

Viking Classic
Annandale Country Club
Madison, MS

July 16, 2011

Tournament quotes:

INTERVIEW OF SUNGHOON KANG

(Interview by tape.)

Q. Any reason to believe that you won't be in the same situation tomorrow?

SUNGHOON KANG: The weather?

Q. Are you feeling pretty good?

SUNGHOON KANG: Actually I played 36 holes today. So I'm a little bit tired right now. Actually I didn't play well the first 18 today. I played with Kenny Perry today and he was really nice and made us feel really comfortable on the golf course. So I really appreciate that. I just really want to play this way on the golf course tomorrow that's what he told me to do.

Q. Can you talk about the first round today wasn't so good. What did you change between the first and second round? Obviously you had a great round?

SUNGHOON KANG: I was thinking that the green was going to be way softer because it rained hard. So I really tried to control more spin because I was having too much spin the first 18 holes. I would aim it right at the pin and it would spin. I tried to aim it really low. I tried to hit it low and really tried to control the spin and it worked pretty well today.

Q. Kenny Perry, you got the British Open going on overseas, Kenny Perry has made \$31 million, can you believe that?

SUNGHOO KANG: Yes, he told me he was playing on TOUR 25 years, and I am only 24 years. He's got a lot of experience. He has 14 wins. I really learned a lot today.

Q. So though you are not in Great Britain right now, you feel pretty good?

SUNGHOO KANG: Yes, I feel like I'm living in my dream right now. My dream was playing on the PGA TOUR and I'm doing that right now so I'm really happy with that.

Q. Being there at the top of the leaderboard, tell me how you are feeling right now, when you look at the board, you are right there at the top?

SUNGHOO KANG: It's not finished yet. I have 18 more holes to go. I'm not really going to think about it. I'm going to try to play my game and just work on it. I don't like to think about it. It doesn't help me at all. I'm just going to play my game.

Q. It seems like you've really been playing well lately. You played well at John Deere a week or 2 ago and Nationwide. You have some momentum and everything. What's changed for you?

SUNGHOO KANG: Actually, this is my rookie year, I was playing pretty good the first few tournaments. I actually went to Korea for the military service for the month, March through April, so I couldn't get any clubs in.

After the military training, I missed like 5 cuts straight after that and traveling I really worked hard to get it back and it's really working better.

The military training was helping a lot too because I can concentrate on the putting and everything. I was shooting guns and everything. I got to really concentrate when I do it. It's kind of similar to golf, too. That helped me too a little bit. I got better around the putting green and putting a little bit better.

Q. Can you tell us about that experience? You did it for one or two months? I heard you won a gold medal and that kind of thing.

SUNGHOO KANG: As far as duty, we have to do it. It's to protect my country so we have to do it, so that's why I did it, too. I'm really proud that I did it. Even my brother did it. So every one is really work hard to protect my country. I got to do it too, then. I got to play well on PGA TOUR and make some wins and make my country really famous is what I'm trying to do.

Q. How long were you there?

SUNGHOO KANG: Four weeks. One month.

Q. Is that usual?

SUNGHOO KANG: Yes, normally they have to go two years, but I played the Asian game, and we won the gold medal with the team. It has to do with basic training. We really don't know what's going

to happen after school. I just did basic training, shooting gun, working out.

Q. Tell me the best part and worse part about Mississippi?

SUNGHOO KANG: Oh, actually I like Mississippi because I played U.S. cup qualifier here like a month ago and I played the -- and I made it and I played the U.S. Open. It's a really good state for me, a lucky state for me. I hope I can get lucky tomorrow too.

Q. Do you think you can live in Mississippi?

SUNGHOO KANG: Honestly it's too hot here. I'm living in Dallas right now. It kind of hot there too. It doesn't really matter for me. There aren't many Koreans out here. I have to live in Dallas.

Q. Can you tell us a little bit about your round today? You shoot 9-under par. Were you making a lot of putts. Were you just hitting greens?

SUNGHOO KANG: I think I played really good on par-5s. The first round I shot 5-under on the par-5s. The second round I hit an out of bounds on the par-5, and I shot an eagle. That's why I made the score in the second round. And the third round I had one eagle and three birdies on the par-5. So I did pretty well today.

Q. What's the hardest part of playing 36 holes in a day? Is it mental, physical, the heat and everything, or is it just concentrating on the shots?

SUNGHOO KANG: Fortunately it was little cooler today, the clouds covered. It was cooler. It's not that bad today. I can get physically tired because it's 36 holes. And I can get mentally tired, too, because my body is not right. So I can get both of them.

Q. Tell us when you were in basic training, what does that entail, shooting guns, what other things did you do there?

SUNGHOO KANG: Just knowing if there is a war and what we have to do and they try to teach us how much important that military is. I mean, before I went there, I really didn't think about it. I didn't know that was that important. After I went there and experienced it, I think the military have to be out there to protect my country. I was really glad to be there.

Q. Did you say you lost a lot of weight? A lot of physical training, obviously and stuff like that?

SUNGHOO KANG: Yes, we were walking like two or three hours a day with heavy pack and heavy shoes.

Q. How much weight did you lose?

SUNGHOO KANG: Almost 8 kilograms. I don't know how many pounds.

Q. 13 or 14 pounds?

SUNGHOO KANG: Yes.

Q. Did you gain it back?

SUNGHOO KANG: A little bit.

Q. Did you gain it back in Mississippi, right?

SUNGHOO KANG: It's kind of hard to do it here. It's too hot and I get sweaty.

Q. Thank you.

SUNGHOO KANG: Thank you.

Q. Good luck tomorrow.

SUNGHOO KANG: Thank you.

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