

ROUND 4 INTERVIEW
February 20, 2022



BYEONG HUN AN (-17)

Q. Ben, you are 2022 LECOM Suncoast Classic champion. How are you feeling right now?

BYEONG HUN AN: It feels (like) a relief, I guess. It was a long day. I was grinding all day. It wasn't my best golf, but just enough there and enough grinding out there to keep it steady. Last hole was a bit unlucky, lucky and unlucky at the same time, but I got the job done and that's what you need to do.

Q. Coming up No. 18 you found a little bit of trouble here, got it done. Walk me through like those emotions of having to wait and see what's going to happen with Michael.

BYEONG HUN AN: Yeah, I was two up, two to go and I hit a great shot into No. 17 and that's when I thought, okay, maybe No. 18 is just a nice drive down the middle. I chickened out. It was a terrible swing I made and that was a little unfortunate, but I got a very good lie out of it and I was able to make a bogey on the last and win by one. I think that was pretty lucky, to be honest. I missed a lot of putts today, but grinded it out and just did enough to win out there.

Q. You got to have your wife out here this week. Talk about what that means for you.

BYEONG HUN AN: It means a lot. Because we've got a son now, he's two years old, it's impossible to travel with the just the two of us. Thankfully, this week we have in-laws in Orlando, they're taking care of Sam and this week feels like old days, me and my wife before the kid. Everything just clicked. Having dinner with her every night... it's hard to describe, but it felt very relaxing and calm. It was great to have her here. I think that was one of the key moments. When I asked her, "Do you want to go down there?" That was a good decision.

Q. You seemed calm, cool and collected. Who do you think was more nervous today, you or her?

BYEONG HUN AN: Probably her. I wasn't really nervous until the last hole. I didn't see the leaderboard the whole time until the 17th or 18th hole. Then hitting a great shot on No. 17, making par, on No. 18, I'm like just the drive I hit the last three days, it's down the middle. It was a little bit nervous, but I'm sure she was a little bit more nervous than I was because she has no control over what I can do. I knew I was in control of my golf swing, what swing I need to make. She was definitely more nervous. I wasn't nervous. I was very excited to be in the position I was in. Could have been a lot worse.

Q. Entering the week you weren't sure how (indiscernible) the Korn Ferry Tour compared to the PGA TOUR, where you've been, so having a win here, what does the Korn Ferry Tour win mean to you specifically?

BYEONG HUN AN: It's great. The last win I had was back in Korea, 2015, so it's been six years. I came close a lot of times on PGA TOUR, and people still think why are you here? Well, I didn't have a good year, but to have a win early in the season, I think that helps a lot. My goal is not to just get my card, but my whole team, my coach, my manager and my wife all believe and I think I'm capable of doing a lot better things. We're just going to keep our head down and grind hard and, hopefully next year, be on the PGA TOUR. That's my ultimate goal for this season is get back on the TOUR. But, yeah, a win is great, and I hope I can go back up as soon as I can.

Q. So tomorrow you have a Monday qualifier. You're going to use this energy and momentum going into that?

BYEONG HUN AN: A Monday qualifier is always harder, because you play one day and you have to be in perfect condition. You have to play almost the best golf you can to make it. It's only a three-hour drive from here. It will be great if I make it, and if I don't, just going to enjoy my three weeks off.

Q. And you have a new coach. Does this kind of solidify for you what you've been working on?

BYEONG HUN AN: I had a new coach since end of 2020. It's been about a year. He's been a big part of this. Sean (Foley)'s been great because he basically taught me everything about golf again. He called me last night, called me this morning. He keeps saying, "Ben, got to stay focused and one shot at a time." The swing I feel like is getting a lot better and a lot comfier and it is where we want it to be. I'm just going to tighten a few things up. I think he helped me more on the mental side than the golf swing side. I think definitely he helped me, but I think off the golf course he talks so much about what we shoot, what you need to do and that's been I think key for the last couple weeks. And he likes talking, so he keeps chirping every day. I don't mind that. It's been great and I can't wait to tell him after this interview.

Q. After the PGA TOUR, what was the initial thing that you wanted to work on between then and this win here today?

BYEONG HUN AN: Everything. I worked pretty hard in the last offseason – golf, fitness and everything – but this week, it wasn't my best week. I hit it pretty decent, but I didn't putt great. I wasn't hitting it perfect. I grinded hard and I think that was the key for me this week, keep grinding out there. And just enough to win out there by one shot. I finally realized I don't need to play four days of perfect golf. I had a mediocre day yesterday and today and still got away with this. I think it gives me a lot of confidence. I just need to keep doing what I'm doing and working hard.

Q. How about your son, how are you guys going to celebrate this win?

BYEONG HUN AN: He's a little young to know; he's only two years old, but definitely not going to give him the trophy because he's going to throw it on the ground. I'll keep it up there and maybe in later years he'll know what it is, what it means. I can't wait to see him. Hopefully next Sunday, but if I don't make it tomorrow, I get to see him Tuesday.

Q. What's the level of shock on 16 when you --

BYEONG HUN AN: All day I've been putting decent. I made one on No. 9, but I missed a lot of short putts today, so I wasn't putting great. I didn't hit the best shot on 16. I had about a 55-footer, but I was like, I can see this line. If I get it to the hole, I feel like this is going to go in, because it was a long putt. I hit it a little too hard and it was leaking a little right. So I was like, oh, I missed it right, it's going to go like 60 past the hole, and it broke left again and went into the hole. I'm like, oh, great. Let's see, I think that's what golf is. You miss all the putts and that was a perfect time to make one happen. That helped me hit a good shot the next hole as well. I think it's chaos in my head, missing all day but this went in. It's golf.

Q. So your putts made still looks pretty good then?

BYEONG HUN AN: Yeah, it was shocking, it was very shocking, but it was about time to go in, so that was a little relief there.

Q. Most important club in the bag this week, what was it?

BYEONG HUN AN: Good question. It was a good week, but probably my long iron. I hit great shots into the par 5s the first three days, I was able to hit greens under regulation. I set up like easy birdies. The first three days I had a lot of two-putts for birdies so I think that makes golf a lot easier when you hit the green in two and make a two-putt birdie. I think my long irons was great this week and it's been great for the last couple weeks, so I kind of had confidence, so that's why I went for almost every green out there.

Q. So you're being a little bit of a road warrior and heading down to West Palm tomorrow. How are you feeling? How are you resetting your mindset with that.

BYEONG HUN AN: I've got my wife going with me, so it won't be that boring drive, it's just three hours. We'll go down, my tee time's late in the afternoon tomorrow, so we've got plenty of time to relax. I'll try my best tomorrow and hopefully I get to play next week.

Q. What do you think overall of the course here? Is there something that plays to your strengths or anything?

BYEONG HUN AN: Yeah, I think it does. It's fairly wide. There are some tight holes, but it's fairly wide. And the par 5s, so hit it far down there is just a big advantage, so I took

advantage nicely today. No. 14 was pretty hard where the pin was, but because I had a 5-iron I was able to go for it and hit it pretty close. Although I missed the putt, it was an easy birdie. It's not an easy birdie hole. That helps. Distance and a bit of accuracy helps on this golf course.