

ALBERTSONS BOISE OPEN
Presented by Chevron

ROUND 4 INTERVIEW
August 27, 2023

CHAN KIM (-28)



Q. Chan, just thoughts on two weeks in a row? Have you played better golf two weeks in a row like this?

CHAN KIM: Absolutely not. Especially this week where I went bogey free for 72 holes, 26 birdies and an eagle. I knew for sure somebody was going to go low today and so I knew I had to go low. I played solid all week, and honestly, if I had lost by two or three or four, I wouldn't have been shocked. As long as I play well, I think I've done all I can do. But I'm absolutely excited about the results.

Q. At what point did you see like David shot 59?

CHAN KIM: Oh, I was watching the leaderboard the whole day. At first it was kind of, you know, pretty much the guys in my group, then I look at the board I think on hole 12 and he's right there. Then I heard a roar on 16 because I knew he was on 16, I'm assuming eagle.

Yeah, to shoot 59 in the final round is just unbelievable golf. Yeah, he gave me a run for my money and I just kind of had to keep my head down and really get after it. That birdie on 16 really helped, gave me a nice little cushion. Yeah, I'm very happy.

Q. I know you guys do plenty of your own calculations and math on if you've locked up a card or not, but what does it mean to officially hear today that you're going to the PGA TOUR?

CHAN KIM: Yeah, definitely means the world to me. This is what I came here to do. That was a goal from the beginning of the year. I took the risk of coming over here to play instead of just playing in Japan. Yeah, to achieve the goal is great. Now I'd like to finish off strong in the last three.

Q. And you went back and forth between Arizona and Japan quite a bit, a lot of long flights. What were you thinking about a lot on those flights going back and forth?

CHAN KIM: Definitely about winning. As soon as I get there, like I want to win. For some reason I felt like I was getting a little too comfortable out there. When the World Ranking Points were great, it was great, but now that the World Ranking Points have dropped out there and there's 30 cards here compared to 25 last year, I just felt it was the right time to come over. And on my off-weeks I can sleep in my own bed, so that's a bonus.



Q. What's kept you motivated kind of throughout the career? It's been a long journey just to keep chasing that.

CHAN KIM: Yeah, it has been a long journey. The end goal was always to play on the PGA TOUR and now it's obviously I'd love to be No. 1 in the world. Now we've got better players and guys that are shooting consistently lower scores. It's going to be a grind, but I enjoy it and I'm looking forward to it.

Q. What do you think is your personal competitive advantage? Like what is it about you that allowed you to get to this spot?

CHAN KIM: I am pretty laid back, I guess, but when I'm up there near the lead or in the lead, I'm going to fight like hell. So I think that's kind of what has helped me to win overseas and here now. Yeah, I just need to keep my head down and just keep going.

Q. Your wife's support, she's out here grinding with you, supporting you. Just what does her support mean to you when she's there through the bogeys and the birdies?

CHAN KIM: Yeah, I can't thank her enough for being out here. Obviously the spectators, where they walk is actually a lot harder than where the players walk. It's hard to spectate on top of that. Like I know how I'm feeling on the golf course and if I'm going to hit a good shot or whatnot, but she has no clue. Spectators are always -- I think they have more adrenaline pumping and they're more nervous than we are.

But yeah, it's been great having her out. I'm glad that I could get a win with her by my side because, like I said, she has to go back to Korea next week. You know, at least the Vegas trip next week will be a little bit better before she goes.

Q. What's the plan for the Vegas trip?

CHAN KIM: Well, I've gotten a couple lessons out there after Salt Lake that have really kind of turned my game around. I've just simplified things. I'm going to go back, grab some more lessons and probably go watch a couple shows. Who knows what else will happen in Vegas, right?

Q. I kind of saw your face when they were talking about over a thousand winners on this tour, nobody going bogey free, and you were kind of like, wow, how special is that?

CHAN KIM: I mean, incredibly special I guess make history in a sense. I think as athletes that's kind of what we strive for, we want to be No. 1 and we want to stay there for as long as we can.

So yeah, to do something like that, I'm sure with how good these guys are it's going to



happen again. Somebody's probably going to be 30 under with no bogeys, two eagles and a hole-in-one. These guys are so good. But I'm happy to have it right now.

Q. What was the best par you made this week?

CHAN KIM: Definitely the one on hole 3. I believe it might have been the second round. I was greenside into and I thought that the greens are soft so I kind of hit an aggressive chip, rolled over the green, then chipped that one past the hole to about 10 feet and made that. That's definitely by far the best par I made all week.

Q. And then looking at your career, is there any year in particular or any moment that was kind of the hardest, like the most challenging obstacle or stretch?

CHAN KIM: The biggest one was at the end of the 2017 season. I had won three times in Japan, I finished tied for 11th at Birkdale at the British Open and then I hurt my back towards the end and that took me out for a full year. So I was kind of wondering, OK, if this doesn't work, like what do I do from here.

But I went to I think eight different doctors both here and in Korea and got myself back in shape, and I'm just fortunate to be playing golf right now.

Q. Did you have surgery at all?

CHAN KIM: I did not, no.

Q. And what was the kind of issue?

CHAN KIM: Just muscle stiffness, but I've always had a bulging disc and it's a bit dehydrated. So basically the vertebrae were kind of touching -- like punching each other because one side was tight. So as long as I keep that nice and loose, I won't have any more problems.

Q. How long did you go without playing?

CHAN KIM: Exactly like a -- like a year and a month, I believe. I actually started swinging a club two weeks before the Singapore event, which is co-sanctioned between I think the Asian Tour and the Japan Tour. Started swinging, hopped on a plane, went to see how I could do. Missed the cut by one, so I shocked myself. Like I said, I'm just glad to be swinging and healthy and obviously winning, I guess.

Q. You've won a lot of cool I think gifts through the years. Is there going to be a gift to yourself for getting a PGA TOUR card now?

CHAN KIM: I think that in itself is a gift for myself, getting my PGA TOUR card. Like last week, I won last week, I knew I was 12th on the Money List.



One of the other guys that caddies for me, Ben, he's a big stats guy. So I actually messaged him before this week started, I was like I'm at like 934 points or whatever. I said, are you sure I'm safe, because I want to know, I want to play pressure free. He said yes, I'm sure. But in the back of your mind you still want to play well. Until I get that Tour Bound next to my name, I was going to fight like hell. To be able to do it in this fashion is amazing.

Q. The birdie putt on 18, what was going through your head, what was your goal there, and was that a misread when it ended up a couple feet?

CHAN KIM: To be honest, I thought I hit a really good putt there, I thought I had a really good read on it. I was expecting it to break right a little bit more slowly back up the hill, I knew I could make bogey to win, but at the same time I was bogey free for 71 holes, so I wanted to finish bogey free. I thought I read it right, but some of these greens are tricky to read.

Q. And back on I think 15, short par 4, you ended up in a flowerbed?

CHAN KIM: I did.

Q. What was the conversation with the rules official?

CHAN KIM: They spray paint it white for ground under repair. I would have had a shot, it was just kind of in the gravel. It was a good lie, but there was some white paint around it, so I had to call an official over just to make sure. It was ground under repair. Had a good drop in the rough and hit it up there pretty good and gave myself a chance for birdie. Yeah, I was very fortunate.

Q. Who were the lessons with in Vegas?

CHAN KIM: Nick Helwig. He works with the Butch Harmon schools. That would be pretty cool to see him next week.

Q. What did you guys work on?

CHAN KIM: Honestly, he told me two things. The first thing was don't lock your right knee up when you rotate back. He goes just try and feel like everything's kind of moving through to your left when you swing through. Literally, that's been my two swing thoughts for the last three weeks. It's worked out pretty well, so I guess just keep that going.

Q. Had you worked with him before?

CHAN KIM: No.

Q. Who connected you with him?



CHAN KIM: So I have a coach back in Arizona, his name's Andy Patnou. I've been working with him for eight years. We've been talking about that for a long time where like my right side has just been kind of slowing down, slowing down, and we've been working on a lot of ways to try and get my swing back in order. We were up in Salt Lake and Vegas was right there, so we just decided, OK, well, I've had lessons from them in the past with them, Don Callahan, saw some success there, so I thought I'd give it another go. I guess it's like deja vu all over again.

Q. I know you mentioned a couple weeks ago you were fighting just to make sure you were good for the Top 75.

CHAN KIM: Right. I was starting to get a little worried there because I had missed three in a row and then I moved down to 54th on the list. With Finals being so big with more points, I really want to make sure I could play Finals. I knew I was safe for the first two at least, but if I had kept missing cuts, who knows what could have happened. I'm very lucky to be standing here with two wins now.

