

PRE-TOURNAMENT INTERVIEW: INBEE PARK
Wednesday, June 24, 2015



MODERATOR: I'd like to welcome Inbee Park into the interview room. Inbee, you're coming off your sixth career major championship, a lot of accomplishments already. Coming off an off-week as well. Has everything you've accomplished so far set in?

INBEE PARK: I think the last win I had at KPMG, it took actually a couple of days kind of thinking and I still felt so happy after two, three days. Usually I really forget things really quickly, but this win actually lasted quite longer than what I thought. Next three, four days, even when the tournament was finished, I couldn't stop smiling. It's because I had my family as well on my off-week and everybody was just kind of enjoying it together. Yeah, just really happy off-week last week.

MODERATOR: Is there anything you did in particular with your family that stuck out last week to celebrate?

INBEE PARK: No, not really. We just kind of hang out together, went to nice dinners, played just a little bit of golf, just kind of family time because we don't really get to spend too much family time together because I'm always traveling and my parents are always working and my sister's working. So yeah, it's not often that we all five of us get together and spend time, so it's special.

MODERATOR: Well, you are the new World No. 1. After your win you mentioned that you wanted it when you felt really ready for it. What made this time in particular the right time for you?

INBEE PARK: You know, I think this is -- I believe this is my third time going to No. 1, including this time. But in the first time I thought it was just, you know, I felt just a bit weird and it didn't feel like my place. Second time it felt a little more comfortable, but I felt like my game wasn't quite ready yet. But now the third time it feels like I'm really ready for this spot and my game is getting better and better every day and I feel like I am playing like a No. 1. So yeah, it feels good to be back and it's been -- I have been playing good golf the last couple months and there's very important tournaments coming up next couple months, so it will be -- it won't be easy to maintain where I am right now, but I'll sure give it my best to stay here and try to play best golf.

MODERATOR: Se Ri Pak, after your win at KPMG, she mentioned that she thinks that it's your ability to control your emotions so well out there that has led to all your success. Do you believe that, and if so, how are you able to do that so well?

INBEE PARK: I think it has to -- I mean, controlling my emotions out on the golf course has been helping me a lot for sure. Playing golf, professional golf, I was able to stay pretty calm out on the golf course whatever it was happening. Whether I was winning or whether I was

having a bad day, just try to play same routine every time and try to play it's just another day. Sometimes your day doesn't go the way you want to. It's the same as life. You can't play good every day. But yeah, I just try to take it that's just the day it is. Yeah, it has been working good. Controlling my emotions has been a big help in my career. Yeah, I'm sure would like to keep it.

MODERATOR: Let's open it up for some questions for Inbee, if you could wait for a microphone.

Q. Stacy mentioned your improved ball striking is what she thought was one of the reasons for your improved play this year. Is there something specific you worked on with your game? Have you changed your practice schedule at all or what has changed with your ball striking?

INBEE PARK: You know, yeah, the ball striking has improved a lot this year. I think it's -- I had a big swing change in 2011 and since then it was getting better and better every year. I think it just came to the point where it feels really like my swing and it's getting really comfortable in my body and I feel comfortable swinging like that. It's been about four years since I worked with my husband and he said when we first started to work together, he said it might take a couple years to three years until you really feel like it's going to be your swing, and it has been about three, four years. So yeah, it's just coming along together really well, and yeah, just feel a lot more comfortable and a lot more confidence after looking at a lot of good shots.

Q. A lot of breakthroughs and kind of milestones that you set two weeks ago, one of them was passing Se Ri. I'm curious, was she someone you looked at a lot growing up and someone you've been able to maybe of create a bond with as you've established yourself on the LPGA Tour?

INBEE PARK: Yeah, she has been a huge influence for me and for all the Korean young golfers and now a lot of the girls on tour grew up looking at Se Ri playing as well. Yeah, I don't really worry about how many she's won a major, how many am I going to win a major, not so worried about so many numbers but just happy to be maybe alongside with her just having -- get to play golf with her is just an honor because I always dreamed of being like her or playing same tour with her. I've reached a lot of my goals. So I mean Se Ri still has a lot more accomplishments than make, I think. I still have a lot of ways to go but I'm just trying to play (inaudible.)

Q. (No microphone.)

INBEE PARK: Yeah, now she doesn't play like every week so I don't see her as often anymore, but I definitely do talk to her when I see her, yeah.

Q. Inbee, you have this amazingly measured pace to your swing. I'm wondering have you always had that, did you come to that naturally or was that an intentional thing

when you started playing golf?

INBEE PARK: It just came to me really naturally. I never really try to slow my swing down or anything like that, I just try to find the way to swing the best and try to find the way to hit the ball the most straight, the straightest, and it just came to that rhythm. I never really intended of doing a slow swing or anything.

Q. You're a past champion here and you've played well here. How important is that going into this week?

INBEE PARK: Yeah, it's always good to have a good memory of where you play. Obviously I had a good memory here in 2013 when I won. It was, yeah, this golf course is a beautiful golf course and it is in really good shape this year as well. So yeah, this golf course has been giving me a lot of good results and good memories, so I think it's always good to have extra confidence in yourself going into Friday. Yeah, it's just the golf course I really like so I'm looking forward to it.

Q. Two years ago when you came here you took a week off after a major win and it worked out really well for you by winning here. What did you do this last week, did you take another week off or did you get some relaxing in?

INBEE PARK: Yeah, I took a week off last week. Actually didn't practice that much last week, but I had this streak in 2013 I won the LPGA Championship and this week and then U.S. Open. So it will be another good one like that would be really, really nice. Yeah, this is the task I need to do this week and yeah, I'm trying to do it week by week. I mean, it doesn't matter that much, I just try to do what I can do and the results just come. So yeah, on a good memory like that, another repeat of 2013 would be really nice.

MODERATOR: Any more questions for Inbee? Well, thank you for joining us.

INBEE PARK: Thank you.