ROUND 2 QUICK QUOTES March 29, 2024

Texas Children's HOUSTON OPEN

CHAN KIM (-2)

Q. Chan, came off a birdie off the par-5 eighth and you get on the ninth tee. Can you just walk us through your thoughts at the time and then what happened after that?

CHAN KIM: Yeah, it was pretty special, I guess, anytime you can make an ace. I didn't know that my next one would come so soon. I mean, it's been two years.

But yeah, long story short, I had some bad news last night about a friend passing and after I made that ace, you know, I just would have thought that maybe he was looking down, you know, just trying to give me a miracle. Yeah, definitely needed all of it. Yeah, I'm happy of the result today, for sure.

Q. Sorry to hear that, that's touching. It's a message.

CHAN KIM: Yeah, yeah.

Q. How about the round overall, how did you feel?

CHAN KIM: Really comfortable. I wasn't really hitting it my best the past couple weeks. The short game's been better, but when you're just missing too many greens or on the wrong sides, it's really tough out here. These last two rounds, although I shot 1 over yesterday and it was I'd say a lot easier than it was today, yeah, just really staying committed out there. Wasn't very outcome oriented and worked out just well.

Q. It's your first ace on the PGA TOUR, but you mentioned an earlier one. How many do you think you've had?

CHAN KIM: I believe I have five to date if I remember correctly. It's been so long between each one, too. I know the previous one was in Japan when I played the Japan Tour. It was actually when I was playing with Ishikawa and he has the biggest crowds, so that was pretty cool. This one's definitely special.

Q. Have you won a prize for any of those aces?

CHAN KIM: Actually, I did. The one I made with Ishikawa was the only other one I made in competition and I got -- it was actually for the Casio event out there, so I got a nice little Casio watch for it.

Q. Good playing. I guess overall -- you touched on the week overall, have you? OK. How did the course kind of change from yesterday afternoon to this morning, would



you say?

CHAN KIM: Yeah, well, somebody definitely turned the fans on. Our first -- I'd say our first seven holes it wasn't too bad and then when it started to pick up, it was really picking up. You know, you just have to -- at that point you trust a number and you trust what club you're hitting and that's all you can really do. After you hit the shot, it's out of your hands. But yeah, me and Kevin, who's my caddie, we've had some really good numbers and we just hit really solid shots all day.

Q. How would you assess your season so far, kind of your first full year on the PGA TOUR?

CHAN KIM: Definitely love the start. Even though I missed the cut at Sony and at Torrey, I had some good finishes. This is just, I mean, my sixth straight week I believe so just a little worn down. One more week in San Antonio and if I do get into the Masters, then obviously I would make it eight without a doubt. If not, yeah, a couple weeks at home would be great.

Q. Do you feel like you have the gear in you to make a run this weekend?

CHAN KIM: I'm going to try. When you're out here playing a golf tournament you're always out here to win. I mean, I could get off to the worst start, but I'm sure as hell going to give it my all and try and get back into the running for things.

Q. And they had said you had a friend pass away last night?

CHAN KIM: Yeah, yeah.

Q. I'm sorry to hear that. It was a friend from where?

CHAN KIM: From high school, we were on the same golf team. Both him and his brother I've known for a while. We actually just played some golf when I was home before Mexico. And we normally game a lot, so I'm a big Call of Duty fan, so we literally played the week of THE PLAYERS.

Yeah, it was just kind of sudden, didn't really get any notice of it until last night. Yeah, like I said, today was kind of a special round. Regardless of how it went, it was nice to play for something a little bit more than just myself.

Q. Is that kind of surreal when the ball goes in on 9 in that --

CHAN KIM: Yeah, you know, I feel like obviously getting a hole-in-one is very, very lucky, but I feel like the Tour kind of owed me one because I flew one in on 11 at Sony and it popped out 60 feet and ended up three-putting for bogey. I felt like I was owed one, for sure.

