

TGL Presented By SoFi: Los Angeles Golf Club vs Atlanta Drive Golf Club

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Palm Beach Gardens, Florida, USA
SoFi Center

Los Angeles Golf Club

Justin Rose

Tommy Fleetwood

Collin Morikawa

Press Conference

Los Angeles Golf Club 7, Atlanta Drive GC 3

THE MODERATOR: I'd like to welcome Los Angeles Golf Club here to the media center at SoFi Center. Congratulations on the big win tonight. Can you give us a few remarks about it?

COLLIN MORIKAWA: Well, we threw a great hammer.

JUSTIN ROSE: Yeah, delighted. I felt like it was a big matchup. Obviously Atlanta are a great team, kind of littered with really tough competitors, and we obviously came in here with some momentum, not just from a TGL point of view but from the golf that's being played this season. It was great to let that follow through tonight and to get a big win and I think kind of get our season really up and running.

I feel like we've been playing pretty well, but it's been win, loss. We haven't really found that rhythm yet, and hopefully tonight can be the start of that.

Q. Collin, you were asked tonight how this plays into your golf on the PGA TOUR. Can you talk a little bit about how they correlate with each other?

COLLIN MORIKAWA: Yeah, I talked about it, 18 at Pebble I had to wait for a long time, and out here, even though it's a very fast pace, you do have a lot of waiting time. Singles you're kind of waiting and you're trying to figure out how to stay loose, how to move around, how to stay focused on things.

I think it's been not only the mental side of that, of figuring



out what to do, but also just kind of keeping our games tidy, learning how our swings are reacting under pressure.

You can't replicate this type of pressure even though it's a very small setting. I still feel it. I felt it on my first putt today. I felt it on my shots throughout the round. You feel pressure, I think, that would be different than a Thursday, Friday and potentially even sometimes on an early Saturday round.

So it's good. You're able just to learn a lot about yourself and go out there and hopefully take that into the long weekends.

Q. Obviously the trios switch up every match, but you guys together are 3, 4, 5 in the world. Do you feel like a powerhouse when these three are together?

TOMMY FLEETWOOD: I think we're a strong team, and I think whatever our rotation is, I think we're a very, very strong team, and I think we're very close, and I think we have an amazing team chemistry.

Yeah, I think it's very cool to be 3, 4, 5 in the world and playing as a team. I think that's amazing. I personally find it very exciting to be a part of, and I think we can -- it's something to draw upon.

Things like that, like being 3, 4, 5 in the world, it doesn't necessarily have a reflection. You've still got to hit the shots when you're playing, and you still have to play, but I still think it's something nice to draw on. You go out there and we have a very high world ranking and we've been playing some great golf.

I think you kind of try and draw on as many positive things and as much of an edge as you can get, and then you go out and play. Like I say, just because you're 3, 4 and 5 in the world doesn't mean you're going to play great. I think the team we played tonight are clearly -- they have been the strongest team in the league. They won it last year, and they're top of the league now.

It was a big matchup, and I think we're all just excited for that challenge, especially in the position that we've sort of

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found ourselves in before tonight in the league, and we definitely needed a win.

Yeah, great for the three of us to get that done. But back to the original question, I think our rotation. Sahith has been amazing, love playing with Sahith, and Tony when he came in was great. We're very, very lucky to have the team that we've got.

Q. Collin, how would you describe playing the new Caverns hole at the end, and what did you find intriguing about it?

COLLIN MORIKAWA: Yeah, unfortunately I wasn't able to come in and practice. It was actually the first time in all the matches that I hadn't been able to come in and see the holes.

I loved it. I talked about it a little earlier. Before the season when we got to see Stinger, I was like a kid in a candy shop. You're hitting shots, and you're trying to figure out what club to hit. Even Rosey I think was thinking maybe 4-iron today on Stinger. It's coming down to the wire.

So playing a hole like Caverns where it's really impossible to have a hole like that, it just makes it fun. You're being an artist, and I think there's a lot to learn from that. I think there's a lot for a lot of these younger kids trying to play golf to be that artistic golfer and hitting curved shots. I don't think out here we're ever trying to hit a dead straight shot. It's very hard to do.

Shoot, they're probably going to create a hole next year for that.

But back to that point, it was a very fun hole. I loved it. It was really, really cool just to have that setting and really feel like you're in a cave.

Q. I'm looking at a sheet here right before the match that had you guys the lowest percentage to make the playoffs before the match. I was kind of fascinated on 13 to hear you guys' discussion when you were going through the hammer whether to accept it or decline it. Seemed like a relatively easy up-and-down, but I think you probably made the right call in declining that. How hard is it to remove your ego in those situations and just make the right decision to give yourself the best chance to win the match?

COLLIN MORIKAWA: I think these guys had a lot of trust in me with how I felt over the chip. I felt comfortable, and Lucas still had it. It's not like it was a gimme. He probably had four and a half feet.

But you have to play the odds and you have to play the numbers. We don't have -- like Ben, who Atlanta has, crunching all the numbers at one time, but we have very smart guys amongst our team to be able to think and realize that, okay, if we give them the point, they've got one more hammer; at worst it's tied, and that's assuming we don't play great golf. These guys were holding on very, very great on holes 10 and 11, and we were just bound to hit great shots. We were bound to just play great golf, and I think that's the trust we have in these guys. But it's just simple numbers.

I obviously had a slight brain mishap on 14 with Tommy's putt, but we won't talk about that. It was a good hammer decline. Tommy made a great putt to get us two points for no reason.

JUSTIN ROSE: The great thing is not looking at stats, I had no idea we were the lowest percentage ranked team to make the playoffs coming into today.

Obviously sometimes you've just got to turn up and you've got to execute and you've got to play. Obviously all that stuff is fun for people watching, but like being 3, 4, 5 in the world, again, the stats don't really matter. You've got to go out and hit the shots.

Like Collin was basically saying, we trust ourselves down the stretch to hit the shots at some point. It was kind of by declining that hammer took the double -- we realized they were going to throw it on the tee box for the two-point play, and they were only three points behind us at that point, so if they threw two hammers on the tee consecutively, they could potentially win the game.

I think that one decision took it out of their hands.

Q. Tommy, I see you rocking the LAGC apparel. What are you looking for in your next apparel sponsorship?

TOMMY FLEETWOOD: That's a great question. I think for now, I'm in a situation where I am wearing things that I like and things that I want, and I think I haven't done -- I haven't had the freedom of trying tons of different things for a long time.

I think for now, it's just -- I want to say experimenting but I do have the luxury of trying different things, wearing different things, and I think I'll just take it from there, from this point onwards. But it's been nice. And yeah, plenty of people have mentioned it.

It's just something different. I have been with one company for a very, very long time, and they were absolutely amazing, and just at this point it's a bit different, and I'm

wearing a few different things.

I guess over time I'll see if there is a particular way that I want to go with what I want to wear. But for now it's just trying things and seeing what happens.

Q. You guys all had a great West Coast Swing and came over from LA yesterday. I wonder as LA Golf Club, do you feel that support more? Are the fans more supportive with you representing LA year over year? Is that more noticeable now?

COLLIN MORIKAWA: I mean, I would say yeah. I think our team does a really good job of bringing out the golf trucks, the simulators, reaching out to fans. You see some merchandise that people wear, LAGC hats, people rooting us on.

Do we want more? Absolutely. I think we all want people to root us on and be able to turn it on tonight, and even though it was a late match, it's like, we want people to tune in.

But for me, I'm an LA guy. I'm a West Coast guy. I feel the love. I don't know how much -- I'm sure these guys feel the love. These guys are two of the most beloved guys out there on TOUR for many, many years. They're going to continue to get the love, and I think we've got a great fan base, and hopefully continuing to grow that.

Q. Collin, you brought up a really interesting point there. We sit out here all the time and compare the pressure of inside versus out on the PGA TOUR. But the way you just phrased that, like how it inspires your creativity, do you feel like -- this is season 2, but do you feel like long-term that can make a difference in the way you approach your game, or maybe it has already, just having fun in here and being more creative in your practice rather than maybe sometimes you guys practice so much it might feel robotic?

COLLIN MORIKAWA: A little. I think I'm going to touch upon more of the nerves I feel. I don't know how nervous these guys feel, but I feel the pressure. When you're teeing it up for a team and you've got two other guys and Sahith watching, Tony, you want to perform. All these team events, the Ryder Cups, the Presidents Cups, any team event, you want to perform well for your team, and that creates a different style of pressure, things that you can't replicate. You never know how your body going to react. You never know what your mind is going to think, how you're going to hit the shots.

I pretty much shanked one on the Bridge hole, but I'm going to learn from that. If I just was on the range and I hit

that shot, I'd pull another ball and hit it again, or if it was in a practice round on a Wednesday or Tuesday, I'd do the same thing. You don't feel the pressure of saying, that's what my body is going to do during those moments.

You learn a lot. I think it's more on that side versus the way you practice because there still are styles of our golf that maybe you're not curving it as much or doing certain shots. Out here I hit a couple more draws than I would do on the golf course.

But I think when it comes down to pressure, I think we are able to learn a lot from that, through these matches.

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