

PODS Championship
Innisbrook Golf Resort
Copperhead Course
Tampa Bay, Fl

March 9, 2007

Second-round leader quotes

AN INTERVIEW WITH K.J. CHOI

JOE CHEMYCZ: We welcome K.J. Choi, and his interpreter, a second round of 69. Talk about the day, and we will open it up for questions.

K.J. CHOI: I'm very good. Starting yesterday, a couple drives -- 10 drives are terrible today; focussed on the drives in the fairway and keep going, and then down the middle every time. Putting very well. So far every day 2-under, 3-under my goal. So about two days 2-under-par is a very happy round today.

Q. Does it feel weird at all being a defending champion only four months later? In fact, someone said that you haven't done anything since you've won last?

K.J. CHOI: Usually, you know, one year later it's all scheduled, it's funny the rest of the time. Quick coming. I'm a member of this course in the very brown color, you know. In Houston, two weeks ago I play and very green, very similar to The Masters style, setting this year. Come here and looking for the golf course is very green, beautiful and fantastic, look good. Putting and greens, very, very firm and fast and some control. A little different. But so far either way. Early and the late, it doesn't matter, I play very well.

Q. Does it matter how the course looks, whether it is brown, green, firm, soft or how it looks, in terms of the shape of the hole, the sight lines, what's more important?

K.J. CHOI: I look in Houston area in summertime and green is Brown. Greens are every time harder ground in hot weather. And this course, the rough is a little bit thicker and brown. More happen second shot, sometimes now very bad. 20 yards short some time in the front, second shot. In the first cut, in the fairway in the rough, very different feel. In the first cut, looks very good, but hit it very short. Because bottom very wet and the top brown. Everybody more longer, hitting it hard, and club in the deep and more deeper and short distance.

Q. You are saying that's the way it is now?

K.J. CHOI: Yes, this week. A little different last year and this year.

Q. Do you show up here thinking that you are the player to beat?

K.J. CHOI: No, I play yesterday very focussed hitting drive in the center, down the middle in the fairway. My swing is a little change. I can hit in the fairway yesterday. Only No. 3. The third hole, one under par. All day long, chip, putt, chip putt, save par, save par. Today more comfortable. On green, birdie chance, not much. The bunker and the chip shot. So maybe better swing tomorrow.

Q. Do you know something about this golf course that other people do not? What is your secret so far of so much success here?

K.J. CHOI: No, I'm looking for thin ground, the wind, the direction. And a hundred percent confidence hitting it to the water and the wind blow it in the fairway. And so player, wind blowing right-to-left, everybody know, and I hit it water going water. Last swing finished fast and pull on the left side. My game style hit the ball and I go, doesn't matter 50/50. The chance good. But some broke in the water. Either way okay? And I hit it on the right side, the left side and this course is my type of golf game is very good.

Q. K.J. can you tell us how your swing has changed since you started working with Steve?

K.J. CHOI: My swing, top swing, three of four years. I lose top swing. Sometimes cool weather, strong, windy, too much in the chest first, and then some quick on the left and too much hands. Now, body turn one piece and through the one piece. Every time, very important in swing, set up change and step by step. Now it's doing well.

Q. How often are you seeing Steve, K.J. six times a year?

K.J. CHOI: Now, three weeks each time is good.

Q. You missed the cut in the first three Majors last year, and then you're tied 7th in the PGA, and then 12 weeks after Steve got hold of you you won. Has Steve been the key to that turn around?

K.J. CHOI: Last year early, I practice a lot, but something happened back swing, I no feel. And then every week, try, my feel. Something wrong with me. And then after -- after championship, PGA, I was talking to Steve, together work, more understanding golf swing, is very good now.

Q. When did you first come over here to America? What age?

K.J. CHOI: 32, 1999, September.

Q. That was your first time?

K.J. CHOI: In Florida, yes, Jacksonville.

Q. First time ever?

K.J. CHOI: No, no, I think 1997 World Cup golf championship.

Q. Did you have to do military service?

K.J. CHOI: Yes, I'm finished.

Q. What was that like, how many years?

K.J. CHOI: Year and a half.

Q. There has always been this question of why there are so many Korean women on the LPGA, more so than men in maybe the top hundred in the World Rankings and

someone wondered if it was because a lot of men, during development years of golf, got tied up with military service? Do you think there is any merit to that?

K.J. CHOI: I don't think so, no. The military is very good. Every morning 6 o'clock wake up and 10 o'clock sleep, year and a half, two years and a half. Same time, 3:00 5:30 you know. Every time, changing quick. I military, year and a half, was a very good time. It's more patient, a more patient, more healthier.

INTERPRETTER: Regular lifestyle, he thinks military life is a good part of the career.

K.J. CHOI: There is different ladies, and men. After military and the family together come. And then difficult style, Korean style on the golf course. Every tournament, cut the mountain, short lengths, short fairway. A little different style in the golf course. In the summer, people who play and come to America, and thin in the tee box, and then is very narrow in the fairway, you know. I have good memories of 2000 starting in the PGA TOUR. Oh my God, I focus on tee box, very short and narrow fairway. Thick rough and can do it. My shot, every time low. And I 100 percent hit it and only 5 or 10 yards.

Q. The golf course in Korea is more wide open?

K.J. CHOI: Yes. Sometimes the rough is more better than fairway.

Q. In Korea?

K.J. CHOI: Yes.

Q. Because it has grass?

K.J. CHOI: Fairway, everybody hit. The rough is very quiet, you know. Someone kicked the mountain, kicked left and slope in the fairway. Either way one side, out of bounds. Other side cut of mountain, hit it to the right and bounce in the fairway. Every time either way, one side miss, and it comeback in the fairway in the rough. The rough is high, the ball is in the high. I hit it every time and stop on the green.

Q. How did you get so good then?

K.J. CHOI: I play '96, 7, 8, very good in Korea. (Inaudible). I played World Cup. The greens are hard, can't stop. Our parent team is USA. Davis Love and Justin Leonard, huge fans, maybe more than 4,000 people. My ball, low ball. Davis Love ball very high. So different type of golf. I'm learning. My goal, my game change. Next style back to Korea is high-ball style.

Q. You play with Davis and Justin?

K.J. CHOI: Yes, in the first round.

Q. Who was your partner?

K.J. CHOI: My partner (inaudible) Park. Plays on the Korean Tour. (Inaudible).

Q. K.J. what was a typical day in military service, what did you do between breakfast and lunch on an average day during the military sorry service.

INTERPRETTER: Mainly just military training, shooting, just doing your daily work around the base, you know. Digging, cleaning up, digging holes, or whatever you are doing, whatever you do for military.

Q. So you didn't get a chance to play any golf?

K.J. CHOI: Yes.

INTERPRETTER: Normally his job was guarding during the nighttime and so during the day he actually had some time off because he would go to like an indoor driving range to practice.

Q. No mountains on the indoor driving range.

(Laughter)?

K.J. CHOI: No.

Q. K.J. you are used to contending in the Majors, you are used to some good finishes, the fact that you got your swing straightened up again now, do you expect to contend or win one of the Majors this year?

INTERPRETTER: He thinks all of the puzzles are fitting in the right place now. All of the swing changes, since he has been working with Steve, is a very step by step method. So he thinks everything is falling into place right now. And he feels very confident that he is going to do well in the Majors.

JOE CHEMYCZ: K.J. thank you.
