

ROUND 2 INTERVIEW
August 25, 2018



KEN TANIGAWA (-14)

JACKIE SERVAIS: Welcome.

KEN TANIGAWA: Thank you.

JACKIE SERVAIS: How do you feel after that round?

KEN TANIGAWA: I feel good. Yeah, it was nice. Always nice to play a good round of golf.

JACKIE SERVAIS: Did you ever think that you would be out here going back-to-back days of breaking a career low?

KEN TANIGAWA: No. I mean, you always hope, right? Always hope for the best, prepare for the worst. I don't know. No, you just go out and play, and it added up to that and it's pretty cool that it did.

JACKIE SERVAIS: What was the key to keeping your card clean today?

KEN TANIGAWA: It's always putting, it always seems to come down to -- I mean, I hit it okay, I hit it well, but it's always the putts. I hit a lot of greens, and when I did miss the few that I did, I got up and down. So it always comes down to putting for me.

Q. So when did you regain your amateur status?

KEN TANIGAWA: I wouldn't know the exact date. It's probably the mid -- maybe 2007, 8, something like that.

Q. You played the Web.com Tour a little bit in 2003?

KEN TANIGAWA: 2003, correct.

Q. And a few years after that?

KEN TANIGAWA: Yeah, a little bit. But I pretty much fired myself because I was really bad, so it didn't make much sense to keep playing.

Q. What changed?

KEN TANIGAWA: Yeah, actually, it's kind of a -- to make a long story long for you, yeah, I started having a little bit more time and I started playing some amateur events in our state

and I was fortunate enough to win the state amateur a few times and the state mid am, things like that. So I started playing okay. And then the Q-School came around, it happened to be at home, which checked the box for me to try as an amateur, which I was able to do, and I got through.

Q. When did you start thinking about trying to get on the Champions Tour?

KEN TANIGAWA: You know, people -- like the guys I play with at my club talked about it because, you know, I was getting to that age and I was playing well. They're like, hey, you should try, you should try. Like, yeah, okay.

Because for me, being out of competitive golf and amateur golf, it's kind of out here, right? So you think, oh, that would be cool, but you never really take it -- it wasn't like a set goal or I was working towards that was going to happen. I mean, it just kind of -- I just kind of did. I entered as an amateur. I wasn't going to turn pro for the qualifying because that wouldn't have made any sense to lose my status over that.

So it's just one of those things that I just kind of progressively got better up to that point, and then when I turned 49, I entered as an amateur. Like I said, I just played well enough to get through.

Q. Your best finish so far is a tie for 10th?

KEN TANIGAWA: Right.

Q. So you really need some good finishes. Are you feeling any pressure?

KEN TANIGAWA: Not really. I mean, no. You know, it's just a bonus to be out here really, and for me to really play against these guys, I mean a lot of guys I've known for years, from years past, and there's a lot of UCLA guys out here. No, there's not so much pressure on keeping the card, it is what it is and I'll just do the best I can.

Q. So it's obviously a huge opportunity tomorrow?

KEN TANIGAWA: It's no doubt, every week's a huge opportunity, isn't it? But it will be fun to just go out and play and do the best you can. If it works out, that would be great, and if not, it's a great learning experience either way.

JACKIE SERVAIS: You played really well last week at Dick's. Do you think that that's kind of helped push into this week, or is it totally separate in your mind?

KEN TANIGAWA: No, it's got to help, right? It's got to help when you're playing well to -- instead of playing lousy and coming in here confidence-wise. Yeah, it was good, I did play okay, I did play well. So yeah, it's got to help, there's no doubt.

Q. If Q-School had been held in Kentucky, would you have gone?

KEN TANIGAWA: Great question. If it was held like in Florida like how it goes back and forth, there was probably a pretty good chance that I would not have. That's a hard question. I don't know. It would have been a harder entry -- it would have been harder to enter, to be quite honest with you, because those two stages, had to go through the first one kind of up in Prim south of Vegas there, so it's like wow. And if I had to go -- I don't know, that's a great question. I can't answer that, but because it was at TPC Scottsdale and at home, it made sense.

Q. Did you play at UCLA?

KEN TANIGAWA: I did. I played with Brandt Jobe and McCarron were my teammates. Yeah, I've known them for a while, so it's good, good guys.

Q. So you'll have McCarron in the final group tomorrow?

KEN TANIGAWA: Are we playing together again?

Q. Yeah.

KEN TANIGAWA: That would be great, yeah. And Kevin I've known from college as well. Yeah, it will be fun. At least it will be a comfortable group in that sense.