
**Nissan Open
Riviera Country Club
Pacific Palisades, CA
February 15, 2005**

Pre-tournament quotes

AN INTERVIEW WITH KEVIN NA

THE MODERATOR: We would like to welcome Kevin Na into the interview room.

Kevin thank you for coming by and spending a few minutes with us.

If we can get you to comment on your year so far, a second place finish at FBR Open, if we can get you to comment on how things are progressing for you.

KEVIN NA: Well, I think that second place finish was a big confidence boost for me and put a lot of load off my back.

I know last year I had a pretty good year for a rookie year with my age and finished 87th on the money.

But coming into this year my expectations were higher, and I wanted to play better and I felt like I wanted to step it up a notch where I could follow the steps of maybe Sergio and Tiger. Not quite Tiger, I can't go that high, but Sergio, at age 21 or so. I was putting a lot of pressure on myself when I came out, when I came out of Sony, I probably wasn't ready. It's been raining way too much at my home, and I wasn't able to get practice in. So I had a pretty bad week there. And after that I got into the rhythm of the TOUR life again; things started going a little better, like I said, the second place finish.

In the back of my head, there is always that this year, I want to win, and all of that stuff. But let's get rid of that, the card thought out of my mind and stuff.

And my goal is to get somewhere where I can get rid of it. During the West Coast tournaments, I set very high goals, and I did that which is nice.

Q. Just talk a little bit about being here at the Nissan Open and a city that's very important to you?

KEVIN NA: Yes, this week is pretty special to me. When I was 11 years old this was the first event I ever came out and watched. My dad, my father, and I believe my mother was out here too, and my brother, our whole family was out here. This was the first tournament I came out and watch. I watched Corey Pavin in '95 I believe that's the one he defended, I think. And watched him, my old Coach, Brad Surefy (phn). I made a lot of different thoughts. At that time, what I can remember was this was nice, these guys were hitting Titleist balls on the range, wow, this is something I wanted to do.

And the other thing is, this is my home town. That is lot of pressure on me that I wanted to play well and maybe win it. I'm sure I'm going to get many chances at it, but during my career it would be nice if I can get a win out here.

JOHN BUSH: Questions?

Q. You and Ty turned pro roughly within weeks of each other there that same year, looking at it now do you think maybe it was advantageous for you to go over and play in Asia and ramp your way up versus starting up here, can you imagine what it would have been like. You were out here 20 last year. But being out here at 17, was that a better way to go from your perspective?

KEVIN NA: It worked for me. I think because when I came out here last year -- I mean a 17-year-old playing on TOUR, it's a lot for a 17-year-old. And I felt like when I was 20, it was a little bit easier, I think, thinking when I was 17 the game I had, or when I was 18. I'm glad that it worked out the way it did. Well, it would have been nice when I first turned pro at 18, if I got on TOUR, you can't beat that. But if I hadn't kept my card, if I lost my card, that down time, where you feel like -- I don't want to say depressed, but your confidence level is low. Just playing on TOUR when you are 17 or 18, what Ty did was unbelievable. I don't think anybody would disagree with me that what he did was not bad. Even though he lost his card. You can't expect an 18-year-old to come out here and perform that well. It's just not possible, I don't think. No one has done it before. I know that Tiger has played when he was 17, 18. I'm certain he wasn't a professional. I don't think he made a cut. I think one year, that teenage year, and early 20's, you mature mentally and physically so much that one year makes a lot of difference. Ty and I had three years when I came on TOUR. So I think that helped me.

Q. I don't know if you know this, you are on the list for the U.S. Ryder Cup team in points. I'm a little confused because I know you were born in South Korea. Are you actually an American citizen now, how does that all work?

KEVIN NA: The way that works, I didn't even know it. Last year the PGA called me and said Kevin, you are an American citizen, but you were born in Korea, how did you become an American citizen. I said, well, my mother is a American citizen and when I turned, I had a choice. Would you like to become an American citizen? And I said yes. I guess the way that works. Because I became an American citizen, because of my parents, I guess I qualified for the Ryder Cup. I'm happy thanks to my mother.

Q. You sure you want to play in that thing, it hasn't been going very well for us lately here?

KEVIN NA: That's all right. Well, I think, I think we got a stronger team. I think like last year we had some bad breaks, maybe our players weren't playing quite as well at the time. But, come on, we got the game to beat them. I would love to play for the Ryder Cup team. I think that's one of my dreams is to play for the Ryder Cup and hopefully I will get my chance.

JOHN BUSH: How many holes did you play this morning?

KEVIN NA: Six holes.

JOHN BUSH: Just comment on your preparations this week and how you feel your game sets up leading into the tournament.

KEVIN NA: Yes. I got plenty of rest last week. I stayed home which was nice. But I didn't practice enough. I guess I need to go out there and practice a little more in preparing. My short game is pretty good still. That's what happened to me a lot in Phoenix and it's still going pretty well. This golf course you need to really keep it in play, this type golf course. I think I need to work on that a little more.

Q. Do you still have a chance to play in the Masters?

KEVIN NA: Yes, I think I do, with two shots: I had a Top-50 in the world and Top-10 on the money list. Right now I'm 100th in the world, so I think another second might end up enough to do it. Or a win I think will definitely do it. So I definitely have a chance. That would be a dream come true.

JOHN BUSH: We appreciate you coming by. Play well this week.