

**PRE-TOURNAMENT PRESS CONFERENCE**  
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**COLLIN MORIKAWA**

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THE MODERATOR: We'd like to welcome Collin Morikawa into the interview room here at the 2026 Genesis Invitational. You're coming off a great week last week at AT&T Pebble Beach with a victory. Just give us an idea of how you celebrated on Sunday night and what the last three days have been like for you.

COLLIN MORIKAWA: Yeah, went home, actually saw my parents. Being out here in LA, figured why not. Just was relaxing. It was almost kind of nice to have Monday off with the rain. It wasn't the plan to go take Monday off, but I had a couple other obligations I had set before even the week, and just kind of a normal day's work.

But the last few days have been amazing. It's amazing how much the TOUR cares and the congrats and all that stuff. But a lot of them are about the baby, too. Our lives are going to change, Kat and myself, and we're just really excited. But it definitely takes a little bit of relief but a lot of joy, I think, what's happened over the last 72 hours.

Q. It's a home game for you, local California guy. What's it like for you to come into this event where you've played several times with the confidence you've got right now.

COLLIN MORIKAWA: It's probably one of my favorite events that we have all year, not just because of LA but I think how great this golf course is, Riviera Country Club. It's going to play a little bit different, I think, because of the soft greens and the rain and the rough is not up too much. But it still is one of the best courses we have out on TOUR.

Having a lot of friends, family come out, it just makes the week that much more exciting. It's a long week for me, but everything is worth it whether you play great or not. But the goal is to kind of continue this momentum or whatever I had the last couple days, Saturday, Sunday last week, into the rest of the season.

Q. Collin, on the golf course being a little bit softer, two parts to that. Do you have a plan? Do you work with somebody that sets a plan for you, or do you figure out how you're going to approach a course, and then knowing it's softer, regardless of who is doing your planning, will you be changing your approach because of the softness?

COLLIN MORIKAWA: I've always done it myself. It's myself and my caddie, so Mark and I. We've done this for our entire lives. I know a lot of stats go into how you play certain holes and there's a lot of stats guys out there, but they also don't know what you see and how you see certain shots. Maybe you're more comfortable on 2 versus 3 versus whatever hole.

It's going to change a lot, I think, how we're going to play this week or at least the next couple days. Tomorrow will be very interesting with the rain and the wind. Looks like the last three days will be pretty calm, in a way.

But out here, the last two days, I've been spinning back 5-irons. You can spin back a 3-wood. It's not normal out here. There's some pin locations that normally when you step in the fairway you're



looking to not play defensive but just give yourself 30 feet.

With the greens and the changing, it's going to be interesting to see how we attack, I think, a lot of front and middle pins, and the back pins you're going just to have to take the 30-foot spinning back and just take your two-putt par.

Q. No. 4, how does your approach change with the new tee?

COLLIN MORIKAWA: Today was actually the first day I played it. Tees were all the way up, and I hit 3-wood. Hit and hope, I guess.

It's too soft, unfortunately, to have a lot of control to say, man, I'm going to play a tight 5-iron and run it up. I think a lot of us play it left to chip uphill, but with a 3-wood in hand, that cart path on the left, honestly, comes into play because the dispersion just gets that much bigger.

It'll be very interesting. I think it's just a very long par-3. There's not a lot of thought to it other than just kind of hitting the green and moving on, unfortunately.

Q. A lot of history; can you talk about the centenary, but also how you feel coming back a year after the fires? Your hometown, right there with the Eaton fires, the Palisades obviously devastated here. What it means to you, is it a little bit special for both of those reasons? Also bringing business and entertainment to an area right here where a lot of the small businesses really still need a boost because a lot of them have failed over the past year?

COLLIN MORIKAWA: Yeah, I actually just learned about the 100 year anniversary. I played with Megan Watanabe today, and what an amazing accomplishment, what a great thing to be celebrating.

Like I said, if you poll a lot of guys on TOUR, it's a top one, top two, top three golf course that we get to play. You never would think about that based on the types of grasses that we play here, kikuyu, poa. But it truly is, just the design of it, the way it's shaped, the shots you have to hit. You just are using every club throughout the bag.

To be back in LA two years later, it's special. LA is always going to be home for me, but I think anytime the TOUR can come back and provide that sense of just -- that ability to escape almost and come out here and hopefully a lot of people want to come and watch and bring business and do that.

We do that with a lot of cities. I know LA is one of the biggest cities that we get to play in, but that doesn't mean that they don't need the help. Like you said, it doesn't mean people don't need the business

I think for us, I think a lot of people get to enjoy this week a lot more than some other places because we can go out, we can go have great food, we can go out to see a lot of people, friends, whatever it may be, and it just becomes a really, really great week.

Q. Are you still actively doing any relief work?

COLLIN MORIKAWA: I am not recently, but that doesn't mean things won't stop. I know the TOUR is still trying to do great things around that, and we're just trying to be a part of that.

Hopefully we'll find many ways to keep helping out.



Q. The other day when you won, I think you kind of described the last couple years as making golf too complicated possibly, or you wanted to just get back to playing golf. Had you gotten in your own way? Is that an easy way to describe maybe some of your frustrations, if that's what you would even call it?

COLLIN MORIKAWA: Yes and no. I think as a golfer you have these gut feelings of what needs to get better or maybe something doesn't feel right. I could go all of 2024 -- end of 2024 when I was, so-called, playing better than I was last year or the beginning of this year, and you can look and say, well, what's wrong; why are you going down these paths, to try and figure it out and trying to get -- because I know deep down, I'm not able to go and play that freedom of golf unless I figure something out.

Now, a lot of the times I think you can get in your own way where you start adding too much and you're trying too much. I think if I look back early on in my career, yeah, maybe you tried to get better in one area but then you forgot to keep getting better in another area, and you lose a little bit.

The senses and the style of golf, you kind of lose that, of who you are.

I wouldn't say I got in my own way. I had to keep trying things because if I didn't, I wouldn't be able to go out and play that free golf for four days. I played it for two days last week, and it obviously won me the tournament. But I want to be able to keep going out, week after week, and play four days of golf like that.

It took a lot of work. It took a lot of trial and error. It took a lot of guessing, asking questions, trying new things. But one of the big things was truly having two and a half months off, doing a lot of work into the body and letting that settle in and see how is that going to play out.

Q. If you just played golf without saying all that stuff, wouldn't it still be really good? Wouldn't your golf still be really good?

COLLIN MORIKAWA: Yes. I mean, look, I think if you went to go -- I think what you're describing is kind of playing when you're at home sometimes and playing with the guys. A lot of my practice is playing against the guys at home. It doesn't matter the amount of money you're playing for, doesn't matter what's on the line. It's always different than playing in a tournament. It is. Conversing between your caddie, looking at yardage -- I don't look at a yardage book at home. I don't know anyone looks at a yardage book when they're at home. If they do, props to them.

But it's a very different rhythm of things. I think you just have to be able to, in a tournament, really hone in on those skills and figure out what works for you.

What I've learned the biggest thing is you just cannot copy anyone else. You might be able to take a small little bit, but just because Scottie is doing something great does not mean I have to go do it. I think that's something I have to keep reminding myself is what I'm doing is my thing, and that's -- hopefully I'm putting my best ability to go do it. It doesn't mean I can't take good things out of what he's doing, but I think too many people try and copy that exact whatever formula that says, hey, this is how you're going to go play good golf.

Q. The 12th hole has played as the toughest hole the last five years. How do you prep for that hole, and is there anything on that hole that if you don't achieve from tee to green that you go, man, I'm out on this hole and I've just got to get on --



COLLIN MORIKAWA: Yeah, this year it's playing very different. Two years ago it was really, really thick rough, so if you hit it in the rough you were going to essentially lay up or hopefully hit it in the bunker. This year the rough is down to where even if you have a knuckle flier out of the rough with these greens, you could stop a 5-iron. So some of these pins just don't have that fire to them.

But 12, it's not an easy hole by any means. It's long, and it's going to be playing into the wind. You get out of there with a 4, you'll be pretty happy all week.

