

**SBS Championship  
The Plantation Course at Kapalua  
Kapalua, Maui, HI**

**January 6, 2010**

**INTERVIEW OF Y.E. YANG**

MARK WILLIAMS: Y.E., welcome to the media center of the SBS Championship and Ryan Park, interpreter, thank you for joining us. Obviously your first time here after winning twice last year including the PGA Championship. It's a nice symmetry with SBS being from Korea also, and you being the only Korean in the field. Can you talk about how proud you are to represent Korea and represent SBS the first time?

THE INTERPRETER: Well, I have been wondering when a Korean company would be sponsoring a PGA event. I didn't think it would be quite in the near future when I first landed on the PGA TOUR. Miraculously this year, SBS, I've heard has signed a 10 year deal with the PGA to sponsor the opening event on the TOUR. So it's a great honor as a Korean to have one of our companies finally stand up and sponsor this great game and this great TOUR. It's a little piece of honor for me as well because I represent the inaugural SBS Championship as a Korean, the only Korean in the field. I'm very delighted to see a Korean sponsor go head-to-head with all of the great sponsors and thank SBS for being such a great sport so far, and hopefully I wish only the success.

Q. Can you recount your travels since December? Are you rested and are you ready for the season to start now, or do you wish it could start later like July maybe?

**THE INTERPRETER:** In December after the World Cup I had participated in the Chevron Challenge, so he came back to LA and then he got invited by the KPGA for some award ceremonies, and I had to go back to Korea and stay there five days. So in actuality I only had two weeks off. I'm back here. It seems like it's a

continuation of 2009 instead of a new season. I'm taking it as a continuation of last year's season.

Doug, to your question whether I would like to have the season start in July, I think I like golf too much to have that much of a sabbatical. I think I am fairly rested. I wouldn't say I'm in the best shape. I'm fairly rested and ready to go on with this new season, however it feels like it's a continued season.

Q. So China, LA, Dallas, Korea, Dallas, Maui?

**THE INTERPRETER:** Correct.

Q. Y.E., what are your impressions of the golf course and if the wind stays as mild as it has been do you expect a shootout, a birdie fest?

**THE INTERPRETER:** I think the golf course is in ideal condition. The weather is great so far and presuming that the wind stays the same, I think there will be -- I wouldn't say it will be a birdie fest, but there will be a lot of chances for birdies. The green itself is very soft right now and with the new grooves, you need to really control your spin amount.

If you can control your short game and the spin, there is going to be a fair chance of making a lot of birdies.

On the other hand, today, during the Pro-Am, I 3-putted about three holes on the front 9.

If you get stuck on a downhill lie, it's not even easy to get it close to the hole much less put it in. So you really have to look after that. If you can reduce your putts, I think you will have a very low scoring tournament.

**THE INTERPRETER:** Q. First of all, last year Y.E., made a name for yourself beating Tiger Woods at the PGA Championship, and you earned the nickname, amongst a few people dubbed Tiger Killer. Are you disappointed Tiger is not here?

Second of all, this is a tournament of champions. You'd be crowned as champion of champions of 2009 if you win this, and start off in a good note, do you personally feel that you really want to win this tournament?

**THE INTERPRETER:** A. Well, officially I want to say that it's very sad that the top 1 and 2 players, Phil and Tiger, aren't here. It's going to be a bit of a disappointment for sponsors, especially to SBS. Personally I think it's a good chance for all of the golfers in this field this week as well as myself. It just gives me two less players to worry about and my chances are that much better in making a good mark in this tournament.

With Tiger and Phil in the field, it's always really tough to think about winning.

I think in any tournament, while this tournament is sort of the tournament for champions, a lot of tournaments have a lot of champions from the past participating, so the competition is always there.

But mathematically speaking, I have a better chance, or better odds because there is only 28 players in the field compared to 140 or 150. So my odds are about 28-1 right now, a bit unusual. Hopefully, I would like to have an opportunity to compete and play for the final group on the last day.

Q. What is KOTRA?

**THE INTERPRETER:** Korean Trade Administration.

Q. Could you talk about since you have been home to Korea a couple of times since, all of this Tiger stuff has happened, can you talk about what the feelings are in Korea about Tiger and the issues that have come out over the last couple of months?

**THE INTERPRETER:** I haven't really kept tabs with the whole news frenzy either on the state side or in Asia or Korea. But a lot of friends close to me who are definitely in the golf industry have come up to me and half-heartedly and jokingly asked me, are you going to miss Tiger for a while, right? Or, since Tiger is not there, there is not going to be much of a competition anymore? Or aren't you glad Tiger is not there. Since Tiger is not there you don't have any one to beat, stuff like that. It's always been more fun and silly comments from my friends. But the overall interest level I haven't really kept tabs on that.

**THE INTERPRETER:** Q. He is asking to comment and say something to Korean fans because the fans are wishing him good luck.

**THE INTERPRETER:** I just want to thank my fans in Korea, and they will be watching me throughout this season through SBS. I thank SBS for setting up this wonderful tournament to open the new season. This is my first tournament and start of a very bright and hopeful season 2010, and I wish that, and I hope that a lot of people will watch and cheer for me, and I will try to do my best.

Q. Even though the age is similar, what kind of affect has K.J. had on him in his career?

**THE INTERPRETER:** The grand perspective, K.J. has opened the door, not just for me, but for a lot of Korean golfers. And he started out in '99 on the PGA and has been on the PGA TOUR for over 10 years now. In '99, that's when I won my first professional tournament. Coincidentally it was called the SBS Championship. It was hosted by SBS company as well. At that time K.J. was playing in a league of gods you might say. I was winning the tournaments with Korean professionals, while K.J. was playing against the world's top ranked players.

And when K.J. won, and even before K.J. won, K.J. inspired a lot of players, not just myself, but that Koreans can also play in the PGA TOUR. That inspired me to keep on playing and try out for a PGA TOUR event, at an old age for me entering the PGA at over 35. It's not an easy decision, but K.J. enabled that sort of mindset back then when he first entered the PGA TOUR. So I did go around a bit, go through all of the different tours, but I ended up, and I think that's because K.J. inspired me as well as other golfers.

Q. How long have they known each other?

**THE INTERPRETER:** I started my professional career in '97 and I think it was in '98 that I actually met him on the golf course. So since '98.

Q. Geoff Ogilvy and Steve Stricker both talked about the possibility of No. 1 being open again with Tiger's indefinite absence.

Does Y.E. agree with that and does he think about the possibility of being No. 1?

**THE INTERPRETER:** It depends on how long Tiger is going to be absent. If it's an issue of years then probably. But if it's a couple, few months, then no, I don't think so. I think you will need at least a year to have that rank changed. And if Tiger comes back around July or August, I don't see that possibility really. I don't see a change in the World Rankings unless Phil goes on a streak. And do I want to be world ranked No. 1? I think I've never thought about it. I never think about it. I certainly wouldn't wish for it.

Q. Wouldn't wish for No. 1?

**THE INTERPRETER:** No.

Q. Because?

**THE INTERPRETER:** It's tough being on top. I'd love it, yes. It would be nice. It takes a lot of effort to be No. 1 and then to maintain No. 1. I beat him once. I won a Major. But that was because I went in knowing that I was going to lose. So it's a different set of strategy, a different mindset. I guess if I tried to do it, more than easy fail trying to.

Q. Did he play with Chairman Yoon today? How did Chairman Yoon play?

**Y.E. YANG:** We asked a question, how old is he? 78. 78, a good player. 78, you do that? His body, shape, everything is good. 78, I think is good.

Q. What has your reception been on Maui with the SBS being the sponsor, have you noticed some Korean folks here maybe more than you would at a regular mainland U.S. event? What's been the reception for you basically from the Island of Maui and have you noticed more Korean fans than you normally would at a regular stop?

**THE INTERPRETER:** I must say there is a lot of Koreans here. Korean influence this week, a lot of Korean people. It feels really comfortable. It's like playing in Korea.

**THE INTERPRETER:** Q. How is your conditioning right now, how do you feel and what do you think would be the key elements in winning this tournament this week?

**THE INTERPRETER:** The condition is good. I feel really good. To win you really need to reduce your 3 putts.

**MARK WILLIAMS:** Thank you very much. Good luck this week.

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