

PRE-TOURNAMENT PRESS CONFERENCE
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MIN WOO LEE



MODERATOR: We would like to welcome Min Woo Lee into the interview room making his debut appearance at the Procore Championship.

Min Woo, I know you played the back nine. If we can get your thoughts on being here at Silverado this week.

MIN WOO LEE: It's awesome. Obviously the weather's amazing so it's nice to be in a place that's known for its wine. I'm getting into wine. It's a good place.

Course is really nice. A lot of people said the rough is not thick, but it is very thick. I was coming into this week thinking, you know, it's OK if you hit the driver a little crooked, but now that's going to be pretty (indiscernible.) It's good fun, it's going to be challenging. It's already kind of hardening up and getting a little firmer, so see where the end of the week takes us.

MODERATOR: So the season continues for you, two runner-up finishes this year at Cognizant and Rocket Mortgage. If you can just recap the year for us.

MIN WOO LEE: Yeah, just rating it would probably be like a B minus. First year out here, I obviously kept my card. I guess it was tough to make it into the Signature Events not playing the events, so I think it was a pretty solid year. Played OK. It was pretty consistent, a lot of top 25s. Obviously the two seconds were nice. Yeah, it wasn't -- not too many like top end positions, but yeah, it was very consistent, which is what I'm looking for. Obviously means I did everything pretty good, just not as good as I wanted to. It was solid.

MODERATOR: And before questions, you received a call from Mike Weir recently that I know you've been waiting on. Just talk a little bit about how excited you are to make your Presidents Cup debut at Royal Montreal.

MIN WOO LEE: Yeah, I'm excited. We went out there to Montreal last week and got to hang out with the boys and captains and assistant captains, which was amazing just to be around really good golfers and obviously fellow Aussies. Very cool, very excited.

Obviously America's very good on paper and everywhere else, so we've got to play really good to be in contention and to beat them. Yeah, hopefully it will be a good week. Yeah, looking forward to playing in Canada and the crowd on our side.

Q. You mentioned the Signature Events and right now you're 60th in the FedExCup, meaning if the fall were to end today you would get into Genesis, you would get into Pebble Beach. How much will you play in the fall and how much will that number kind

of be on your mind?

MIN WOO LEE: Yeah, no, not too much. I'm not playing too much in the fall. I'm going to go play in Europe and Australia at the end of the year. Not too many fall events on the schedule right now. I want to go out there and hopefully play good in the ones I'm registered in.

Yeah, I wish I guess it ended this week. No, I mean, I'm looking forward to it. If I get in, I get in. Not too much pressure on myself.

Q. Do you feel like if you can just get into Riviera and if you can get to Pebble Beach you can kind of solidify your position going forward?

MIN WOO LEE: Yeah, I think, I don't know, someone put up on social media that not too many people went out of that top 50 playing in these events, in the Signature Events. I think there's definitely a lot of points up for grabs if you do play in all of them or almost all of them. Yeah, my goal is to play and try to get into those events. Hopefully I can and play well in them.

Q. I think there's probably a lot of people out there who wish they could swing it like you. I'm just wondering if you have a primary swing thought and if so, what would that be?

MIN WOO LEE: Primary swing thought. I don't really have too much in the offseason, but after Memphis I was working on my grip and I was working on just my takeaway really. It's looking a lot better and swinging it pretty good right now actually, which is good. Yeah, it was more just like it was on the radar to do it, you know, over the year or over the season, but yeah, I don't have too much time off so I had to do it just after Memphis.

It's looking good. Just had to get my grip a little stronger and it was a bit too weak, my right hand was a bit too over. That kind of made it hard to take away the way I wanted to, take the club away. Yeah, working on it slowly and it's coming along nicely.

Q. Two Presidents Cup questions for you. Can you describe where you were when you got that phone call from Mike Weir, and then secondly, a lot has been written about how you modeled yourself or you really looked up to Jason Day when you were little. Is that somebody you would like to play with or have you kind of thought ahead as far as who you would like to play with?

MIN WOO LEE: Yeah, I was in Vegas when I got the call. That's where I live now and I practice. It was just after a practice session.

Yeah, got the phone call, it was a good one. It wasn't too long, it was just, you know, excited to see you next week at the scouting trip we did last week and congratulations. It was a very cool call.

I know it was very tough for him to make a few of those decisions. Yeah, hopefully we go out there and give it our best. Yeah, it was a nice call.

And yeah, I looked up to Jason and Adam Scott a lot. Sure I watched plenty of YouTube videos to swing it like him and putt like him. Still do. I ask so many questions and they're both so willing to give out information and give out their wisdoms over the last few years. Obviously very great golfers, No. 1 in the world and major champions. It's awesome.

To be honest, looking at the team, every person on the team is very solid in their game, so if they want long drives in the rough, I mean, they would choose me. I hit it somewhat straight for the length I have. They're all good ball-strikers and good putters. I have a bit of freedom in this format when I play with them if we play best ball. Yeah, I'm excited. Those Aussies are amazing and they don't have many flaws in their game, so I can go out there and play freely.

Q. Did you feel it was important for you to play before the Presidents Cup?

MIN WOO LEE: Yeah, I didn't have too much time off, but yeah, I feel like I've been playing quite a lot. Took a trip to Truckee and then Montreal right after each other. It was nice to go out of Vegas and kind of play games with my friends. And yeah, I think it is important. You don't want to be too rusty going into an event that's quite important. Yeah, I definitely made sure I played here in Napa. I know a few of the boys are playing in Wentworth next week in England. The travel was I feel like a bit too far for me, but Scotty's helping some of the boys out with his plane, so makes it a little easier.

Q. How's that going to work?

MIN WOO LEE: Well, Adam Scott's playing Wentworth and a few of the other boys are playing, so normally you would take a normal plane, but Scotty's got a cooler than normal plane and a faster one, so that's what I meant.

Q. How much experience do you have playing foursomes?

MIN WOO LEE: I guess amateur days. Played Bonallack Trophy, I think that was the last time we played that kind of format. I feel like we play a lot just at matches back home, best ball's the thing and you're playing with three other people and you have a teammate.

Yeah, I mean, at the end of the day you're just trying to get the ball in the hole, make birdie. It's not like we're -- I mean, I've asked a lot of questions about what should I do in this scenario, what should I do in that scenario, but it ends up being pretty common sense. Like just whatever questions I ask, it's what I know already and you just go and play and make birdie.

Q. What's your earliest memory of watching or knowing about the Presidents Cup?

MIN WOO LEE: Yeah, obviously Tiger Woods. The big one was in Australia, right? It was nice to see a course that I've played and they played really well in. Yeah, I mean, not too many, I guess, Presidents Cups because I was like -- I guess Ryder Cups I couldn't play in them, but I watched a little bit. Presidents Cup was every two years, so I kind of watched it now and then. But now that I'm on the team, it's pretty cool. I'll watch highlights and how they played. Again, birdies.

Q. What would you say are your goals this week? Obviously you want to win, but what are you looking for out of your game and what can a strong showing here do for you?

MIN WOO LEE: Yeah, I think a lot of it's mentality. I feel like playing at the Olympics with Jason Day, that was one of the big things I took away from it. Just kind of belief a little bit.

Sometimes you just go every week just trying to play golf. I think the best in the world have a different level. I feel like I can hit most shots when I can, but yeah, just believing in myself and not letting -- not just trying to hit one shot at a time, just kind of making sure I'm mentally there. I think that's the biggest thing. When I'm mentally on the golf course thinking I can do it, I feel like I play pretty well. Hopefully I can do that.

The swing and everything else is pretty solid I would say. Yeah, obviously a win would be nice, but tough out here, a lot of good golfers. Just go out there and hit one shot at a time with some mentality.

Q. And then as far as the area, I'm curious if you spent much time in Napa and if you're planning to do any wine tasting this week or is it just golf?

MIN WOO LEE: I mean, I would have loved to have some wine, but again, you don't try to change many things in a golf week. I would have loved to do it on a week off and experience all the wine clubs and drink more wine. No, I take this, the week as serious as any other week, not too much wine for me.

MODERATOR: Anything else? All right. Min Woo, thank you for your time. Best of luck this week.

MIN WOO LEE: Cheers, thank you.