

PRE-TOURNAMENT PRESS CONFERENCE  
February 11, 2025



COLLIN MORIKAWA

**MODERATOR:** We would like to welcome the No. 4 ranked in the world, Collin Morikawa, here into the Genesis Invitational media center.

Collin, you had a chance to play some holes today. Can you talk a little bit about the course?

**COLLIN MORIKAWA:** Yeah. Unfortunately, I couldn't play a couple weeks ago, so it's good to see -- I watched obviously a little bit of the Farmers and saw how firm and fast everything was and just assumed the rough was going to be growing out. They definitely did that this week.

With the forecast, the weather, the rain, it's going to play really tough. It's going to play long, it's going to play where fairways matter a lot. I don't think you can really overpower a golf course this long when the rough is that big. Fairways are going to be important. Torrey Pines is already a very, very difficult golf course, I look forward to that. Just have a challenge in front of us.

**MODERATOR:** Collin, obviously we're here in San Diego for unfortunate reasons due to the devastation up in Los Angeles. You being a California native, can you talk a little bit about what you're doing to give back through the West Coast Swing?

**COLLIN MORIKAWA:** Yeah, starting at Pebble, decided to donate \$1,000 per birdie and \$2,000 per eagle between Pebble Beach and this week to the California Community Foundation and the L.A. Fire Department Foundation.

I know this week the tournament I believe is partnering with California Rises, so there's a lot of foundations out there, a lot of communities that are in need, a lot of people and families that are in need. Just to kind of do a little bit of support and just create awareness.

We've seen this too often. I think even with the most recent one for me that hit home was the Lahaina fires. Fires happen. People kind of forget and then you move on to the next cycle. I realize that's how news and media works, but for how big of an impact Los Angeles has gone through with everything with the fires, you just have to keep creating awareness as much as you can. It's amazing to help out in my little bit and hopefully we make a lot of birdies starting Thursday.

**Q. You and JJ like to go back and forth a lot. If they allowed range finders, which they're testing, would you use it? Do you think it would help anything?**

**COLLIN MORIKAWA:** Like PGA Championship allows it and I normally -- I use it and I just

shoot the number just to like quicken things up. JJ's going to hate this, but he's not like a slower caddie but he likes to take his time sometimes, so that's part of the whole speed thing, right?

I would use it. It wouldn't really add more time because I would do it first thing, I would be out of it. Then as he's walking things off, it would be like as if he would normally walk it off in any other tournament that we can't use it.

**Q. Do you feel like that's a good move to kind of speed things up?**

**COLLIN MORIKAWA:** It helps more from the fact when you're out of position. Like not really in the fairways I don't think it's going to change anything. I don't think it's the end solution to changing our pace of play from if you had five hours and 20 minutes to four and a half hours, right? It's not going to shave 45 minutes off our time for pace of play.

I know a lot of people complained when we were or when the Tour was here a few weeks ago how slow it was, but when you have a course in front of you that is that difficult and the winds are up and the conditions are that tough, it's just going to play slower, like there's no way around it. I get it, guys are slower than others and sometimes it takes too long, but tough conditions make it play slower no matter what. It's going to happen that way.

**Q. Collin, while we're on the topic of that, Lucas Glover about a week ago said he thought AimPoint should be banned. That's a practice you've used. How do you feel about that? Also, statistically have you seen any improvement in your putting in using that, because he mentioned stats being definitive in claiming that it's not helpful.**

**COLLIN MORIKAWA:** Yeah, it's -- yeah, I have nothing against Lucas, but if we're banning AimPoint I think we should ban long putters as well.

I don't know. I guess no one has said it, right?

Like let's just -- look, AimPoint does take longer if you're not doing it properly, right, if you're not doing it when other players are reading their putts. I think there's a respect issue. I think some players might get a little bit too close to the hole and I get that. When you get too close to the hole when someone else is putting, yeah, like I don't want my line and my putt to go over someone else's foot and their marks.

I mean, are you going to tell other players not to walk around the hole when we're picking up putts?

From my perspective, AimPoint has 1,000 percent helped me. I listen to the announcers sometimes during play and they say why would you AimPoint this, this and that. It gets a basis of how I read a putt and how I start my lines. It's just like reading something from behind the hole or behind the ball, that's how I'm getting my general read for that.

I don't think people understand how AimPoint works to really say this is right or wrong. Does it slow down play? I think there are some players that maybe do it in the wrong spots.

And sometimes, look, I'll admit it, maybe I can't get in when I want to so it adds a couple more seconds. But I know that and I'm aware of that. I think players need to be aware if they're slow or not, right? Like let people know who is slow and do something about it, right?

**Q. Collin, we heard about this Fan Forward thing, how the fans are really gung ho about slow play. Is this really a folly of this whole idea that you're going to appreciably change slow play on this tour?**

**COLLIN MORIKAWA:** With the aspect of the fans, I mean, I realize they're complaining about slow play, but if you showed them more shots I don't think they would complain about the slow play, right? How would they know if it's slow play or not if they're seeing more shots in general in the window of the coverage?

But it is an issue on the Tour. By no means is it something that should be looked over. It should be solved. Obviously you see what the LPGA's doing. You need to start fining people. Look, if I got slapped on the wrist and got a fine like absolutely would I not want to be fined again. It's just like the NBA, like the technicals, right? Some guys are OK with getting fined every week for teasing. If guys are OK getting technicals and getting penalties out here on Tour because they're slow, so be it. Something needs to happen to say like -- and no one wants to be that Guinea pig, that first guy to do it and to get it, but it has to start somewhere.

**Q. Would it hurt you more if it was money or FedExCup points?**

**COLLIN MORIKAWA:** It would all hurt. I don't want to lose any of it.

I mean, whatever the amount is, like I don't think any of the guys want to be losing it. And FedExCup points, I don't think you want to be losing that either.

**Q. And lastly, just appreciably how much do you think you could really cut off out here in regards to time?**

**COLLIN MORIKAWA:** It's a very loaded question. Golf course, weather dependent. It's not like we don't play fast at some golf courses, right? We're not playing in five and a half hours every week, but a golf course like this where honestly there's going to be a lot of looks, like a lot of searches for balls in the rough because the balls sit all the way down, it's going to be wet, it's going to take longer.

Sometimes the way golf courses are set up, there's backups early on because there's a par 5 on hole 10, 11, 12 or 1, 2, or 3. Just the way courses are designed. And that's not a knock on anything, it's just how we're playing. We go for par 5s a lot, there's going to be waits.

So like I said, it's not a horrible, horrible, issue. It's more of how do we just pick things up and not allow slow players to get away with being slow and interrupting the pace of everything else, of everyone else playing around the tournament.

It's an unfair advantage essentially to say I'm going to just do what I want and just say, hey, pick it up. It's not fair for everyone else to try to go faster.

**Q. Collin, do you watch much golf when you're not playing? And if you do, what do you see as a guy who plays this for a living as you're watching the broadcast? Do you just see shots? What kind of product is it?**

**COLLIN MORIKAWA:** I have it in the background sometimes. I can't say I like sit down and just watch coverage. It's more just like background if I'm doing stuff at home or whatever it might be.

What do I see? Well, I see a lot of commercials, which that's fine. I also just see a lot of dead zone of golf. I realize like that's how golf is, right? There's a process that we all go through. Like nothing's exciting because it doesn't happen until after the ball's hit, right? But I'm sure there can be ways to be lined up to where you see a lot more shots.

I think the caddie conversations are real interesting, but if you showed one whole segment of a caddie conversation and then you showed a bunch of consecutive shots after that, it would be like, oh, here we go, we're picking up the pace of things, right?

Just like how we all want to pick up the pace of slow play, maybe it's a change of cadence on the broadcast of this shot. You know, I'm sure everything's on a slight delay, I think that's how everything works in the world. Like just picking things up in a way to be able to see a few more shots here and there I think would be great.

**Q. What I was getting at, does it look slow to you?**

**COLLIN MORIKAWA:** Golf's slow in -- you can't compare golf to any other sport. It's never going to be as fast as anything else, right? Even when you compare it to TGL, like I've watched some of the TGL stuff, even though we have a 40-second shot clock, even though we're moving a lot faster, if you watch it, it's still slower than everything else because that's just how it works.

That's just how golf is. We're walking, we're methodical, we go through our process to hit these shots. And the excitement of golf happens after the fact of the shot, not the buildup of someone driving, you know, spinning around and then dunking on someone else. The excitement is always after. We never know what that is, there's always an unknown, but that's just part of golf.

**Q. Collin, they also mentioned the idea of some transparency in terms of who are the**

**slow players. Do you think the public should know that and what effect do you think it would have if it was disclosed who the slow players really are?**

**COLLIN MORIKAWA:** I'm all for it, I think it would be great. And shoot, even if it was -- even if we only did get it in the Tour, someone's bound to find it, right? Things leak.

Yeah, how would it affect the Tour? I mean, some guys I'm sure would hear it out on the golf course. Make our game more exciting, you know? Last week, watching last week, I was like man, honestly, I kind of wish I was playing because you get that excitement. TGL, you get that excitement sometimes. Sometimes you only get that excitement when you're playing really, really well in a final round, in a final group on the weekend. But if that builds more interest from people to come out and watch us and they think you're slow and then you go out and you're actually not and they become a fan because you were slow? Sure, I think it's all good things. It's not going to be that bad if you let a list out, I don't think so.

**Q. What's your beef with the long putter?**

**COLLIN MORIKAWA:** Well, I mean, I'm just throwing shade back at my AimPoint guys. I'm protecting my AimPoint guys, right? There's guys that long putt and have AimPoint. I don't have any beef. I don't have anything wrong with putting like that, I just -- I had to protect my AimPoint guys.

**Q. It doesn't do anything with pace of play?**

**COLLIN MORIKAWA:** What, the long putter? No, no. But, you know, there's some type of anchoring with like -- it's different.

**Q. I was going to ask that similar question about transparency. There is a fine structure, right, as guys continue to get bad times or whatever and it can get up there. I mean, if they would just publish that, wouldn't sort of the, you know, -- there would sort of be this negativity associated with it that maybe it would spur the guys on just from that standpoint. And have you ever heard any pushback from your peers into wanting to kind of make that stuff public?**

**COLLIN MORIKAWA:** No, I've never really talked to anyone about it. Whether it's public or not, I think you're focusing on the wrong thing. It's more just you've got to do something about it, right, and I don't think enough people are getting fined or enough people are getting penalized.

Yeah, I get my warnings when you're with a group and you're slow or you're behind. Like I said, there's a cadence to golf where I've had many times where I've been warned and then in a whole and a half we're on it not because we rushed, but because of the cadence of golf. Our group might be making a lot of pars and bogeys, the group ahead might be making birdies. We go make two birdies and we're caught up on a par 5, right?

It's not about that. It's not about is the group slow, and that's the whole problem right now is like, yeah, we time individuals. It should only be individuals because that's where the whole issue is. You add up the amount of shots we're playing over a four-day week and yeah, you might be on the cusp of just over but you add all those times together, it's a lot of time, right?

So how do we narrow that down and how do you start creating a benchmark of saying, OK, you're going over too many times, one's too many, like let's just hand it to them versus I don't know what the structure of fines are for slow play.

**Q. We would all like it to be sunny and beautiful out here, but the weather this week, colder, potential rain, how does that affect the beast that is Torrey Pines South and maybe your ability to score a little bit lower?**

**COLLIN MORIKAWA:** Normally when Torrey is sunny, like let's look back at a few years ago when we had the U.S. Open out here, fairways were firm, rolling out, rough is just as long as Torrey Pines just say, but now you're not getting any roll-out in the fairways so it's going to play a lot longer. Greens might play a little bit softer, but winds are going to be up. You're going to be hitting more 6-, 5-, 4-irons into par 3s and into par 4s. You're not going to get the roll-out that you would in the fairways. It's just going to play a lot longer and long only makes it harder. Then you add the factor of the weather, wind, rain, scores generally aren't low in those conditions.

**Q. CNN ask you a lot of slow play questions?**

**COLLIN MORIKAWA:** No, no. He was reminding me of my wins.

**Q. We're in about the second or third year of these elevated events and I don't know how many nonsignature events you played last year, probably three or four? Colonial, Torrey, ZOZO?**

**COLLIN MORIKAWA:** Colonial, Torrey, Zurich, ZOZO.

**Q. When you're kind of around the same like large group of players in majors and sig events and playoffs, do you have a sense that you have a good pulse on the entirety of the players, the membership, compared with your early days? Not that you're an old man.**

**COLLIN MORIKAWA:** Yeah, I think a lot more people -- and there's nothing wrong with it, but a lot more people have opinions now than they did when I -- let's call it five years ago when I played more WGCs and you see the same guys over, right, and you played the majors. It's like at that point, like when I won my first major at the PGA, right, it's like I had seen every single person there many, many times.

I'm not one that goes out and asks people their opinions, I just kind of sit back and listen and see how things are flowing with the Tour.

Yeah, I think a lot more people have opinions and there's nothing wrong with that, and they're sharing that. I don't know if we're all focused on like how do we make the product better for people, right? I think we've made golf really, really good for ourselves and there's nothing wrong with that. I think every one of us feels like we deserve that and I think we do.

But how do we keep growing, getting more engagement, getting more eyeballs to the sport? How do we have people want to come out to the golf course and say I want to go watch these 20 players play? I think we're sometimes focusing on small issues that are important, but then we make it like it's going to solve the whole thing.

**Q. Can you give an example of that?**

**COLLIN MORIKAWA:** My best example is I know a lot of people have complained about -- both sides, like the 125 getting down, cut to 100, right, and they say it's going to make it better for slow play and better for fans or whatever, right?

It makes it better for the membership because now those 100 guys that keep their card can say I can set my schedule in January, January 1st, and this is what I'm going to play. Even guys that are 125 right now, they're still like maybe I get into this, maybe I get into that. Aside from the big Signature Events, aside from the majors, I'm saying full field events.

So it's just focusing on the right things of saying -- of thinking about the product. How does it come off on TV, how do people watch it at home, where do they watch it, why do they watch it, why do people want to come out? People want to go out to Phoenix because it's a party, there's nothing wrong with that. Each tournament has their own thing, right? Each tournament has their kind of own, what do I call it, just has its own essence, the way it shows out.

So it's tough to get that when you have 40-something events. There needs to be a focus on that versus the minute, minute stuff that could affect, you know, smaller, lesser group of people.

**Q. (Question regarding joining the PAC.)**

**COLLIN MORIKAWA:** No, no, I have not. I feel like Jay's been great to me. I feel like I can get a lot more done in 20 minutes if I really have an opinion and I really want to share with him or share with someone else that's on the Tour.

My attention span for three hours is not there to sit in those meetings, and I praise those guys that they do. They do a great job, those guys on the PAC, those guys on the board. I just, you know, not my thing.

**Q. What did you do during your classes in college?**

**COLLIN MORIKAWA:** A lot of doodles on my computer, a lot of visualizing what shots I'm going to hit at our next college tournament, but still retaining the information.

**Q. Collin, following up on the weather, your last start obviously at Pebble impacted by the weather, what takeaways do you have from that start that you can apply to this week knowing we've got some trouble looming?**

**COLLIN MORIKAWA:** Yeah, I think it rained on Saturday. Actually played with Rory that day and he played amazing golf. It was for a stretch of about four and a half holes, it was some of the toughest golf that I had played back compared to even last year's Open for a good stretch of holes. Just so difficult.

I hit 3-wood into hole 10, Rory hit 4-iron into hole 10 last week, a week ago at Pebble and normally hit pitching wedge or 9-iron. So shows you how difficult that is for how good Rory is and how far he hits it.

There's little things that I felt I just lost a little bit of control with the irons that I kind of worked on last week. It's hard to work on something and actually reinforce that when the weather's not exact -- you know, raining. There's little things you can learn from that and take it out here to hopefully have a little more control. You never know until it happens, but there's changes that had to be made and hopefully they'll show up.

**Q. Can you give an example of one of those little things?**

**COLLIN MORIKAWA:** Well, I mean, just like control, like I felt like I started losing balls out to the right. I felt like the body wasn't working as well. It's just making sure I have the feels in my swing when it's that cold and that windy to know where the ball's going.

**Q. And one more from me: What do you have to do this week to end up on that stage Sunday night with the trophy?**

**COLLIN MORIKAWA:** Yeah, I love this question. Everything, you have to do everything well. Like you can ask that to anyone. They might say I have to do this, I need to do that. You have to do everything well.

If I look back on all my wins, maybe some things aren't firing perfect, but I mean, one, you've got to hit your irons really, really well if you're going to want to contend.

**Q. How much does it affect you when you play with players in your group that are slow?**

**COLLIN MORIKAWA:** Yeah, I think I was more worried about that when I first turned pro. I could care less now. Like I know that if our group does get a warning, like I'm a person that likes to just follow the rules and be with it. So when we get warned, I like to rush myself and get farther up there.

But at the end of the day I know that when the clock is on me and just say a rules official has a timer, like I'm not the reason why.

Yes, it might be an accumulation of we had a lot of bad shots, hazards, whatever. It doesn't affect me.

It sucks because there's players out there that are slow that maybe, one, they don't know they're slow or they do and they just don't care about the respect of others out there. That's an issue. But you can't force that on someone to say like, hey, pick it up. You can fine 'em or penalize 'em or, you know, do something about it, but I can't change someone because they care or they don't care. That's not our position.

**Q. I know you talked about the fires earlier, but you always come across being so proud being from La Cañada and it's so close to where the Eaton fire was. I was there a couple weeks ago at the firefighter basecamp. What has struck you the most about the resilience of those communities there as they look to rebuild?**

**COLLIN MORIKAWA:** Yeah, I think how diverse L.A. is and how big it is, you never really think of L.A. as a full one community, but I think that's what you've seen out of this, right? That's what amazes me and that's what makes me proud to be an Angeleno. You see that and you're like, wow, that's true community right there.

You see that a lot in a small cities, smaller places around the country that always band together and you're really proud to be from there.

I get it, L.A. has changed a lot since I grew up and it will always keep changing, right, but when things like that -- when things like the fires happen, the community comes together, people want to help out and that's what you want to see. So it's good to be from there. I'm very, very proud of it and I'll always try to represent L.A. as best as I can.

**MODERATOR:** Thanks so much, Collin. Have a great rest of your week.