FM Championship

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Megan Khang

Quick Quotes

Q. All right, we are joined here after the final round of the FM Championship by FM ambassador and Massachusetts local, Megan Khang. Can you just take us through your week? It was obviously very busy.

MEGAN KHANG: Honestly, it's always fun being at home. It was a little busy than let's say a normal week for me, but I kind of took it head on just because I knew how big of a week this was, not for myself, but obviously being an ambassador for FM and wanting all the players to kind of get the best out of the Boston experience.

Other than the mishap weather on Friday, I would say it was a pretty great week. It's always a little more pressure that I put on myself to play well for those that come out to watch, but once I kind of settled down, once my caddie, reiterated to me like everyone is here in support of me and not to put more pressure on me, it settled me a little bit.

Obviously happy to make the weekend. I felt like I played well, but I think some of the girls are playing a little different course than I am. It will be interesting finish, but really happy to get the week done, and played relatively well with everything that happened in the week.

Q. FM has done a lot for the players this week. Obviously as we're coming to a close, can you reflect on what makes this event so unique in the way that FM approaches it?

MEGAN KHANG: I think FM truly approaches it in great fashion. I think they do a great job in asking what the players want, and not only asking but actually delivering. When it's accommodation, cars, food, they do not shy away from what the players ask for and what the players need.

To me it's a really special relationship because obviously I do have a tad more people coming in to support myself, and they've let every one of my friends, family come up to their FM Chalet and have been nothing but gracious and generous with myself, my caddie. Even in the rain delays I went up to the chalets instead of player dining, and it was



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super nice just everyone obviously wants to say hi but at the same time being so respectful and trying not to take too much of my time.

So it's been a great for me. Obviously having them really step up the plate and set the bar high for other tournaments and sponsors to come along, I'm very proud of that. Hopefully FM is just one step away from leading a whole new spur of tournaments that come join the LPGA.

Q. You have been on Tour for a few years. Traveling the world is fun but can get exhausting. How does it feel to come off the final round and have so much friends and family there to greet you?

MEGAN KHANG: It's great. My younger cousins have recently picked up golf. It's pretty cool, because I told them I used to call them my little cousin and now they're a lot bigger than me, so I call them my younger cousins.

To see them tease me about playing golf back in the day when I had to leave some family parties early just to go practice. To see them kind of come out and rooting for me and see what I get to do week in and week out, it's really cool, just because now that they play golf they have a little deeper appreciation for the game.

And it's really cool to have it so close. We planned to get dinner after a round like today. It's nice when it is home because we can hop in a car and drive to dinner.

Q. You told me last week that your goal was to play better than last year. The ultimate goal is to raise the trophy at the end. Do you feel like you played better this year?

MEGAN KHANG: I feel like the ball striking and everything was there. I just don't feel like I holed many putts. Like I said, I definitely put a lot more pressure on myself. It's something I'm going to have to kind of get a little better about coming into these weeks, because like my caddie said, everyone here is in support and not to put pressure on me. It's just the pressure I put on myself obviously wanting for those who work during the week to come out on the weekend and stuff like that.



I felt as though my game was in a really good spot. Hit some are the great shots. Wasn't able to convert some of the birdies that I wish I did. It was a little shaky start because of the nerves, but I feel like hopefully by next year it settles down a little more playing in front of the home crowd.

But I feel like if you're not nervous it means you don't care, so I will take this in stride and definitely learn a lot of really trying to tell myself like everyone is here to support myself and not to add pressure.

Q. You talk a lot about the pressure you put on yourself. How do you get over that? Is it just reminding yourself that these people are here for you?

MEGAN KHANG: Yeah, it's kind of reminding myself that we do this week in and week out. I've practiced my whole life for moments like these. I got to look at it in a positive light where everyone is here and it's not often that everyone gets to come around.

So being able to play in front of family and friends that normally wouldn't be able to, it's more of a positive than a pressure aspect. When I think of that it's a little more settling. Yeah, my cousins are going to college. Some are moving in tomorrow. So it's really cool that they came out today.

And, again, it's more of a positive note to have than a pressure point just because I love seeing them out here. I love hanging out with them. They're a big reason why I stay in Massachusetts. It's nice when it's a family affair.

Q. I wonder if you would indulge a bigger-picture question. You are such an ambassador for the area and the game. As somebody who doesn't play, and I watch some of the shots you make or miss and don't make, like why do you love golf? It seems to me such a hard, cruel game at times. Like why do you love it? What would you tell people why you love it, what brings you back all the time?

MEGAN KHANG: You know, funny enough, it's the heartbreak and the highs and lows that bring me back. You know, we work obviously -- it's a perfectionist sport that you can't be perfect at. For the most part, a lot of us are losing the majority of the weeks that we play, and it's definitely hard to get over if you look at it from that side.

At the end of the day the ultimate goal is to win at the end the week each week. You know, I love competing. I love playing against the best in the world. I love being able to travel the world, play a sport that I love for a living just

because I've just grown up playing it; where as a child I was very competitive; I still am very much competitive.

But I love the fact that golf just kind of falls directly on you. Like if you're going to be upset with something you have to look in the mirror. To me, golf reflects a lot about life and so it's trying to take the negatives of like let's say a bad shot and trying to make it positive.

Like I'll be completely honest, No. 7 and I this week weren't really the best of friends. I finally hit the middle of the fairway today and then I found the middle of the cross bunker. I'm looking at my caddie going, what in the world am I doing in this spot? Like it couldn't have been an easier quote-unquote second shot, and now I have a 196 yard bunker shot where I can't see the pin and I end up birdieing it.

It's stuff like that where it's, okay, he's telling me, hey, it's fine, you can do this; and then it's playing a little game with myself of like, okay, how good can Megan Khang be out of this? How can I get out of these?

I love the fact that the sport constantly challenges me. I was in the middle of the fairway today on No. 4 and I was right next to my pitch mark from the tee. It's funny, because like, again, could be in the middle of the fairway -- yesterday was in the middle of the fairway on 6 and I was in a divot. I think there are two ways to look at it, and golf has definitely taught me a lot about myself and life itself. Because it's one thing to hit a bad shot or to have a bad lie in a fairway, but it's another to either gripe about it or get over it.

So that kind of relating to life and helping me kind of appreciate the good shots, the good with the bad, it's been beneficial I think for myself off the golf course as well.

Q. You mentioned some of the tougher spots. What are the best ones you'll remember for this tournament? Can you remember them as easily?

MEGAN KHANG: I think that's something I have a little problem with. I have a hard time remembering the good shots. Today I hit a great one into 15. We had about 132 pin and I hit a choke-down 8-iron and had to be a super soft one.

The same as No. 10. I had like 138 pin and it was 126 to cover online with the pin and nearly holed it.

It's cool where it's like you have those shots where it brings you in, okay, this is the Megan I know. It's nice to get rewarded when you do good things.



Again, it's taking the good with the bad and seeing how good you can be when you find yourself in a quote-unquote bad spot.

Q. Is there a comparative sport that's as solo or isolating? I don't know if you've played tennis. Do you think golf is unique in that way and how much it's on just the individual?

MEGAN KHANG: I think golf is such a unique sport, because at the end of the day it's whoever plays the golf course the best. In tennis you're literally going against one other person, and then you kind of win or lose that match.

Whereas like golf, it's the same holes, same yardages, same stuff like that. It's just truly whoever manages themselves on the golf course better, holes more putts, and there is truly nothing you can be upset about.

I played with my good friend Allisen today. You still want to beat your friends out there. There is nothing I could do. She made some really good shots and hit some really good putts. It's always sad when you lose to your friend but it's fine.

You just got to accept the fact she played better than me today. And that's fine. Nothing I could have done. She didn't physically do anything to me. So I think I would lose in that match anyway. She could probably hold me with her arms straight and I wouldn't be able to touch her.

That's the beauty of golf. It's how you're able to get around and approach this course, and it's -- obviously you have to have a little luck on your side, but at the end of the day, like as when I was growing up my dad always said, you're playing against the golf course and not really anyone. Except in match play obviously.

Q. The weather on Friday really set the tone for the weekend unfortunately. As much as you try to play the golf course, everybody ends up having to play the weather and the elements. How much did that whether and the elements on Friday affect your game and your approach to it, everything about the day?

MEGAN KHANG: You know, Friday was tough. I was very happy to finish. I'll take that as a positive. It's definitely hard because like I was playing with Lexi and Ingrid and we both had a great hot start on our front nine which was the back nine.

You know, on the first horn I was on the 18th green putting for birdie. It caught me mid stroke. I couldn't believe I actually paused, stopped my stroke. It's hard when the first one is over an hour wait, but you just got to take it for what

it is. No one can control Mother Nature.

Again, like life, you can either sit and pout about it and say why aren't we out there, or you just be like, you know what, there is a reason we're not out there; just have to sit and wait.

But it's definitely hard going on and off the golf course just because obviously golf, if you tend to get into a rhythm, it's normally your friend. It was tough for everyone, whether you were in the afternoon wave waiting all day just to tee off. I know the last tee time was just right before 7:00 at night and they probably played one or two holes.

That was a positive. At least I was able to finish. I didn't have to come back and play more than 18 holes. Hopefully, I mean, I don't think that's going to be the highlight of the week. I think it's going to be a pretty interesting finish coming up.

As golfers we play an outdoor sport, so you just have to take it for what it is.

Q. Does it affect your strategy hole to hole, what you're picking as targets on each shot, club selection, not getting too aggressive?

MEGAN KHANG: It definitely changes a little bit.

Obviously we got a pretty good rainfall during those breaks, so it made the greens a touch softer. Other than that, it's just kind of taking it for what it is and learning when you go back out there how the conditions have changed from when you were playing before and just really adjusting as quick as you can.

Q. In horse racing they call horses that do good on the muddy tracks in and in that weather the mudders. Do you look at the field and say, okay, who are the mudders here? Who are going to be able to tough it out today? Jack Nicklaus used to say he's hear the other players complaining about course conditions, green speed, the weather. He says, I just check it off the list, gone, gone, gone, players I don't have to worry about competing against. Do you look at other players that way in terms of some of them are going to compete and some aren't so just try to be able to compete?

MEGAN KHANG: Honestly I don't really try to I guess focus on the other players in that sense. It's hard enough trying to get myself back into my own groove and on back track. Again, I was kind of in the FM Chalet for the most part, so didn't really run into any players. I just separated myself from that to give myself a little break from having to kind of feel the -- not tension, but just the anxiousness of

. . . when all is said, we're done.

everyone trying to get back out there and feel where the rush was or how everyone was feeling about it.

So, I mean, it's hard because someone can be upset about it and also go out and shoot 8-under. It's, again, all hearsay, but you never know now anyone is going to play. So I have to focus on myself.

Q. How do you sum up your season thus far? And as you look from here to the end of the of year, what are your goals?

MEGAN KHANG: My season has been kind of like a slow start. Kind of had a pretty good run the past couple weeks having two back to back Top 10s. I'm not sure what I finished this week, but I hope it's better than last year.

I know score is better, but I think everyone else's scores are better, too. No, I feel like my game is in a good spot. I talked to my caddie about this. Ball striking is where we want it to be. Feel like I hit fantastic shots. Again, haven't really converted some of the putts, whether it's getting a little unlucky where the hole feels a little small or just kind of not matching the speed with the line.

But, no, I feel like there is definitely going to be a week where everything clicks for me and hopefully it's soon. I feel like I've come to be in a good place where my game is, and once again that putter gets hot, hopefully it's not too far away. I feel like we're going to keep giving ourselves a good chance and keep putting ourselves in contention.

Q. Golf is a game of such slim margins. You talked about focusing on yourself. When the crowd is ooh'ing and ahh'ing or maybe putt comes just short and it's the ooh, how do you balance those emotions staying within yourself, and what was your reaction to that pretty healthy reception you got on the 18th green?

MEGAN KHANG: I mean, they're not saying anything I'm not saying to myself. Obviously it's a little upsetting when you miss some putts just barely. I mean, I'll take it as like all the oohs and ahhs are obviously they want them to go in. They want to see putts getting holed. Obviously it can get a little frustrating because I feel like I've missed the last few coming in just barely.

Again, I'll try to take it in for what it is. They're not coming as it from a negative side of it so I joke, but obviously I'm a little upset as well. It is pretty funny.

But to get the ovation we got coming into 18 and obviously and FM and the fans and the home crowd just really being there, I really wanted to make the last one on 18 for them, but just ever so slightly under-read it. To get that kind of appreciation and the applause that they did, you know, it's really cool just being able to play at home, and it makes all the stress that I put on myself worth it.

I guess as my dad would say, these are the moments we live and practice for.

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