

DOUG GHIM (-13)

Q. What was the best shot you hit today?

DOUG GHIM: Oh, let me think about it. Probably the shot on 16. It was about maybe 200 yards to 195 to the hole. I think I hit a perfect little 5-iron that held up against the wind. It landed soft, it was like three feet or four feet, and made the putt. Two days in a row having a putt inside of 15 feet for birdie is pretty good on that hole, so I would probably say that hole.

Q. You may be in the final group tomorrow, at worst second to last. Are you comfortable with that position?

DOUG GHIM: Yeah, I'm excited for it. I said earlier I've had a couple of experiences being close to the final group. If I do get a chance to play the final group, that's awesome. I'm sure I'll be nervous, there's nothing that's going to stop me from being nervous, but I'm just going to embrace it. No matter how it goes tomorrow, it will be an experience that I'll build off of whether it's good or bad. Just really excited for the opportunity.

Q. Have you done anything with (inaudible)?

DOUG GHIM: I've watched it, I've watched countless other players do it, but it was pretty cool to play good enough to get that opportunity. This whole week has been crazy. I was just happy to be here. Could be grinding it out in the Bahamas right now, and to watch those guys play, I was like I'm glad I'm here. Again, thankful for the opportunity to be here and just really excited.

Q. What was your experience at Torrey Pines before this week?

DOUG GHIM: I played maybe 14 holes. We played the South course just as like a college spring break trip. We were playing a tournament at San Diego Country Club, came out here a couple days early because we were on spring break. Unfortunately, it wasn't as nice as it is now. It was raining and maybe 50 degrees. I didn't really get a good taste.

Played the Monday pro-am this week and it was blowing 30. Yesterday was a tough day just trying to figure out what the golf course actually feels like in these kind of conditions. Just kind of helped today and it also helped that I made a couple more putts than I did yesterday.

Q. Did you have this exemption for a while or was it a last-minute deal?

DOUG GHIM: I mean, it was like the first week, the beginning of January I got -- I think it

was maybe I got it on the 4th or 5th of January. Obviously really excited. Just thankful at least I wasn't blindsided by it because it can be kind of overwhelming, but I had a chance to kind of let it sink in and prepare for it. Lucky I got a couple days off between Exuma and here to play and get prepared. It's been a dream come true this week.

Q. What's been your feeling about your game relative to the challenges of the --

DOUG GHIM: Pardon?

Q. Your game and how it matches with the South course, what were your expectations relative to what you're actually seeing?

DOUG GHIM: I like hard golf courses. I like when I get rewarded for hitting fairways and hitting greens. It's not always the case on certain golf courses where guys can kind of bully it and hit it longer and kind of wedge it out of the rough and hit it 15 feet on every hole.

For me, I feel like when I'm playing my best, I hit a lot of fairways and greens. When it penalizes other guys to miss the fairway, it puts me in a good spot to make a move on the leaderboard if I am playing my best golf. Obviously when you're crooked and you're only hitting it 270, then that's not good either.

This week, you know, just been really adamant about having a good attitude. My first tournament on the Web in the Bahamas I hit it the best I have in a while, but Q-School Series, didn't hit well but I had a great attitude, which is probably why I did so well. Also when I got to the Bahamas and started hitting good, sort of expected myself to be on top of that leaderboard and when it didn't happen, I started to get angry.

So going into this realizing how difficult the golf courses were forced me to be a little more patient. And again, these are the best players in the world. Obviously the best player in the world is here and he's leading the tournament. You know, if I have a bad attitude, I'm already at a disadvantage against those guys. Really just trying to be positive, believe in myself and see what I can do. You know, if anyone has the least amount of pressure, it's me, so I'm just going to go out there and have a blast, have a good time and see where that puts me.

Q. Is that easier said than done?

DOUG GHIM: Of course. It's my first time in this big of a tournament to have a chance, although albeit pretty far back. I don't foresee Justin coming back to the field much at all. So for me to have a chance tomorrow, I have to do something really special.

Again, it's about really feeling the nerves, getting the experience. If I do get a chance to tee it up in the final group, you know, that's all I could ask for really starting the week. If anything, a lot of positive going around going into whatever tournament I play next.

Q. Any prior interactions with Justin Rose or Adam Scott?

DOUG GHIM: I almost hit Justin Rose in the pro-am on Monday, so that's as good as it gets. Jon, I mean, I've played with Jon in college.

Q. What are the details there?

DOUG GHIM: I was in the fairway and it was blowing 30, kind of distracted, had like a kid from San Diego Junior Golf Association, so like entertaining the kid and getting to know him.

All of a sudden I hit a shot and the wind's coming out of the left and there's a group of people on the right edge of the fairway. I look at my caddie, Mike, and said, What are they doing up there? They were literally like in prime position to get hit because the wind coming off the left. It was like, Do they know what they're getting themselves into?

So the ball starts heading over there, I just yell fore and I looked up, fore, yell fore, get up there. I have no idea who it is and why there's people there. Just realized, Justin turned to me and goes, Your ball's up there. I was like, Oh, man, I'm so sorry, I didn't mean to like almost kill you.

Turn around, I'm like, I might have just got rid of the best competition out there.

But yeah, then I've talked to Jon, I've played with Jon before at one college event in San Jose. When I won the Ben Hogan Award, he was a past Ben Hogan Award recipient. It was a cool moment for me to get to talk to him and know that I accomplished something that he also accomplished. If I get a chance to play with either of them tomorrow, it's a huge opportunity for me to test what my game's like against legitimately the best players in the world. I'm just really excited for the opportunity.

Q. As a young guy when you're playing in a group of those kind of guys, is there an etiquette where you kind of pick their brains, figure out some tips how to be successful on the PGA TOUR, or do you just kind of stay in your lane?

DOUG GHIM: I mean, it's different with each guy. I remember playing with Fitzpatrick and Rafa Cabrera-Bello and they were awesome, albeit we weren't really in the heat of competition.

I can't imagine if I was in the final group tomorrow that there would be much conversation going on. You know, I'm sure here and there we'll get to talk and I'll ask them questions, for sure. You know, it's more of like a practice round kind of thing is really getting to pick their brain. When you get an opportunity to play with someone that good on a Tuesday, it's a really good opportunity to, you know, get some advice and hear where they're coming from and see their perspective on things.

I'm not sure, it depends on the guy, but I don't foresee much conversation tomorrow. They're trying to win the golf tournament and so am I.

Q. What's the biggest thing you've gained in your nine months, eight months as a pro?

DOUG GHIM: Just kind of a belief system, a routine, just kind of getting used to everything, like knowing how a week on the PGA TOUR or the Web.com Tour works. You know, Monday, Wednesday pro-ams, you get out there on Tuesday, how to kind of manage yourself through the whole week.

This week, knowing that Monday in the past I probably would have put a lot of effort into Monday, but looking at the forecast and knowing that it was going to definitely be a lot nicer than it was then, I didn't really take it to heart what the ball was doing in the air in that wind and it didn't really let it bother me. If the forecast looked like it was going to be like that all week, it's a different story, but I knew that's not what the golf course is going to be like at all.

So really I try to put the least amount of effort into that Monday pro-am in caring about necessarily where the ball -- just trying to get a feel for everything.

And then on Tuesday I actually played 27 holes because I wanted to see South again when it was not blowing that way. I didn't get to play the back nine, but we came out and chipped and putted. As best as I could, I felt like I prepared myself for this week. So I think I'm starting to learn how to pick up where to put in the effort, where not to, not to waste energy because it is a long week. When I get to that first tee tomorrow, I want to be fresh, not tired.