

**ROUND 4 PRESS CONFERENCE**  
**February 18, 2024**



**HIDEKI MATSUYAMA (-17)**

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**MODERATOR:** We would like to welcome the champion of the 2024 Genesis Invitational, Hideki Matsuyama. Congratulations on a great victory.

With him is his agent-interpreter, Ken Hirai. He will be interpreting for Hideki as we go through this press conference.

I guess I'll start with it's obviously an amazing victory to win anytime on Tour, but to win the tournament that's hosted by Tiger Woods, that must make it extra special, Hideki.

**HIDEKI MATSUYAMA:** Yeah, you know, to win in this tournament was one of my goals ever since I became pro. After Tiger being the host, that goal became a lot more bigger. A little disappointed that I wasn't able to take a picture with Tiger today.

**MODERATOR:** And just before we take some questions, I'll just ask you about the significance of your ninth victory and you surpass KJ Choi as the winningest Asian player on the PGA TOUR. Just the significance of that and how meaningful that is to you.

**HIDEKI MATSUYAMA:** Yes, you know, reaching nine wins was one of my big goals, passing KJ Choi. After my eighth win I've been struggling with my back injury. There were a lot of times where I felt, you know, I was never going to win again. I struggled reaching to top-10, but I'm really happy that I was able to win today.

**Q. Hideki, first of all, what club did you hit on 15 and did you like the shot on 16 when it was in the air, because it didn't look like it?**

**HIDEKI MATSUYAMA:** On 15, tee shot, second shot, perfect shot. So I had a great momentum right there.

On 15 I hit it maybe like five yards to the right of my -- yeah, 16 I hit it maybe like five yards to the right of my target, but it became a good shot. All is good.

**Q. What club on 15, what iron did he hit?**

**INTERPRETER:** 6-iron.

**Q. Did you think you could win today when you showed up at the course?**

**HIDEKI MATSUYAMA:** To answer that question, no. I was not feeling comfortable with my ball-striking, so I was kind of thinking, hey, I'm going to have a couple miss shots today, but



maybe that kind of worked out.

**Q. A 62 is just one shot off the course record, it was the best round of the day by three shots. To shoot 30 on the back nine, where does this rank as one of the best rounds that you've played in your career?**

**HIDEKI MATSUYAMA:** Majority of the time when I rate my round, it's usually my ball-striking. Today was an OK round, but I chipped and putted pretty well today, so that's something that gives me a good momentum, so I think that really helped today.

**Q. How are you going to celebrate this win?**

**HIDEKI MATSUYAMA:** I already had a dinner planned tonight, so I think that dinner plan's going to be great.

**Q. Hideki, how much have your back issues made it difficult to work on your short game?**

**HIDEKI MATSUYAMA:** First of all, to clear the information, it's been my neck that's been hurting. It's been really something that's been bothering for long time. Since the start of this year, it's been getting better, a lot better. There's no -- it's stress free when I'm sleeping, too, so I think I had this feeling of I can do something special maybe this year.

**Q. And you said the warm-up today was just OK. When you warm up, does that normally tell you kind of how the day's going to go or does sometimes it go the other way from the driving range to the course?**

**HIDEKI MATSUYAMA:** I think a lot of times the morning practice doesn't really relate to the actual round, but I've been striking pretty good this morning, but on the first tee I hit probably the worst shot of this week. Yeah, can't really tell.

**Q. There was some talk on the broadcast of your ball on the side of 17 green that was oscillating a little bit. I'm just wondering if you saw that when you were standing over the ball?**

**INTERPRETER:** What was the question again?

**Q. There was some talk in the broadcast of your ball oscillating on the 17th green when you were hitting your chip shot from the side of 17 green. I'm wondering if he saw it?**

**INTERPRETER:** What do you mean by "oscillating"?

**Q. Move.**



**INTERPRETER:** After his shot?

**Q.** Before, when he was addressing the shot.

**HIDEKI MATSUYAMA:** I just noticed that. No issue.

**Q.** And off of the 18th -- off of the 18th it was very -- there was a very demonstrative celebration for you. I'm wondering when was the last time that you had a fist pump quite that big?

**HIDEKI MATSUYAMA:** Yeah, Riviera is actually a very special place for me. I know the owner, he's Japanese, I've known him for a very long time. So winning at Riviera was something very special for me.

**Q.** Hideki, you're on an impressive list of winners who have won here and Augusta National. I'm wondering do you see any similarities between the two courses and what does it mean to be a part of history like that?

**HIDEKI MATSUYAMA:** Never thought about that before, so I'll think about it.

**Q.** Do you remember when Shigeki first started talking to you about the record for most wins by an Asian player?

**HIDEKI MATSUYAMA:** Shigeki won three times here and after I won the fourth one, Shigeki told me, hey, you've got to pass KJ Choi. So I was very happy to do that and I'll definitely text Shigeki that I achieved this win this week.

**Q.** Are you a member here?

**HIDEKI MATSUYAMA:** No.

**Q.** Why not?

**HIDEKI MATSUYAMA:** I don't know, but I'll try.

**MODERATOR:** All right. On that note, we'll finish. Ken, thank you so much for interpreting, we appreciate your help. Hideki, congratulations, enjoy the evening.

**HIDEKI MATSUYAMA:** Thank you.

