN MORIKAWA:** Yeah, yeah, we found something and we're going to stick to it.

Look, you never know whether it's going to be right or wrong, but something was off. Something I just couldn't figure out. J.J. and I were just looking at each other very confused and trying a bunch of different things. You know, we weren't changing too much, we were just trying to look at putts a different way.

We stuck to it. It was nice to see putts roll in in the first round, and then that continued. Yeah, made a lot of putts this week, it was really nice.

**CHUAH CHOO CHIANG:** Any insights on --

**COLLIN MORIKAWA:** No, no, nope.

**Q. Congratulations, Collin. Just noticed you and J.J. had a huge hug on 18 after the win. I've seen you guys throughout the week just working intently on your game. Can you just talk about your guys' relationship and how important he is to your game?**

**COLLIN MORIKAWA:** He's the best. Even in these tough times, let's call it the past two years, right, he's stuck through it. We've sat on the range for longer than I think I've ever hit balls on the range for the past two years. He's done more than probably what I could have even asked for out of a caddie, and that's saying a lot.

You know, it's not like these guys are just carrying a golf bag, you know? He's right there. He's a friend, he's a mentor, he's someone I rely on, he's someone I respect. He's everything. I wouldn't have -- I wouldn't be here right now without him.

We've spent so many hours just trying to figure this out, and he's spent countless hours going through videos on his phone that I've sent him to try and figure it out of what made us better three years ago than where we are the past couple years.

We tried everything. We're trying a bunch of things. Sometimes you just, you hit it, you find what you need to find. It just happened to be that we had to just break it down a little bit more, go down a little bit more surface level and understand it.

He's awesome. He is absolutely the best. I would not be here, I would not have my sixth PGA TOUR win without him, and I've been lucky to have him since day one since I turned pro.

**Q. What do you think you can achieve from now on now that you can use this as a springboard?**

**COLLIN MORIKAWA:** I mean, the goals don't change. Trust me, I've shown up to majors the past couple years, showing up to all these tournaments, I fully believe that I can pull it off. But it's nice to kind of just get that one out of the way, right?

I compare it to winning your first PGA TOUR event, winning your first major, the questions hopefully won't be there, right? Just how do I continue it, how do I build off of it? That's a great question.

I think I just go back, look at it with my team and be like, OK, what did we do great and how do we continue this going forward. They're fine margins, they really are. I won by a handful today, but sometimes you might lose by one and it might have felt the exact same. But it's just weeks like this you just have to capitalize. You just can't let things go.

It just felt so good on Thursday that even though Friday I gave away that double bogey on 14 and then the double bogey to start Saturday's round, it still felt so good that I knew if I just never got ahead of myself and just really stayed patient that it would hopefully come together.

Yeah, I think it's just something you reflect on in a few days' time with the team and in a couple weeks' time really and just use it. But this will be a huge kind of bouncing board for me to move forward essentially into 2024 and start the year hopefully on a great note.

**Q. You were in Tokyo Olympic Games in 2021 and we expected you would get a gold medal, but unfortunately you couldn't get any medal and you finished fourth. Since then probably you have been in a drought for a while, but now this year you won the PGA TOUR in Japan.**

**So what does this win mean to you, winning in Japan?**

**COLLIN MORIKAWA:** Wow, that's a fully loaded question there.

I actually won The Open after the Olympics, I think. No? No, maybe not.

Look, I'm going to answer this simply. Winning means the world, but winning in Japan, having my Heritage being half Japanese, my last name being Morikawa, it's so special, right? I talked about it earlier, there's only a few places where by the end of your career you hope to win. Winning around the world is not easy. We play so much in the United States that when we have these opportunities to play outside and play in a country that I love and have respect for and just have history, right, it's very, very special.

I appreciate you thinking I was going to win gold. I thought I was going to win gold as well.

But look, at the end of the day, this one is going to be very, very special for many reasons, not only just because of the drought, but because there's many other factors that I could talk all day about. Winning in Japan, I can now check that off my bucket list, say I've done it and hopefully continue to do it in many years' time.

**Q. Collin, throughout this week you've seemed very calm and at ease, just happy honestly. I'm wondering if you've kind of thought about success on the golf course and enjoying yourself. Is it one of those things where you enjoy yourself because you're having success or you find success because you're having fun?**

**COLLIN MORIKAWA:** It's a little bit of both. I mean, you can factor it in either way depending where you're at, right, what state you're at.

We came in Friday morning and we spent four days, four full days just eating. Like, you know, visiting around, looking around Tokyo, but truly eating. We would eat at seven to eight

spots a day, and that's a lot.

So yeah, there is something to it, just enjoying yourself and enjoying where you are. We don't get to do that that often I think because it's so routine. Every single week you show up, it's just kind of the same spot, right? You know what to expect, you know what's out there.

This week I just treated it a little differently, not that I took it any lighter. Me taking a few days off coming to Tokyo and just hanging out with Kat, there's something to it, there really is. Everyone in this field, everyone that plays professional golf, they're good enough to win. It's a week in, week out type of thing. We're not trying to search for too much. Sometimes when you do search for too much, that's when these weeks become longer and more stressful. It's been a very enjoyable week. Yeah, there's some credit to that.

**CHUAH CHOO CHIANG:** Collin, thanks again for your time and many congratulations for winning the ZOZO CHAMPIONSHIP.

**COLLIN MORIKAWA:** Thank you. Thank you, everyone.