

Portland Classic

Tuesday, August 11, 2026

Portland, Oregon, USA

Columbia Edgewater Country Club

Akie Iwai

Press Conference



THE MODERATOR: Joining us ahead of the 2026 Standard Portland Classic is Akie Iwai. You obviously won here last year. How did it feel to become a Rolex First-Time Winner at this event?

AKIE IWAI: Yes, I feel real comfortable. That's why I won last year. Then this is my second year, and I feel even more comfortable.

Q. How much confidence did it give you to win during your rookie season?

AKIE IWAI: A little bit. Honestly, I really wanted to get another win, so like two, three times. But yeah, I didn't feel -- I got one last year. That's why I've got a little confidence.

Q. What are you looking forward to being back this year and defending?

AKIE IWAI: I'm just looking forward to defending my title. So I'm excited.

Q. Was there anything you learned last year that you'll use this year about the course or the tournament?

AKIE IWAI: I think no change. Even after I won, not change myself. I don't forget. I always challenge. Just that, yeah.

Q. You had a strong stretch in Europe this past month, including third at Evian. How is your game feeling right now, and what did contending in a major teach you?

AKIE IWAI: So that was sort of resort at Evian. I almost made it, but I was able to play. A lot of spectators. I felt good pressure, and I got a little confidence.

Q. We heard that you're good friends with Shiho, who won at AIG. What was it like watching her win and being there with her?

AKIE IWAI: That was amazing. A lot of inspire. She

inspired me. Amazing.

I played with her when I was a junior. That's why it really inspired me. Amazing. I'm excited to play with her next year.

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