

Aramco Championship

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Las Vegas, Nevada, USA

Shadow Creek

Minjee Lee

Hannah Green

Lottie Woad

Press Conference

THE MODERATOR: Welcome everyone to our first press conference here at beautiful Shadow Creek ahead of this week's Aramco Championship PIF Global Series event, which has been co-sanctioned by the LPGA and the Ladies European Tour.

We are delighted to have with us this morning world No. 5 Minjee Lee, fellow Australian and eighth ranked Hannah Green, and England's world No. 9, Lottie Woad.

Minjee, you have posted Top 5 finishes in your first two LPGA starts for the year, a tie for third at HSBC Championship, and a share the fifth place at Fortinet Founders Cup nine days ago. You have to be very happy with your form coming into this week.

MINJEE LEE: Yeah, starting the year I've had a few nice finishes. I feel like I'm getting back into the rhythm of things and trying to build a bit more momentum coming into this event and the in next few events.

Yeah, happy with kind of where my game is right now and hopefully build a bit more this week.

THE MODERATOR: You have previously competed at Shadow Creek when the LPGA played the match play event here. Is your view what is the biggest challenge facing players on this course, and how do you feel this layout sets up for your game in particular?

MINJEE LEE: I think Shadow Creek is just a beauty of a golf course. It's challenges every part of my game, and I think everybody's game. You have to be really good on the greens. Your approach shots have to be pretty spot on just because there is a lot of roll and it's hard contours on the greens.

I think it just challenges even for your drives, and sometimes you can't hit driver and you're a little bit further



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back and then you have to navigate what kind of shot you want to hit into the greens as well.

So I just think it's a really great golf course and it's just going to be really fun to play this week with how the conditions are. I think maybe the wind is going to be up a little bit so that's going to add another element to it.

I think in terms of my game, I feel like I'm pretty solid with my irons, so I do think it helps.

But, you know, it's going to challenge me regardless, and I would like to embrace the challenge, so I think it'll be good.

THE MODERATOR: Hannah, you have made a sizzling start to this year finishing seventh in the Honda LPGA Thailand and then winning the HSBC Women's World Championship in Singapore, before going on to make it a remarkable three tournament wins in a row with successes at the women's Australian Open and the Australian WPGA Championship. What has underpinned your impressive form so far this season?

HANNAH GREEN: I feel like I've been asked this question a few times and I really don't know what to put it down to. I think I always tend to have good form at the start of the season because I've had some good time at home back in Australia. They're all golf tournaments that I love to play and I feel like the wins that I have had on Tour usually come at venues where I've had success prior.

So it's been a crazy four weeks and I'm super excited to be here at Shadow. Haven't been here in a couple years; hoping I can continue that form. It's probably going to be a little bit difficult, probably putting more expectation on myself, but Shadow Creek is a very tricky golf course and probably going to be a little bit different scoring to what I played the last three weeks.

So I think patience will be probably a very popular word in press conferences because you definitely need that here at Shadow.

THE MODERATOR: This week's event has attracted the strongest PIF Global Series field ever assembled with



every single player in the top 20 of the Rolex Women's World Golf Rankings vying for the title and a share of the \$4 million prize fund. Does the quality of field change how you prepare for this week?

HANNAH GREEN: Yeah, it's great we have the top 20. I think I heard the statistic it's the first time since 2017 we have had that. It just shows this venue, the PIF, Saudi getting involved you're going to get the best fields in the world.

I don't think it changes so much how I prepare for this particular tournament, but it's definitely a tournament I hope to do well in. I got here on Sunday afternoon like I would any other tournament and kind of kept my practice the same. I feel like I've been quite tired the last four weeks due to the success I've had.

So listening to my body, making sure I'm not trying to push too hard this week, as we have a very long year ahead. Hopefully, yeah, we can have some good weather. Hopefully the winds aren't too gusty for us, because that will make things very difficult.

Really looking forward to teeing up tomorrow.

THE MODERATOR: Lottie, you have posted two top 10s in your first five starts of the LPGA Tour season, a tie for seventh at the Hilton Grand Vacations Tournament of Champions, and a share of tenth place at the HSBC Women's World Championship. How do you assess your own form coming into this week?

LOTTIE WOAD: Yeah, I think it's been okay. I feel like I've had pretty slow starts on most of the events other than the Hilton one, so I have done pretty good at back dooring Top 10s, Top 15s. Kind of want to switch that up a little bit and have a bit better start is the key I think.

THE MODERATOR: How much is the Solheim Cup on your mind this early in the year, and how cool is it to be able to test your game against the best players in the world with Bernardus Golf staging the biennial competition in September?

LOTTIE WOAD: Yeah, definitely on most people's mind. Love for my first one to be in Europe, too. That will be extra special. Yeah, long way away, but hoping to play well and get on the team really.

THE MODERATOR: We'll now open it up to questions.

Q. Hannah, you've been on such a tear of great golf lately. What's been clicking in your game that's allowed you to win as many times as you have

recently?

HANNAH GREEN: I think the putter has been very hot the last three weeks. I also feel like my driving statistics have been better than last year. Having some confidence in that club has been really important to me.

I feel like once I can hit the fairway I can hit the green and give myself an opportunity to make the birdie. I think that's been the real big difference over the three weeks.

I feel like the venues probably haven't been as tough as this week, so I think it's going to be tricky going from making a lot of birdies to then perhaps only making a couple and striving for some pars at some stage.

Hopefully I can continue the confidence that I have with those clubs in my bag this week.

Q. Minjee, looking ahead to major season, how does a course like Shadow Creek give a pretty good pressure test where your game is heading into the major stretch?

MINJEE LEE: Yeah, I feel like Shadow weighs up to kind of the major championship golf course. Like I said before, it challenges all parts of your game, and also mentally I think you have to be patient like Hannah said. At times you just got to make your pars or take your 40, 30-footers.

So, yeah, I think it's kind of a nice, I wouldn't say steppingstone, but just a nice kind of ease into our major season just with the course being so great.

Q. Lottie, I know this is a property you're not super familiar having never played here before. What have you see from this golf course that you know you'll have to prepare your game for to tackle?

LOTTIE WOAD: Yeah, I definitely heard some horror stories coming into this week from a few people. So I've been told it's softer than it was. Yeah, I think just challenges every part of your game. You need to hit the fairways and really need to hit the green, too. Some places if you go you're kind of screwed, so just playing into sections and using backstops when you can I think is probably the key.

Q. Hannah, have you had time to reflect on your incredible month, and what did you spend last week doing?

HANNAH GREEN: Somewhat reflect. I actually didn't really get to celebrate a whole lot because, I don't know why, but I decided to do all my travel on a Sunday night



instead of on Monday. Last week I was in Fort Worth, Texas. That's where I base myself when I have week off here in the U.S.

Took me four days to recover over the last four weeks. It was really nice. Weather was really good in will Dallas, so that was helpful, because I feel like when I am there it's either freezing cold or really hot.

So that was good. I feel like obviously want to acknowledge what I've done over the last four weeks, but also don't want to put too much pressure on myself and have my head still in the clouds. I still have a big season left for the year, so just trying to use that in inner confidence for when I have those tough moments on the golf course.

Hopefully can continue this success that I'm having.

Q. In terms of being able to play those tournaments on home soil in front of family and friends and have that success, what was that like? Had was that extra special for you?

HANNAH GREEN: Yeah, definitely. I guess it had been 12 years since an Australian had won the Australian Open. I'm very honored to have my name alongside Karrie and all the other greats.

So, yeah, I think it's probably a bit of I guess all of us Australians feel like there is less pressure that we can kind of go for it a little bit harder. It's always amazing playing at home. I would love to have more event s in Australia that I can compete and play in. Been fortunate to have this so early this the season.

Q. Minjee, you were laughing at that, that the pressure has been taken off now. You were all talking about it before the tournament, that this was something you're gunning for. How great was it for all the major champions to be back at home and play that event?

MINJEE LEE: I think it's always extra special when you're playing at home. We don't really get too many opportunities to play in front of a home crowd. Just to see all the girls come back and obviously support the tournament and try and grow the Australian golf, I think that's really great.

Just for me personally, I think it's always nice for me to go back and see friendly faces and I just feel like it's nice to go and support our national open.

We all want to win that championship as well, so it was really great to see Hannah win. It was really cool.

Q. And Lottie, obviously back on the LET this week, doing both tours this year where you can. How great is it to see people back on the LET who obviously you've grown up, with some of the rookies?

LOTTIE WOAD: Yeah, it's great. We have a lot of strong European talent coming through the LET. Played a lot of college golf with them, back in England, too. It's always fun to catch up with them. I don't get to see them much so it's always nice.

Q. Minjee, Shadow Creek in general, Vegas, your brother lives here at well, what has the scene been like for golf in general? What has it been like out here?

MINJEE LEE: You know, I always like coming back. Like coming back to Vegas because the course is so good and I really enjoy playing Shadow. Obviously Min Woo came out last year and I don't really get to see him too often, so we'll catch up with dinner this week.

I think he has a week off before the Masters so he'll be around. Our coach is here as well so all catch up for dinner and have a nice catch-up.

Q. Minjee, you and your brother, Min Woo, the tours keep you apart quite a lot. When you get back together are you competitive with one another? Do you work on your games together? Or do you just leave golf apart when you're together and commune on other things?

MINJEE LEE: It just depends. Over the offseason when see him we have a game or two, money game here or there. I don't get to see him very often. When we were do see each other it's more brother-sister stuff.

You know be maybe I'll ask him for tip for Chevron but I think it's going to be like hit the fairway, hit the green, and hole the putt. You know, just really brother-sister stuff. He's a bit after rascal, so...

Q. You've played this course as match play. What do you think of the change from that format and is there an adjustment playing this course as stroke play?

MINJEE LEE: I think obviously the mindset of match play and stroke play a little bit different. You could be bit more aggressive playing match play when the course allowed, but I think it's good that we get to play stroke play. I think it's -- I mean, it was good either way, but I think I would enjoy the tournament more as a stroke play format.

So I'm just really looking forward getting the week started.

Q. Question to any of you. Obviously the world's top 20 here. That doesn't happen very often and you're playing incredible fields week in and week out. Does that change how you prepare at all mentally, or just really need to get to an extra level this week or approach the tournament in the same way as you would normally?

LOTTIE WOAD: I mean, I think for me, obviously rankings do mean something, but even -- everyone out here is so good that even if someone is ranked 50th or whatever, they're still going a challenge to win. It doesn't matter as much that 20 of the 20 are here. Still going to be a great field every week.

HANNAH GREEN: I think last year having so many different winners on the LPGA you want the top players to be here. So much talent that aren't ranked where they should be so it's great we have all of us here.

But I think personally for me, when I've prepared for major championships or events like this I've put too much prosecute pressure on myself. I'm going to try to do it how I would normally for any regular event.

Q. What challenges -- anyone of you can answer this -- does this golf course in this particular present more so than any other courses on Tour for you guys?

HANNAH GREEN: I would say probably the firmness of the greens. They're usually quite firm here. I've only played here at Shadow as match play, so I feel like it's either I make birdies or bogeys. It's going to be quite difficult to go from being perhaps for aggressive to hitting in the middle of the green and having par as a good score instead of being aggressive.

So, I think also the wind is supposed to be up, but here at Shadow it's quite gusty, so I think being fully committed to the shot you're going to hit and I guess mentally preparing to hit a good shot and not be rewarded is going to be quite tough.

Yeah, going to be a mental and physical battle. This is also one of the longer and tougher walks, so getting used to that. There is just a lot of the things we have to battle this week so I think we're all being look forward to that challenge.

THE MODERATOR: Hannah, picking up on what you just said, and having spoken to many caddies this week, they reckon the pace of play will be a little slow for some of the reasons you've just described.

HANNAH GREEN: Yeah, definitely. I haven't really seen what the time par is exactly they think we'll get around, but looking at the forecast, seeing it will be strong gusts, I think you will definitely see it being over five hours, which is a long time to concentrate.

I don't really know, even though the field size is perhaps more than what the LPGA and LET play on regular weeks, I still think it would be quite hard to make that better than five hours.

Hopefully it's not that long. None of us like slow rounds. You got to do what you got to do.

THE MODERATOR: Ladies, thank you for coming in this here and play well this week.

HANNAH GREEN: Thank you.

LOTTIE WOAD: Thank you.

MINJEE LEE: Thank you.

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