

**PRE-TOURNAMENT PRESS CONFERENCE**  
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**KEEGAN BRADLEY**

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**LAURA VESCOVI:** We'll go ahead and get started. We would like to welcome Keegan Bradley to the interview room at the Farmers Insurance Open.

Keegan, you've had some success here, making your 13th start, you had a runner-up finish last year and you've got a couple other additional top-5s. Can you talk about your excitement to be back and what you like about this course?

**KEEGAN BRADLEY:** Yeah, I love the Farmers and Torrey Pines. I always think of -- when I think of the PGA TOUR, I think of here. Just the course is tough, the atmosphere is great and I just love coming back here every year.

**LAURA VESCOVI:** This is your third start this season, you also had a runner-up finish at Sony last week. Can you just touch on that finish as well as your season upcoming, your third start here and just beginning 2024?

**KEEGAN BRADLEY:** Yeah. For the first time in my career finishing second I was really, really bummed out. I thought I should have won the tournament but I didn't. So sometimes those things can work out as a positive to keep you motivated and hungry.

Then I'm coming up on some courses that I love and a stretch of the schedule that I love, so I feel like I'm in great shape and I'm in a great spot here to go out and have another great week.

**LAURA VESCOVI:** Before we turn it over for questions, one last from me, what are some of your goals for 2024? What's that stretch of the season coming up that you're excited about?

**KEEGAN BRADLEY:** Well, I think I'm in a great spot in my game. I'm trying to climb the World Rankings. I'd love to -- I've never been higher than 10th in the world. I'd love to set a new record there for my personal goals.

I just want to be in contention as much as I can. I feel like if I put myself in contention enough I'm going to win hopefully a couple times, one time, but that's my goal.

**Q. Keegan, when something goes the way it goes, how do you recover from that? Do you think about it? Do you kind of put it away, put the clubs away for a little while? How did you go about getting over it?**

**KEEGAN BRADLEY:** It pops into my mind like daily. I felt in total control, I really felt like I was going to win that tournament the whole day. To not win is sort of a bummer, but I got



right back out there. It was a short week to come here, especially starting Wednesday, so we were right back at it.

Sometimes you have to take those as motivation and be like we're not there, we've got to keep going. I certainly took a lot away from it, but it makes you want to win even more.

**Q. As you think about trying to get inside the top-10 and hitting your goals, have you evaluated areas of your game which you feel like things need to get tight or is it mental? What do you feel like the barrier is for you to get to that point?**

**KEEGAN BRADLEY:** Yeah, I put a lot of work into my chipping this offseason and I felt like I really needed to get better there to contend more in majors and some of the tougher courses.

These signature events with the fields, they're so strong with the players. You really can -- I can feel it when I'm playing the tournament with the scores I shoot or you shoot and you think like man, I played great and I'm in 20th, 25th. You've really got to play well in these tournaments and majors especially.

I feel like I'm constantly trying to improve, but my focus this offseason was short game.

**Q. Keegan, what's the appeal for you for Torrey specifically? First I wanted to ask you when you say you kind of equate the PGA TOUR to Torrey Pines, what does that mean to you?**

**KEEGAN BRADLEY:** My rookie year I was -- this was my third start. Yes, third start. I just felt like I could feel the buzz of the PGA TOUR. The Hawaii events are amazing and Palm Springs was amazing, but when I got here it seemed a little different.

I was on this putting green out here and I was still in awe of everything my rookie year. Everything was just I couldn't believe it, living out my dream. I was putting and there was so many people around the putting green and I heard this like buzz or this commotion. I didn't know what was going on and I looked around and Tiger had walked down to the putting green. It was like a holy cow moment for me. Like I'm trying to putt but I'm still like peeking over to see, like I've never really seen him before. It just struck me.

There's holes out here mostly because of Tiger that you remember. You remember shots that he hit in U.S. Opens and it's just a special place.

**Q. How about this being such a tough test early in the year? You're trying to get warmed up for the season essentially, you've done your work, probably still working on some things. To have this big of a test with the rough and everything, is that something that you embrace? Can you also see why other guys might not?**

**KEEGAN BRADLEY:** Of course. I think you either love this course or you don't. You know



every single time you tee it up here it's going to be a battle. It used to be you would go to the North Course and shoot a really low scores, but now the North Course in some ways is just as tough, it's tricky, it's got some crazy greens.

So you know coming here this is going to be an absolute battle, every hole is if you miss the fairway you're in trouble. But if you do hit the fairways here, especially with it being soft, you can score but you have to hit these fairways. It would be pretty tough all four days because you know you're going to make some bogeys.

**Q. Just one more, what's your thought on what the rough looks like right now?**

**KEEGAN BRADLEY:** Well, the rough is insane. I don't know, I don't know if they haven't been able to cut it because of how wet it is. I would assume they're going to try to cut it because it's chip-out, it's U.S. Open-style rough.

**Q. Going back to you talked about Tiger and when you think about Torrey Pines you think about a lot of the shots that he hit here. Does one stand out to you that you think about the most when you're out playing a practice round or getting ready for the week?**

**KEEGAN BRADLEY:** Yeah, I remember the putt that he made on 13 for eagle in the back to the front, and of course all the shots on 18 in that last playoff hole. I think when you come to a golf course that you've never played and you kind of know it already just from watching it, like Augusta or Pebble too, I think that's pretty special.

I grew up watching Tiger win here, shots he hit, incredible up-and-downs. It's got a lot of great history.

**Q. How much does that familiarity kind of free you up when you're out here because you kind of know a lot of what you're getting into already?**

**KEEGAN BRADLEY:** Luckily for me I've played this tournament 13 times, I've played the course a million times so I know it pretty well.

There's memories of like you know on the back nine you've got a couple par 5s. I love when courses have that, Augusta, you have a little action coming in. But you know that those holes in the middle there are just so brutal, if you miss the fairways you're pretty much just chipping out.

**Q. A lot of guys use these early season tournaments to kind of ramp up and get ready. You mentioned earlier your game's already in pretty good form. Is it difficult to not kind of look ahead to what you have coming up with signature events as well as the majors coming through and is it tough to keep that focus on improving week in and week out when you're game's already in pretty decent shape?**



**KEEGAN BRADLEY:** Yeah, it is. And there's signature events and they're amazing but this is a big event. For me, this is a big event. Every event that we tee it up at we're playing for a lot of FedExCup points, great purses, World Ranking points. Yeah, we've got Pebble next week, but this week we have Torrey Pines, one of the most amazing venues that we get to play. They're all big events.

**Q. You had mentioned with your runner-up at the Sony that you just really were bummed out. Was there a certain message you were telling yourself during your off week leading up to getting to Torrey that you were telling yourself just to get through it and kind of push forward?**

**KEEGAN BRADLEY:** Yeah, I mean, I tell myself constantly I have to get better. I try to get better every day. I feel if I'm not working at what I do, somebody is. That's a step that I took at Sony that hopefully will get me prepared for another time I'm in contention or maybe a bigger tournament like a major. I keep telling myself every time I put myself in that position on Sunday, it's difficult in the last group on Sunday out here and when you hang in there, especially I kind of got off to a bad start, you can take a lot away from that.

Hopefully we're building for something. Second place is a bummer when I thought I should have won, but hopefully we're building up for something bigger.

**Q. Back-to-back seasons prior to six top-10s, in terms of just consistency and top results, that's kind of the best you've had in the last decade or so. How much do you value kind of consistency at this point in your career and what you're trying to do?**

**KEEGAN BRADLEY:** Yeah, I mean, there's -- my whole generation that I came out on the PGA TOUR with are mostly gone. They're mostly either playing on the Champions Tour or the group of guys that I looked up to are gone. So I'm very proud to still be top-15 in the world, winning and contending. It's something that I take a lot of pride in.

I really want to -- I feel like I can still can play at this level for many more years and I really, I pride myself on that. I want to be in the conversation for team events and majors, you know. This is what I've worked my whole life at, a dream of mine to play this tour and I'm very proud to be able to go out there and keep doing it.

**Q. When you talk about courses and iconic shots, Michael Kim earlier was talking about as a teenager trying to replicate Tiger's putt on 18 to force a playoff. I'm just wondering, I know it's a weird question, but do professionals ever try in their down time to mimic shots, iconic shots, great shots on courses that they've seen?**

**KEEGAN BRADLEY:** Everybody hits that putt on front left flag at 18 at Augusta. Like we know that's where the flag is, we've seen so many people make that putt to win. You go and you hit that putt every time.

I know at Augusta they had to put a big drainage in where Tiger hit his chip on 16 where he



won because everyone was going there and hitting it.

I don't know if we go over there and hit the shots, but we know, I know that that putt on 13 that Tiger made for eagle breaks right to left and then back left to right because of that putt. I can see that overhead blimp shot of that putt going in. So there's memories of that.

I can't say that I've gone out and tried to hit -- certainly as a kid I was trying to be like Tiger Woods, but I'm not coming out here and doing it right now, no.

**Q. Special week at the AmEx last week. Just wanted to get your thoughts on what Nick did and if you have any similar experiences that kind of stand out for you.**

**KEEGAN BRADLEY:** I certainly don't have any experiences like that, no. I was in complete awe of that. I didn't think we would ever see an amateur win a PGA TOUR event.

I couldn't imagine playing in a PGA TOUR event as an amateur let alone winning or making the cut. I just think now more than ever these younger kids that are coming out are so ready to play, I can't believe it. I'm just astonished, honestly. To me that was one of the most incredible things I've seen in golf that I've watched. To see a college kid that's an amateur win a PGA TOUR event, it's pretty spectacular.

**LAURA VESCOVI:** We'll leave it there. Thank you for joining.

