

PRE-TOURNAMENT INTERVIEW
February 27, 2018

GAVIN GREEN



Q. Just this week, obviously a big week, first WGC Mexico Championship. How are you looking forward to such a big event?

GAVIN GREEN: Well, I think it's important that I don't overdo things just because of the event. I'm very -- I kind of had a little feel about it in China and obviously in CJ Cup, they were big events, but you can't overdo things. So I think I'm taking a different approach where I'm just going to go nine, nine, nine, take it easy, do some work on the range, chip and putt. But I think enjoy myself mainly. I have a great guy on the bag, I think we're going to -- he's been here before, so it's good, he knows.

Q. How much of a plus point is it having Mark, who's been here before, to be on the bag?

GAVIN GREEN: I think it's great because he knows, he's seen things that happen and things -- how good things can happen, how bad things can happen. So he knows what are the risks and he knows a little bit about my game and he knows where I should hit it and all that kind of stuff, and what suits me. So I think it's important for me to listen and trust him because sometimes I look at some holes, I'm like, I think it's driver, but he says no, it's a 5-wood or a 2-iron. It's tough for me to just do that because I'm so tempted to just hit driver. I guess it's part of experience and just trusting. And on this course you have to be in position. If you're out of position, you're not making anything.

Q. 7,000 feet above sea level, do you find a difference in this?

GAVIN GREEN: Well, I think it's not so bad because where I went to school, it was about 5,000 feet. I'm actually kind of used to the ball going a little bit further. Having that obviously helps me and I trust it, I trust distance. It doesn't really matter to me. Obviously it's a difference from sea level, it takes a couple days to get used to it. But no, I think I'm comfortable with it and I think it kind of suits me pretty well. Dustin Johnson won here. That's always a plus when we can go back and look at videos of what he's done and on what hole and that kind of stuff. I think that's a lot of things I can learn from that maybe.

Q. You played EurAsia Cup first event of the year. After a solid season on the Asian Tour, has the form been up to what you expect so far this year?

GAVIN GREEN: It's been a little -- well, EurAsia was okay, Singapore was okay. Dubai I started to go down a bit. My result was a little bit on the low side just because I think I wasn't comfortable with what I was doing, I wasn't comfortable with my swing.

Thankfully, I had a week off last week, saw a coach and way more comfortable now, more comfortable than EurAsia, which is great. I like feeling like this going to an event. I think the hype about being here and it's a WGC event is also another thing. I think enjoying myself is one thing, but I think playing to the game plan I've planned is another thing. I can't get too greedy at the same time, although it's very tempting.

Q. How much of a help is it to actually have time with Chris back in Dallas before a big week like this? Do you find a lot of confidence knowing that he's seen your swing, hey, fix some things for you?

GAVIN GREEN: Yeah, yeah, yeah, because when things were not comfortable and obviously he sorted out where I have more of a one-way miss and not a two-way miss, so that's huge for me. Being on a course like this, obviously it's a huge thing because left, right, you have trouble. It's just which better part of the trouble you'd rather be. Things we worked on and we straightened things out.

Q. You've always spoken about taking things step by step in your career. You've won on the Asian Tour now, you're trying to win on the European Tour and eventually try to get onto the PGA TOUR. Is the sentiment trying to be patient as well and sticking to the process that you set for yourself?

GAVIN GREEN: Yeah, I think patience is one thing, but I also think experience plays another part. If you're constantly playing the bigger events, all of a sudden you go to a European Tour event, you feel very much more comfortable. Or you play more European Tour events, all of a sudden the next week it just gets normal. Same with Asian Tour. When I was with Asian Tour, I was like, man, this is a big event. Then I got used to it, got used to it, then all of a sudden a couple of top-5s came, and then all of a sudden just calmed down. So I think I'm just waiting for a couple of good finishes on the European Tour and hopefully that will come.

Q. You've enjoyed the experience of playing sort of big events, like CJ Cup you had a great first day playing alongside JT as well. In looking at what JT has done in his career so far, how does that encourage guys like yourself --

GAVIN GREEN: It's nothing different, there's nothing much different. Just they're a lot tighter with, for example, the short game, their misses are a lot tighter. Their bad days are even par, 1 over, not 4 or 5 over. Their great days are not 3 or 4 under, they're like 7 or 8 under. I think just a little bit of that where I always can get better at that. Me, my coach and my caddie and my whole team, we're working, we're working towards that, and hopefully it clicks soon. I haven't had an A game in so long, so we'll see.

Q. How do you deal with knowing that you can do better, you've not brought your A game yet?

GAVIN GREEN: I think staying patient is one of them, but I think another thing is you've just

got to keep going. It's golf, we lose a lot more than we win. The winning percentage is obviously not that high. Finishing top-10, top-15, 20, that's obviously not a bad deal either. I think there are things to work on as far as goals that I want to achieve this year. They're looking okay. I think obviously main thing is keeping my European Tour card. I think if I can get my game to be where the bad days are more like even par, 1 over, 2 over, I think I'll be okay.

Q. What would make you a happy guy come Sunday evening leaving this golf course?

GAVIN GREEN: Finishing as high as I can and knowing that I've gone out there and given it my 100 percent. I mean, there will be mistakes that I'll do, but not mistakes where it's going to cost me two or three shots. I think as long as I give it my best and go as low as I can, I'm happy.

Q. Just going to go back to the question that Seth asked about the Presidents Cup. Being an international player, is that something which is on your radar coming up in 2019 in Australia, which is not far away from home?

GAVIN GREEN: Definitely. I think it's more important that I can accumulate as much World Ranking points as I can because obviously the Presidents Cup is a big deal. There's not many people get the opportunity to play Presidents Cup, so it's definitely on my radar, it's on my goal list. It's something that we have to focus on. I think it's more important as long as I continue to play good golf, it's going to show at some point hopefully.

Q. Any recollections of the Presidents Cup which caught your eye when you were a younger golfer and say, hey, you know what, one day I want to try and get to become the first Malaysian to play?

GAVIN GREEN: Well, Ryder Cup, Presidents Cup for me was kind of the same thing just because as I was growing up, I didn't really know what it was. But it would have to be Tiger Woods when he did a club twirl, I was like, man, the crowd went absolutely crazy. I love to play in front of crowds and I love how crazy they get and how wound up they get. Being international and being Presidents Cup in Australia, which is international, they're going to go crazy. So it's going to be something that I really, really want to do in part of my golf career.

Q. Team golf is obviously a lot different from what you guys do week in and week out.

GAVIN GREEN: Yeah.

Q. You played college golf. What is it about team golf that excites you?

GAVIN GREEN: I think the thing is like, for example, if you see a group that it's 1-up or 2-up

and you see another group that's 1-up or 2-up, you get hyped up. Even if you're down or even even, you're like, man, I want to get to 1-up also. It's such a good team event. Especially having a good captain, I think that's going to be a fun thing also. I think the team chemistry is also very important. What I learned especially in EurAsia, come to EurAsia, I didn't know half of these guys, but at the end you're really close teammates. I think it's a great friend bonding. It just feels more like a huge family in a way. No, it was fun.