

PRE-TOURNAMENT INTERVIEW
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MILLER BRADY
COLIN MONTGOMERIE



MILLER BRADY: Thank you very much. It's really truly exciting for the Champions Tour to be here alongside our friends from the LET Tour, so welcome. We're looking forward to a fantastic week.

It's great for us to be back in Morocco here in Rabat after three years missing, so we're truly excited. Such a warm, inviting culture. We played in Marrakesh three years ago, but to be here in Rabat associated with the Trophy, the 47th playing, is really, truly an honor for our tour, for our players. And really couldn't be more excited than to play at an historic venue that you have here in Rabat, such a great, great country.

On behalf of our players and our tour, I would like to thank His Royal Highness. He has a tremendous passion for the game of golf, which is why we're here, and the long history with this tournament. We're looking forward to a great week.

We have four Hall of Fame members in the field this week, including Colin Montgomerie. Think about this for a moment: All of the players combined have over 350 victories around the world. It's pretty impressive that we're able to bring that here to Morocco, so we're really excited about that.

And hopefully, Monty, at the end of the week you'll be holding that dagger as a trophy.

Q. (No microphone.)

MILLER BRADY: I think for us, for our tour to play the historic venue here at Dar Es Salam, it's not necessarily new for all of our players. There's a lot of history. We have a good number of players that not only played here, but won in the past that are in the field, whether it's Colin Montgomerie, Roger Chapman, Santiago Luna, so they know the venue.

I know it's changed a little bit over the years, but the players are familiar with the golf course. And those that may not be were out early this morning practicing, they'll be out during the pro-am experiences and they'll be out after the pro-ams so that they can get to know the golf course very well. But it has such a long history that our players are excited to be here.

(Question to Colin Montgomerie.)

COLIN MONTGOMERIE: Well, I've been to Morocco many, many times and I enjoy the trip thoroughly every time. It's only three hours from London, so it's easy.



Managed in the past to win here in 1997 and coming back here again, seeing the course and its beauty and the way that the course is designed is one of the best, most underrated courses in Europe. And I mean one of the best courses in Europe, it really is a fantastic layout and superb.

And because of that victory, I managed to design two courses here in Morocco, one in Marrakesh and one here in Rabat that carry my name. So I'm very proud and honored of that fact.

And all I can say is we look forward to showing you our skills, and not just our skills but the Ladies European Tour as well, their skills. It's great and it's unique that we have come together here to celebrate, as you were saying, as a celebration of golf, to celebrate golf.

And we look forward to the week ahead. The weather seems fair, seems set fair and we look forward to it. It's great that the Americans have come over here and, as Miller was saying, not just competing, but winning. The late, great Payne Stewart won here, Ernie Els won here. We have participants playing here, as you say, Santiago Luna, Roger Chapman and myself probably winning here in the past.

So it's great that we can come back and enjoy the hospitality of Morocco, so thank you for inviting us for starters.

Q. This question is for Colin Montgomerie. What kind of memories do you have of your victory here in '97?

COLIN MONTGOMERIE: OK. Well, it was 26 years ago, I'm sorry to say. It's a while ago. Yeah, just yesterday, eh? Not many, to be honest, 26 years ago.

I remember it was very close, I think I won by one shot. Never forget the trophy presentation and trying to get that dagger home on the plane was a problem. It had to be sent by boat, I believe.

But no, I just remember -- I remember how good the golf course was. The Dar Es Salam course is a tremendous golf course and I remember having to drive the ball extremely straight. And I think all of us will find that this week, that if you're offline at all, you're in big, big trouble. You've got to keep the ball very, very straight.

And there's a lot of unique characteristics to this course. Of course all the island greens and all the water that exist, but at the same time I just remember having to keep the ball straight. I was -- in 1997 I was No. 2 in the world and I was driving the ball very, very straight. So these courses suited me then, yes. I'm longer now, but I'm not as straight.

I look forward to the challenge of it, obviously to compete against my colleagues here from PGA TOUR Champions. We have a great, great bunch of lads. We're all out to beat each other, but when somebody does win, everybody is genuinely happy for their success.



Genuinely supportive and happy for their success, so that's a marvelous tour to be part of.

Q. Colin, you mentioned the courses and the venue of Dar Es Salam, but what's the difference between playing here in Morocco and other parts of the world?

COLIN MONTGOMERIE: Yes, it's not really very different at all. The grass is becoming very standardized throughout the world. You see the greens are a standard grass, the fairways are standard grass. This is at sea level, so there is no issues there with playing here in Morocco at all.

The weather's fantastic. So there's no differences really playing here. All that you have to do is you have to -- you have to thread your ball between the trees, you know? So that's very, very hard. And also to get the distance to the pin. The greens are very severe here. They have changed over the years and they're very severe, there's lots of slopes and you've got to be on the right side of the hole. In other words, you have to stay short of the hole sometimes. A longer putt short of the hole is better than a shorter putt above the hole. So you have to be on the fairway to control the distance with the second shots.

But there's no difference here. The standardized grasses and the way we are, and yes, everything is set fair really. We look forward to it. And the course is in fantastic condition and we just look forward to the championship to start, yeah.

