

**Nissan Open
Riviera Country Club
Pacific Palisades, CA
February 14, 2007**

Pre-tournament quotes

AN INTERVIEW WITH KEVIN NA

JOAN vT ALEXANDER: Thank you, Kevin, for joining us for a few minutes in the media center at the Nissan Open. I know you've had a number of injuries. But it has to be good to be back in LA and playing in the Nissan Open.

KEVIN NA: Definitely. Yes, definitely went to a lot of struggle with injuries. It was definitely frustrating and really hurt my game, taking so much time off and losing the feel of the tournaments, and I'm really glad to be back, especially this event, it's very special to me. It was the first event that I ever came out as a kid and watched my first TOUR event. So that's really when I decided I wanted to play golf. So it's very exciting to be here.

JOAN vT ALEXANDER: Where are you with your injuries?

KEVIN NA: I'm 100 percent recovered. I feel really good, and I am just getting my feet wet again.

JOAN vT ALEXANDER: Questions, please.

Q. How many tournaments did you come to here, and do you remember the first one who won and what it was about that tournament that made you want to become a golfer?

KEVIN NA: The first one I came to watch, was it '95, is that the year Corey won? The second year he defended. I watched Corey. I watched Brad Scharfe, who I was working with at the time and Ted O. I watched them play a practice round and Corey gave me a golf ball and he gave me an autograph. I have a picture of me with Corey and I, and I think I was 10 or 11 at the time. And when I was 21. There is a lot of difference. Corey still had the moustache, and I was this short little chubby kid.

Q. Can you refresh us on the injury, was it a golf injury to the wrist?

KEVIN NA: It got slammed in the door.

Q. How much you are saying you are struggling with that injury and not being able to play, how much confidence-wise did that hurt you being out?

KEVIN NA: Well, not playing competition golf for six months -- when I came back, I had no clue what I was doing. The first event I played in Korea, I barely made the cut. And it was just every hole I was trying something different, a different swing, different putting, and confidence was pretty low. Obviously, because you haven't played. So I think my game and my swing is better than it's ever been. I'm working with a new Coach Don Brown, and I have known him since I was a kid. He has really got me into swinging it really well. It's better than ever, but I

think I need more time to play every week and build confidence week by week.

Q. Any positives that come out of the time off when you are out with injury.

KEVIN NA: Well, your mind is fresh, and you are anxious to play. In that point, yes. But I think to be a good player you have to keep playing competitive golf. Especially at my age. The older you get I think the guys take more time off?

Q. Being this is kind of a home tournament for you is it hard not to press a little bit more and how do you avoid doing that?

KEVIN NA: I tried really hard the last three years. I had no success here. Three years in a row I missed the cut. It was pretty disappointing especially as much as I wanted to do well in this event and kind of covered it up with Rancho last year.

But this tournament is very special to me. I feel a lot of pressure wanting to play well. But I saw that Mike Weir missed the cut three years in a row and then he won, so that's something to look at.

Q. Can you talk about you said you are swinging it better than ever, is there a quick way to describe how your swing is different now than before your injury?

KEVIN NA: Well, obviously I'm more on plane, and my body is more in balance and I'm rotating better through the ball.

Q. This is essentially your hometown tournament, this is essentially Tiger's also, what was your reaction to Tiger not playing this year? He has played every year except for one since he turned pro. What do you think about the streak and does that takeaway from that?

KEVIN NA: Well, what I heard was that he wants to keep the streak alive, that's why he is not playing this week, is that true? I don't know. I think it would be more special to keep the streak alive in the place you've never won. I'm sure Tiger has a great reason why he is not playing. I don't know, maybe the traffic. I was in traffic all week. It's brutal out here. I'm sure he's got a great reason. I'm sure he will comeback next year and play. I'm sure he will win it.

Q. I read something about your putting, you were having problems with your putting this season, is that an issue or do you think that's related to not playing a lot last year?

KEVIN NA: It was a little bit of not playing and it was a little bit of my stroke. I was putting great the whole off season. I was playing with my coach Don, taking all of his money. I hit it so great, so far this year, I feel like I'm hitting a lot of good shots. But my putting, I've 3-putted twice every tournament. I've had a 5-putt. It's awful. I went to the Scotty Cameron studio last week and I put it on film, and we compared it to when I was putting well, and I figured it out, so I think it will be pretty good this week.

Q. Why are you staying this week?

KEVIN NA: I'm staying at the Hotel Angelino. Yesterday I went out to Korea town to have dinner. It took about an hour and a half.

JOAN vT ALEXANDER: Anymore questions?

Q. Can you reflect a little bit, obviously your career path in turning pro at a young age, as you look back on that now, do you feel like that was still the right thing to do?

KEVIN NA: I guess I will never know. The thing is, I don't think I should look back. What I did at the time was what I thought was the best decision and I just live on with that. I do look back and say it would have been nice if I went to college and done what the normal 18-year-old would do. But, you know, sometimes you got to make sacrifices for what you want.

JOAN vT ALEXANDER: Thank you.
