

PRE-TOURNAMENT INTERVIEW
December 6, 2017



TONY FINAU
LEXI THOMPSON

DOUG MILNE: We'd like to welcome the team of Tony Finau and Lexi Thompson. Thanks for joining us for a few minutes. Tony, making your first start here at the QBE Shootout, and Lexi, I think I heard you say your second appearance here.

I guess the obvious first question would be how the pairing came about and just how much you guys are looking forward to being together this week. Tony, we'll start with you, either one.

TONY FINAU: All right. Well, yeah, thanks. I'm happy to be here, first of all. It's a great event I've heard from a lot of the guys. Really looking forward to playing this week, especially playing with Lexi. I know she's come off a fantastic year so I look forward to teeing up it with her and playing with her.

As far as us getting paired together, I kind of signed up late, I kind of committed late and there were just a few names to pick from and I thought Lexi would be a great choice. I know she's the only LPGA Tour player in the field. I figured maybe I would just mix it up a little bit. Obviously I heard great things about her game but especially as a person, so I feel like it would be a great mix. So I think I chose her more than she chose me.

LEXI THOMPSON: I feel flattered. Yeah, I didn't really have a say in the pairing. I'm honored just to be invited back here, or whoever I was playing with I was going to have a good time. But Tony's such a great guy. I haven't played with him yet, just heard he bombs it, so I'm looking forward to watching him play.

DOUG MILNE: Have you all had a chance to kind of discuss any strategy yet? I realized just as you were coming up the stairs it was like "hi" for the first time.

LEXI THOMPSON: Yeah, basically.

TONY FINAU: We just said hi to each other a couple minutes ago.

LEXI THOMPSON: We haven't talked strategy.

Q. What should this guy know about this course? You having been here so recently, what should he know about the course, what can you tell him?

LEXI THOMPSON: I'm not too sure --

TONY FINAU: Our strategy will start now, here you go.

LEXI THOMPSON: Yeah, this is our strategy. It's a little different this week for me hitting a lot more drivers on this yardage because I'm not used to playing 450-yard minimum par 4s here. But it's tight off the tee on a few of the holes so just keeping it in the fairway's definitely key because basically if you hit it in the other areas, you're hitting another ball. But it's a great golf course, it's in really good shape. Greens are a little tricky, pin placement depending. But I don't really have any tips, I don't know. I'm sure he can figure it out. He's a pretty good player.

Q. Is it good to start out with a scramble to kind of see how you guys are instead of like alternate shot?

TONY FINAU: Yeah, I think for sure, a scramble's great.

LEXI THOMPSON: Yeah, just very happy that it's modified alternate shot so he doesn't have to play my ball for sure on a few of those holes.

TONY FINAU: Yeah, I think for sure I think it's cool that we start with a scramble as our first time playing with each other. It will be an enjoyable round. Obviously we're both very competitive, so it will be fun. At the same time I think we'll be competing as well.

Q. Have you play in any team events at all?

TONY FINAU: Not really. Zurich, I played the Zurich last year with Danny Summerhays, a good friend of mine. Obviously the chemistry is there with us because I've known him since I was a kid, probably nine years old. Outside of that, probably not a lot of team events since I was a junior, I played on the Junior Ryder Cup twice. Man, not a lot of team atmosphere events. Again, I look forward to this week and just playing with Lexi and having a good time.

Q. You've played the Solheim Cup as far as team golf. Is this like the relaxed, super chill version of that?

LEXI THOMPSON: Yeah, definitely this is definitely a little bit more chill than the Solheim Cup super intense cheering and yelling in my ear when I'm teeing off. It will be a little different this week, and being the only girl it's a different atmosphere. I love being around the guys. Growing up with two older brothers, I'm definitely comfortable here. But it's great, team events are always so much fun, we don't get the opportunity very often. But being able to play in like Solheim Cups and International Crown, a few experiences, but I'm looking forward to playing with the guys this week and just going out there and having a good time.

Q. What did you drive over here? Did you drive it?

LEXI THOMPSON: I drove my GT-R, oh, yeah. First road trip.

TONY FINAU: I saw you just got that, right?

LEXI THOMPSON: Yeah, I bought it yesterday, drove it over. I wore it in with the bugs on Alligator Alley.

Q. Drove 110 miles an hour on the way here?

LEXI THOMPSON: No, actually I was good, I didn't go above 85. What? There was no cops.

TONY FINAU: That's safe, that's safe.

Q. Good use of your Tour winnings. So for both of you, what does your January look like? January, February, how are you going to start 2018?

TONY FINAU: Go ahead.

LEXI THOMPSON: Well, I start off in the Bahamas and that's I believe the second or last week of January. So I'll start off there and then I'll probably have two, three weeks off after that and then we go to Asia. I'm just trying to end 2017 first, though. It will end eventually. But no, just rest time before that.

TONY FINAU: Yeah, fortunately for me I've taken some time off already so it's been nice. I ended my 2017 officially in Vegas, so that was about a month ago, last time I played competitively.

But for 2018 I'm starting at the Sony Open. Unfortunately, not playing Kapalua this year. I played last year and man, that's something to definitely strive for every year after experiencing that last year. It's a little bitter I'm not going back this year, so more motivation to win this year again. But I'll start at the Sony Open and then I'll play Torrey and then Waste Management. So those are kind of my three events that I'll play in January starting the year?

Q. And then what are you asking for for Christmas, or alternatively, what Christmas present are you excited to give this year.

TONY FINAU: Yeah, my kids got a long list. I don't know. My daughter's birthday --

LEXI THOMPSON: They're watching.

TONY FINAU: Yeah. My daughter's birthday was at the end of October and my son's was just last week at the end of November, so they've got a lot of presents already. So I think we'll do a little bit more giving this year, maybe do some service. Yeah, my kids, we've been pretty blessed to provide them with some things, maybe some things that I didn't have. We're going to have a good Christmas and celebrate.

Q. Lexi, you already gave yourself a car.

LEXI THOMPSON: Yeah, I'm not asking for anything. No, honestly, we don't really do too much for Christmas. I just love being home with my family. We just all get together at home and just enjoy each other's company. We don't do the whole really present thing. If one of us like knows that the other person wants something we'll get it for them, but yeah, I don't need anything. I just want to be around my family, that's honestly all I want.

TONY FINAU: Yeah, seems like the same thing. When you're on Tour and travel as much as we do, it's the best time of the year is this time because we just get to rest and be with family and hang out with the people that we love.

Q. How's it feel to be back here and how do you look at CME now, you've had some time to digest it over Thanksgiving hopefully?

LEXI THOMPSON: Yeah, I love coming here. Just to be able to come to Naples, only a few hours away from home, it's always nice. I love the people here at Tiburon and it's a great atmosphere just around this course and the hotel. The course is in great shape obviously, I was here two weeks ago. I played really well there at the CME. It was an unfortunate ending, but a lot of good to come from it, a lot of positives to take from it. But I'm really looking forward to this week and having some fun out there.

Q. What will you think when you get on 18 green, is that a thing that you would keep in your mind to motivate you or not forget, or is that just something like I talked to Steve Stricker about it, he's like we're golfers, we kind of have to forget about stuff and remember what we need to remember and move on?

LEXI THOMPSON: Yeah, exactly. It's unfortunate what happened, I couldn't even tell you what did, but yeah, you just have to forget about it. There's so many things that will happen on the golf course bad and good, you just have to remember the good and move on. I played amazing golf that week and I made some amazing putts that last day, so I'll just remember those and move on and take the positive from it.

DOUG MILNE: Anybody else? All right. Well, Tony, Lexi, thank you guys for joining us. Best of luck this week.

TONY FINAU: Appreciate it, thanks.

LEXI THOMPSON: Thank you.