**INTRO**

*ANNC: Making their PGA TOUR Champions debut, K.J. Choi who turned 50 on May the 19th.*

Since I worked hard on the PGA TOUR, everyone said to take it easy on the Champions TOUR.

But I couldn’t.

Even though I’m a rookie again, I don’t want to lose.

So I changed my mindset.

There is a fierce competition here just like the PGA TOUR.

As the first Korean player on the Champions TOUR, I’m working hard every day and getting myself ready in order to make history.

**K.J. YOUTH**

I met the game of golf by pure chance.

Everyone knows, I used to be a weightlifter and quit.

When I started high school, I wanted to give weightlifting another try.

There were 10 kids at tryouts, but the teacher divided us into two groups of five.

He randomly said, ‘You guys go to the golf team and you guys are the weightlifting team’.

So that’s how I joined the golf team.

To this day, I want to ask him, ‘what made him make that decision?’

How did he know who would fit weightlifting? Or who would fit golf?

How did he know how to decide?

I didn’t know what golf was at the time, so I said I’d like to join the weightlifting team.

He said, ‘No, you’re playing golf.’

That’s how I started golf.

I feel so lucky to have met the game of golf and still have a deep passion for it.

I feel so grateful having played on the PGA TOUR for 21 years, and where I am now with my golf career.

I feel very blessed.

**FIRST WIN**

*ANNC: Oh, this is really good. How does that not go it?*

I’ve had eight wins, but the very first win was the most important for my career.

I still remember it like it was yesterday.

*ANNC: Sensational shot there from K.J. Choi.*

In 2002, we wondered if I’d ever win on the PGA Tour.

My wife and I were watching TV and noticed that the winners always hugged and kissed their wives

I told my wife it’d be awkward to give her a kiss in front of everyone considering Korean culture, so I promised my wife that I’d give her a big hug if I were to win.

Finally, that moment came.

It came so naturally to just hold her tight on the 18th green.

That is one of the greatest memories of my career.

With that first win, I was able to achieve more wins.

It wasn’t easy, but that one meant a lot to me and helped me getseven more victories.

**REFLECTION**

When I earned my PGA TOUR card in 2000, people said, ‘K.J. will come back to Korea after one season.’

‘He won’t be able to keep his card.’

Some people said, ‘He’s not good enough to compete on the PGA Tour.’

‘He will not make it.’

They made many negative predictions.

When I look back at that time, I think I worked even harder every day.

If someone practiced for two hours, I practiced for three to four hours. I worked twice as hard as others.

I was very obsessed with practicing. But I think that helped me a lot.

That effort helped me get through 21 years on the PGA TOUR.

I now realize that all my results have become the men’s golf records in Korea

Personally, I feel so honored. I am humbly proud of this moment for I was able to represent Korea on the PGA Tour.

**THE PLAYER’S WIN**

*ANNC: So K.J. Choi comes through the tunnel from 17 to 18 with the very first lead by himself in this PLAYERS CHAMPIONSHIP*

When I settled down in Jacksonville in 2000, I practiced at TPC Sawgrass all the time.

All year long I would see the country flags from past winners of THE PLAYERS Championship.

I kept thinking, when will I be able to put the Korean flag up there?

Before THE PLAYERS got off to a start, my caddie said, ‘I feel like you won’t be able to go back to Korea this Sunday. I do not know why.’ He said that on Tuesday.

When I look back, I think he had a gut feeling that I would bring home the trophy.

In the final round, David Toms hit his ball into the water on the 16th hole.

My caddie said, ‘You never know.’

Not until the very end.

‘You don’t know what will happen, so let’s do our best till the very end.’

We did everything we could do, and I won THE PLAYERS in a playoff.

Of the eight wins I’ve had, I think I cried the most at that one. I was just so happy.

Every player on the PGA TOUR wants to win THE PLAYERS Championship.

I was able to win on such a huge stage.

I became the first Korean player and first Asian player to win THE PLAYERS Championship.

It was just so thrilling and exciting, and I remember enjoying some special moments with the fans.

*ANNC: K.J. Choi is THE PLAYERS Champion! The biggest championship of his career.*

**KOREAN PLAYERS TALK K.J. CHOI**

A legend in Korea.

*ANNC: It's K.J. Choi. At a position here on an uphill par 4. Two hops and in she goes!*

Tank.

*ANNC: It’s a hole-in-one as well. That is very special.*

Pioneer

**Sungjae Im**

When I was a kid, K.J. Choi won a lot of PGA TOUR events.

He had eight wins. And I grew up watching them.

Because of him, I dreamed about playing on a big stage like the PGA TOUR.

**Kyung-hoon Lee**

He always gave me confidence.

And taught me to never lose confidence even when my game is not going well.

It’s okay, even if you’ve had a bad shot.

**Sung Kang**

K.J. Choi’s nickname is Tank, and I think that fits his persona very well.

He keeps going forward towards the goal without losing his focus.

**Byeong Hun An**

When you look at him, he looks very sturdy. When he’s on the course and when he’s winning.

**Sungjae Im**

He is playing on the Champions TOUR now.

We all know he won eight times on the PGA TOUR, but I hope he wins every year on the Champions TOUR as well.

**Kyoung-hoon Lee**

Just as he did on the PGA TOUR, I am sure he’ll be making new records on the Champions TOUR and opening new doors for us.

The only thing we need to do is to follow his path.

**OUTRO**

I entered the Champions TOUR with an easy-going mindset.

For the last three years, my game was not that great, and my back was not in good shape.

Whenever I go into player dining, I feel so comfortable. Everyone is so welcoming towards me.

Is it because I’m the youngest?

They’d say, ‘welcome to the 50’s club.’ It’s a pleasant feeling.

When I saw them, I thought I’d like to grow to be like them

It’s the start of a new chapter in my life.