

JAMES NITTIES

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FACILITATOR: Okay ladies and gentleman, we'd like to thank James for coming in at such short notice. When we've got the grandstand playing with John Daly, we'd like to have you in to have a word. John was very excited to play with you.

JAMES NITTIES: Really.

FEMALE SPEAKER: Well he said he's a bit rusty and he's going to watch the young ones play great game. So how did you feel about playing with John?

JAMES NITTIES: Yeah, no great. I met him a couple of years back and actually spent on and off a week with him, so he's one of those guys that's entertaining to play with. He's one of those down to earth types of blocks. I mean, I'm sure it is going to be heaps of fun out there.

FEMALE SPEAKER: Do you have questions ladies and gentleman?

QUESTION: (Inaudible).

JAMES NITTIES: Yeah, Masters was one of those experiences but I was very rusty going into. I hadn't played much. I'd played once in six weeks and I was hitting it terrible in the practice founds. I'd sort of played my way into form and had a chance to win the tournament, so it was disappointing in the end and I wasn't there. Every other year I played in the Aussie events I am there to secure my card but I was there to win that tournament so I played pretty aggressive down the stretch with no regrets, but to tango with Tiger a little bit on the weekend. So disappointing, but overall it was a great final week and being a part of that event with those crowds was something we never get in Australia so it was really good.

QUESTION: (Inaudible).

JAMES NITTIES: Yeah, it's weird. I've been getting a lot - I've been doing a lot of interviews and media stuff after that event, but I've led every event in Australia at least once or twice throughout the last five years. So it wasn't that unusual playing - being in that position at the Masters. I mean, Tiger was playing and

Tiger ended up winning but if Tiger wasn't there I still finished fourth and it's sort of like every other year I've played in some big events. I've finished fourth, third and second, but it's always good to be part of a tournament and in contention when Tiger is playing, and of course that's why I've got a little bit of exposure from it. So I'm definitely surprised being in these sorts of bearings. I'm still expecting the usuals like Parry, Appleby, Allenby and all those guys to be paired up with in the leading groups.

QUESTION: Do you take it as a show of faith from you?

JAMES NITTIES: Oh, a show of faith. I regard myself as pretty entertaining. I mean, I'm not just one of those guys that tells everyone what they want to hear so I suppose it's good being a part of Daly's group.

QUESTION: How was it out there today?

JAMES NITTIES: The opposite of good so if the tournament was played today we'd be sitting all inside because the tournament would have been cancelled. The wind was the strongest I've seen it here for a long time and the greens were a little quick. But I suppose this is one of these freak days because I played with a couple of local boys and they said it never blows like this. So hopefully we don't get this type of wind during the tournament or they'll let the greens grow a little longer, because the ball was rolling around on us out there and with our training.

QUESTION:...if it's not like this on Thursday, do days like this actually have a long lasting negative effect on the way you think about approaching the course?

JAMES NITTIES: Definitely. That's why I was kind of cautious and don't want to play today. I hadn't seen the course for a while and I played nine - just after the Masters I flew here to play nine holes and then I figured I'd play nine before the Pro-Am. We just played the New South Wales open a couple of days ago and the wind was stronger than this again and it sort of does destroy your swing a little bit and your confidence. There's guys out there grinding in this weather and it's just - it's definitely not good before the tournament. It just doesn't - it gives more negative than positive thoughts.

QUESTION: Can you imagine what - there's a lot of Koreans in the field this year. Can you imagine what they're thinking? They're coming here in the first place and seeing the course the way it is, but then seeing it on a day like this, can you imagine what they're going through?

JAMES NITTIES: Oh, they'll be sleeping like babies tonight, up every two hours crying. There was - if the weather was like this would have carded twelve over. I mean I was - I think on the fifth hole I just hit a six iron from 60 metres so I mean, I don't hit it that short and it was a pretty strong wind, yeah. I played six and then we walked in. It was very - we'd just got in before this, so yeah.

QUESTION: Why did you play?

JAMES NITTIES: Exactly. Why weren't you standing on the first tee telling me that. It was perfect weather when we teed off. It was just windy and I didn't hit - I wasn't hitting many shots. I was just walking around the course and hitting a couple of chip shots, so yeah, you're right. I just wanted to check out nine holes. I figured it would be done in two hours and I was never intending to play 18 so yeah, good question.

QUESTION: You could have just taken a sand wedge and putter.

JAMES NITTIES: Well even just a sand wedge, because putting, it's hard to hole a two footer out there.

QUESTION: Where do rate the course James? In terms of all the courses you play all over the world, where does this one stand?

JAMES NITTIES: It's one of those sentimental courses. It's easily the best sights I've seen and I've never played Pebble Beach. This is similar to it and I just - I don't know. I haven't played much competitive golf here. I've played - I've only played about four rounds here my whole life and they were around when I was 13-14. So when I played nine holes the other day it was the first time I've played here in five years, six years.

QUESTION: Is it exciting - I mean, is it a bit of a thrill for you to play a championship on a course like this?

JAMES NITTIES: It is and as I said, any Australian Open's special but this is - it's sort of like a major out here with this type of golf course. I just hope that the weather is kind because it can be a little bit of a luck fest out there. I mean, guys can go off in the morning and shoot eight under and guys in the afternoon eight over. So I just hope that the weather's fine. This is a really good course for scenic - not just scenic but for some great golf.

QUESTION: James, you mentioned that you got yourself a little lead a few times, fell a little short. Is that

the area of the game you've identified to win when you're out in the front...?

JAMES NITTIES: Yeah. I've led a lot of times and I mean, I just finished second in the New South Wales Open and I was leading going into the weekend. It's to do with - I think it's mental. I think once I do win it will sort of snowball, but as I said, this year's been a different mindset than I've had every other year. Every other year was just trying to - I'd go to America and spend all my money and I'd come back to Australia and try to steal my Aussie tour card in three events and four events. It's always been a little bit conservative and this year's been - I've got my PGA tour card next year so I can play more aggressive at these events. Being one of those guys that will have wins out here so I think it's just - I just hadn't putted well in any major event on the weekend. So it just always sort of leads me...that's what I've been working on the most is trying to put solid, not great, but just solid for four days in a row. In the Masters I didn't putt well on the weekend and it started affecting my game and then I started pushing it. So I don't know, it's one of those things if I knew I'd be winning so hopefully I find it out sooner, rather than later.

FEMALE SPEAKER: Okay ladies and gentleman, thank you and thank you for coming.