

# Dow Championship

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Midland, Michigan, USA

Midland Country Club

## Lexi Thompson

## Megan Khang

### Press Conference



THE MODERATOR: We would like to welcome Megan Khang and Lexi Thompson to the interview room here at the Dow Championship. You guys are teaming up again this year. Talk about why this partnership is so successful and why the Dow Championship is one that you guys always play together.

LEXI THOMPSON: Yeah, I mean we've of course played together here last year and then in Solheim Cups as well. We've always just really gotten along with each other, always have a lot of laughs out on the golf course, on and off. She's obviously a great player, so it was a no-brainer to team up. We played very well together at Solheim Cup, last year here, and it's just an amazing event to just having a team event on the schedule is always a good time.

MEGAN KHANG: No, I think I enjoy playing with Lexi a lot -- I'm going to bite my tongue here, but (laughing) we definitely enjoy it out there. I think we bring out a lot of our personality in each other and I think it's fun to have a team event. I think Dow does a great job of not opening giving us the opportunity to team up, but to have the fans see our interactions as a team that's not just a Solheim Cup, and obviously this place has a special place in our hearts, obviously playing well last year, and I think hopefully we're going around the golf course and having some good memories pop back up. So we're hoping to carry that on into this year and just keep having fun out there. I think you see the community come out and gather and really support this event, so why wouldn't we come back.

THE MODERATOR: With your game specifically do you feel like there's a certain way that you guys complement each other on the course?

MEGAN KHANG: Funny enough I feel like I've been hitting it into perfect Lexi range in the past few tournaments. I was like oh --

LEXI THOMPSON: What is Lexi range?

MEGAN KHANG: What do you mean, I mean, Lexi's like No. 1 in fairways, I'm like 15 to 20 feet, and I'm, Oh, gosh, if Lexi were just putting for me this would be great. So it's just, obviously, like, U.S. Open week last week, I wasn't too happy missing the cut, but I took that tournament week into this week and going, Don't worry, Lexi is going to make all those for me next week. So it's just like that where it's good fun. Obviously alternate shot can be stressful, but when you have a partner like that, and I feel like I'm hitting it relatively good, I think like our games complement each other in that sense. It's a lot nicer having a shorter club in from where Lexi hits it as well.

**Q. What have you two learned about each other playing in this event, playing at Solheim Cups together. I know that that changes the friendship, I would imagine, when you play golf together like that.**

LEXI THOMPSON: Yeah, I would say that we've gotten closer as friends, of course, pairing up with each other in different events. But what have we learned?

MEGAN KHANG: Lexi has learned a lot about me she wishes she didn't.

LEXI THOMPSON: No, no. Honestly, besides the team events, we've played together a handful of times, but not too much. These events really bring us together and bring out the personalities and definitely a bonding experience. But it's a lot of fun. It's just a different experience than just individual golf, which I think, I mean, I love it.

MEGAN KHANG: I think our humor complements each other as well, so we got each other. I think the friendship that we have built and obviously with setup being that kind of the starting point, I think even before Solheim Cup we obviously joked about -- because obviously our dads are a big part of our lives.

LEXI THOMPSON: We definitely bonded over that. (Laughing) for sure.

MEGAN KHANG: We love you dad. Happy early Father's Day. (Laughing).



**Q. How do you two bring out the competitive fire in each other?**

LEXI THOMPSON: We want to win. We want to make birdies.

MEGAN KHANG: I think it's a hard balancing, because obviously we're trying to keep it fun, but at the same time we both want this so bad. But trying to find that balance of not trying too hard -- because when you try too hard it's a little hard, like you put that pressure on you, and sometimes it just doesn't work out when you're trying too hard. So we're trying to balance each other off. We're not always going to hit good shots, but that's the great part about the Dow Championship is you have a partner to pick up. It's not just you and your caddie, it's you and the person on your right or your left. It's a different kind of mentality. You're not just playing for yourself, you're playing for a team. I think being able to stay positive and have someone else to rely on definitely helps a lot, because golf's such a solo sport that when you have the opportunity to play with someone it's really fun.

LEXI THOMPSON: It's a nice change.

MEGAN KHANG: You got to embrace that.

**Q. You are Solheim Cup stalwarts in many ways, what does that event mean to the LPGA to women's golf as a whole and why is it really the crown jewel of female golf?**

LEXI THOMPSON: I think the Solheim Cup, I mean, it's been a huge part of my career and probably my favorite event that I've ever played in. I love team golf, but being able to represent my country, waking up putting red, white, and blue on, there's nothing like it. Playing in front of the fans, it's the highest honor that you can possibly have. But I always say, if people don't watch women's golf, just go to a Solheim Cup and you'll be hooked. Because you see some obviously the best players in the world, but some of the most amazing golf shots and just the spirit and attitude come out of us. I think that's what it's all about, and I think it's really grown the women's game of golf too.

MEGAN KHANG: I kind of forgot the question.

LEXI THOMPSON: Solheim Cup and how important it is.

MEGAN KHANG: No, so Solheim Cup is great. I think you're one of 12 girls on the team. You have your assistant captains, your captains, your caddies, all the helpers, I think it's something where golf isn't just you. Again, like, being part of a team, wearing your country's colors, it's something where, if you're lucky enough to do it,

it's once every two years, and maybe once every four years with the Olympics now, but it's not often that you see golf in that kind of environment. I think when you're able to make that team and you're able to be in those team rooms and those conversations and you're out there on the first tee hearing everyone chant your name -- and obviously it's all in good fun, but everyone still wants to win. That's probably, it's been so much fun, I think, being lucky enough to play four. And obviously fighting to make this team this year, you hate to think about it, just because you don't want the pressure, but you hate to miss it if you do. So even if I'm trying not to think about it I'm sure it's in the back of our minds, just because obviously we know how much fun and exciting those weeks can be and how the adrenaline runs through, how the fans all come out to support, even if it's overseas or on home soil, it's one of the most electric weeks that you can have out there. And I think Dow's probably one of the closest we can get to that similar environment without it being a full-on USA versus Europe-type situation.

**Q. Lexi, what's it like to be able to play in an event like this and maybe put a little less pressure on yourself. You spent so many years in the spotlight continuously, so is it a little more relaxed atmosphere than it was when you were playing week-to-week?**

LEXI THOMPSON: Yeah, there's definitely less pressure. But like what Megan said, we're still out here wanting to win and play our best golf. But I think what Dow does for this event, bringing us together and obviously giving back to the community as well while we play this week. It's such a special event. It's a lot more relaxed, but at the same time we want to play well and bring our best out there. But, yeah, it's definitely a nice change of events and being paired up with Megan, definitely we have a lot of laughs out there in between shots. We have a good time, but we know when to get serious and, yeah, hopefully make some birdies out there.

**Q. What's it like just trying to meet your own expectations rather than spending all those years trying to live up to everybody else's?**

LEXI THOMPSON: Yeah, I think as golfers it is such an individual sport, so there is, you put a lot of expectations on yourself from the beginning. Me, starting at such a young age and being in the spotlight since I was 12, there's always going to be outside expectations. I knew that coming into it. But I think the most important thing is just listening to yourself and your circle around you and just really going after your goals and your expectations of yourself, not really putting too much pressure on yourself. It's easy to do with golf because we're practicing, we're training, we're putting in the hours. So we expect to see

those instant results, but at the same time you have to give yourself grace and just be easy on yourself sometimes because then it can get to you.

MEGAN KHANG: You've done great job of handling it. I must say.

LEXI THOMPSON: Thanks (laughing). My partner. (Laughing).

**Q. Winner of last year's Impact Award, Dow Impact Award, we'll be announcing the nominees tomorrow. How awesome is it to see Dow give back to the community, give back to you guys? How awesome is it to have a program like this where they're giving to you guys, to give on to your charities and everything?**

LEXI THOMPSON: Yeah, it's incredible. What Dow has done, not only for this event but the way they give back to the community and charities. It's one thing to be an incredible company and everything, but the way they have given back it makes such a bigger difference in the world. Us out here being athletes, of course we want to play good golf, but we want to make a bigger impact, whether if that's getting clubs in kids' hands at a younger age or giving back to the community, I think it's just an amazing opportunity for us to hopefully grow the game and make a bigger impact on the world. But I think what Dow does to allow us to be able to give back to charities that we work with too, that's what it's all about. We can chase this little white ball around all day, but it's about making a bigger impact than that. So I'm thankful for Dow.

**Q. What's the team name, what's the walk-up song?**

LEXI THOMPSON: Still Biggie Smalls.

MEGAN KHANG: It's still Biggie Smalls.

LEXI THOMPSON: She's picking the song. She doesn't know it yet.

MEGAN KHANG: I don't know it yet.

**Q. House leaders? Any like off the top of your head you're between?**

LEXI THOMPSON: We haven't even talked about it.

MEGAN KHANG: Feel free to message us, because I'm terrible with song titles. So, yeah, the DMs are open if you want a song. Not in that way, but like --

LEXI THOMPSON: I was going to say, I'm like, might want to scratch that part.

MEGAN KHANG: I'm just going to have to walk out of here.

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