

PRE-TOURNAMENT INTERVIEW
17 October 2023



HIDEKI MATSUYAMA

CHUAH CHOO CHIANG: Good afternoon, everyone. Like to welcome Hideki Matsuyama to the ZOZO Championship media center.

Hideki, thanks for your time. Winning here in 2021, runner-up in 2019, how special is it for you to be back here in Japan playing the ZOZO Championship?

HIDEKI MATSUYAMA: Yeah, a lot of good memories two years ago with the victory. It's always great to play in the ZOZO Championship.

CHUAH CHOO CHIANG: You've had a look at the golf course, Accordia Golf Narishino Country Club the last few days. How is the condition this week?

HIDEKI MATSUYAMA: Compared to two years ago, the rough is a lot longer and deeper this year. In order to play well and to score well here, you're going to have to keep the tee shots on the fairway.

CHUAH CHOO CHIANG: This is your first event in nearly two months. Tell us about what you've been doing for the last two months and how excited are you to be back out here competing on Tour.

HIDEKI MATSUYAMA: It has been two months since I played in a tournament. The first month I really took it easy, it's been a long time since I took that much time off, but the last month I've been working hard getting my game back in shape and I feel good about heading into this week.

CHUAH CHOO CHIANG: Hideki, you had a practice round with Aguri Iwasaki, who won the Japan Open last week. There are 13 other Japanese players in the field at the ZOZO Championship this week. Do you keep an eye on how your countrymen play as well in tournaments that you're playing in?

HIDEKI MATSUYAMA: Yeah, I follow all of the Japanese players, especially Iwasaki. I know he's had a tough year in Europe and I've been following him. Then on Sunday, to be able to watch him win the Japan Open was quite a thrill. I think I was more nervous watching him than he was.

(Questions and answers in Japanese.)

CHUAH CHOO CHIANG: Have we got any more for Hideki? OK, we'll wrap it up. Hideki, thank you for your time and good luck this week.