

ROUND 1 INTERVIEW
June 7, 2019

KEN TANIGAWA (-7)



Q. Ken, just kind of start us off with your thoughts on the round today.

KEN TANIGAWA: Well, I was thrilled to be able to play with Tom Watson and Monty. Well, first of all, that was a thrill for me, right? To be back in Japan and playing with Tom Watson, that was pretty cool.

My round, I hit it well. I did kind of did everything kind of okay; I missed it in the right spots, I made some putts. I didn't make my bogeys, which is always a nice thing when you're playing a round of golf. So overall it's just a very solid round of golf.

Q. Are you coming off the strength of your Senior PGA victory? Has it kind of boosted your confidence out here, would you say?

KEN TANIGAWA: Yeah, I think so. But golf's a fickle game, so you take it day to day because you never know what you're going to get. Yeah, I think so. Yeah, that was an unbelievable moment for me to be on that stage and be able to pull off a victory. That was really something special.

Yeah, back to your question, confidence-wise, sure, I feel like, okay, you've been fortunate enough to win a few times, get your feet wet out here. Do you belong? Yeah, I think my A-game's good enough to play, but you still have to perform and execute. But overall, yeah, I was happy with how that went certainly and I'm happy with the round today.

Q. Ken, was this the first time that your mom has seen you play as a pro in Japan?

KEN TANIGAWA: There's no doubt about that, yeah. And it's been a long time since she's probably seen me play, so it was pretty cool to have her here really. Just outside of golf, just to be able to see my mom really regardless of the golf, it's pretty special.

Q. Did you see her on the first tee? I don't know if you saw her, she was off to the --

KEN TANIGAWA: Yeah, I saw her, I saw her with my family there, which was cool. You know, I didn't know -- I was hoping that she wasn't going to go out and actually try to venture out too far, but that was pretty cool to have her there, no doubt about it.

Q. You have a connection to this course, do I understand? A family friend, the designer?

KEN TANIGAWA: Oh, yeah, Tai Kawata? Yeah, I've known -- he's been a family friend for

a long, long time. Actually, I've known him since I was probably a little kid, so 8, 9, 10 years old. I haven't seen him in a long time, so maybe I'll run into him this week. Yeah, there's a connection there and I don't think -- I've never played a course of his, so enjoyed it.

Q. And this was your first time playing here?

KEN TANIGAWA: Yeah, first time playing here. Well, I may have played here years ago, I don't remember, but I can say this is my first time.

Q. Your first professional start in Japan?

KEN TANIGAWA: Actually, no. I played on the tour here back in the mid '90s around three years, but it's a long time. It felt like a first time.