

ALBERTSONS BOISE OPEN
Presented by Chevron

ROUND 3 INTERVIEW
August 26, 2023



CHAN KIM

Q. Great battle with you and Ben today. Did it feel like it was really just the two of you guys as you looked at the leaderboard all day?

CHAN KIM: Pretty much. After Ben made I believe it was six in a row, I was like, oh, boy, I'm in trouble. I missed a couple makeable putts, and I felt like he was going to kind of run away with it, and I told myself, keep my head down, and whatever happens at the end of the day is going to happen.

Q. Tomorrow you're going to have the same pairing, out in front. Just thoughts on playing another round with Ben and probably being a similar scenario tomorrow.

CHAN KIM: Right. I expect him to play really well. He's obviously won twice. There was a couple mistakes today that I felt like weren't even really his fault. He kind of had some bad lies and was in tough situations. I capitalized on the back nine, made a couple birdies.

Yeah, I think it's going to be a fun battle tomorrow.

Q. It seemed like the crowds started kind of building late in the day. What was it like as you two were making birdies?

CHAN KIM: Yeah, it was getting quite loud out there, which is always fun. Makes everything exciting. We always appreciate fans coming out.

It was hot today, as well, and there was a lot of people out there. We're always thankful for them and for their support.

Q. He makes the eagle on 16 and you come back and stuff one on 17. How big was that one?

CHAN KIM: Definitely big. When I saw him hit it to the middle of the green, I thought, okay, at worst he's making par. I'd like to try and force a birdie and try and force him to make one. But I didn't expect him to leave that putt short.

Obviously on 18, I would have loved to have made that to stretch my lead a little bit more, but yeah, I'll take any lead I can get.



Q. Is the last two weeks sort of who you thought you could have been the whole year?

CHAN KIM: Yes. I've always felt like I could win out here. There was just weeks where I'd hit it well and I wouldn't putt well. Then I would putt well the next week and wouldn't hit it well.

I think just mentally it kind of drained me, so I kind of had to hit a little reset button after Utah, and obviously made the cut in Omaha, then won last week.

Yeah, I felt like I was capable, so I'm just happy to be in this position.

Q. You had a lead like this sort of at final stage and finished second. Is there anything you're going to take away from last November?

CHAN KIM: Yeah, so final stage of Q-school, I wasn't really expecting anybody to go low with how much wind we were having. I just thought I can kind of cruise in, and obviously that was not the case.

Tomorrow I'm just going to stick to my game plan, be aggressive when I need to be, and just stay confident out there.

Q. You're very, very close to sort of officially securing a PGA TOUR card. When the dream of first playing on the PGA TOUR kind of enter your mind?

CHAN KIM: I think definitely after last week. The win and getting 500 points there and moving myself up to 12th in the points list, that was definitely -- that definitely helped my mindset a little bit, and obviously taking some pressure off of this week and the rest of the finals.

I've played PGA TOUR events before and I've played majors before, and I haven't really had the best showings, but I've played half decent. I feel like hopefully when I go back this time around, I can make something special out of it.

Q. Was it something you first dreamt of growing up in Hawai'i?

CHAN KIM: Absolutely. As soon as I started golf, I think that's when Tiger Woods was just unbelievable, and growing up watching him and Ernie, I used to try and imitate Ernie's tempo all the time.

The PGA TOUR has always been the goal, and to be this close to it, it's a great feeling.

Q. Walk me through, born in Korea and grew up mostly in Hawai'i and played golf there?

CHAN KIM: Yeah, so I was born in Korea. My parents moved to Hawai'i when I was two. My dad wanted to start a tourist business. So we moved out there, and I've played just about every sport, I think, growing up, basketball, tennis, soccer. I did some martial arts in there, believe it or not. I skateboarded for the longest time.



Golf was just kind of -- it was a late start for me. I started when I was 12. Luckily I had a very good coach so kept things very simple. Two years into it started winning golf tournaments. That's when I really wanted to see how good I could get. Then obviously being recruited by Arizona State, moved over there when I was 17 and played for them and just kind of ended up staying there.

Q. Was there another one of those sports that you listed that was kind of close to sticking around with golf or not really?

CHAN KIM: Probably not. I'm not the fastest runner, so soccer is a no-go. I remember playing pee-wee baseball, and I would strike out every time, so that's a no-go, as well. I'm glad the ball is stationary here.

Q. There's no skateboards in the garage or anything?

CHAN KIM: Oh, I think the most I ever did was only like a four- or five-stair, but I'm glad I'm still not doing that because I'd definitely injure myself.

Q. Did you play for one or two seasons at Arizona State?

CHAN KIM: I played for two seasons and had a really good summer following my sophomore year and thought that I'd be ready. I started my career off in Canada. It was great. It was a good place to learn.

Obviously then I went over and played Asian Tour and European Challenge Tour and then played over in Japan until I ended up here. I've pretty much played every tour you can think of. But I'm definitely hoping for that PGA TOUR card next year.

Q. Do you ever look back and think maybe another year of college would have helped or do you think that --

CHAN KIM: I kind of think it's half and half. There are some regrets where I feel like if I had stuck out all four years I maybe would have started off a little hotter with my professional career, but at the same time, I've gained so much experience within those two years. Those are valuable to me.

Q. What are you looking forward to most tomorrow?

CHAN KIM: Hopefully the trophy and maybe a couple more Modelos in that trophy.

