



**Wednesday, February 17, 2016**

**Jeev Milkha Singh (Ind)**

**You tweeted about your joy being back here. Can you elaborate?**

Honestly, it's always a pleasure coming back to Malaysia. Some of you know that I started my pro career in Malaysia, my first pro tournament was on the TDC Tour in 1993, played four tournaments and I feel that Malaysia is always close to my heart. Coming back to Royal Selangor, it's a fantastic golf course. I played here when Alastair Forsyth won (2002) and also the year when Gerry Norquist won here (1993). The golf course has changed a lot since then. The course which I played yesterday was in excellent condition. There's no cow grass now and they've moved some tees. It's going to be good scoring this week but I'm surprised that there are a lot of winds out here. It'll be interesting.

**How's your game shaping up?**

I haven't played well the last two weeks. I found something in Dubai. I'm feeling really confident and feel my game is coming around and that I'll have a good year ahead. I struggled the last three years. I decided to look at some things and went back to when I was playing my best golf in 2006 and 2008, looked at a lot of videos, the way I swung the club. I'm trying to go back to that and remember that, and I'm feeling better with my swing. I'm looking forward to this week.

**Talk about this week being a new event on both the Asian and European Tours?**

It's fantastic for golf. Thanks to Maybank for putting on the championship. They've supported golf in Malaysia for years and it's good to see a big event like this taking place. We've got the top players from Europe and Asia here, I think that's what we need to make this game famous in this region and give it the support and recognition that it needs for the young kids to make a living from the game. The sponsors in Malaysia are moving in the right direction to make sure the game grows. Golf in Asia is going to grow in the next few years.

**Do you still have ambitions to play on the PGA Tour?**

I played the PGA Tour for three years from 2007 to 2009. In 2010 I had an injury and didn't play much. Had a minor medical and moved back to Europe. When my game is right I want to go back but I'm happy to play in Europe as I've played there since 1997. If I have a good week in the Majors or WGCs, if I get my card back, I will give it a shot on the PGA Tour.

**Can you talk about the win in Valderrama in 2006?**

Looking back at 2006, my game was right on top at that time. I was younger also. With time, I've got the experience but the injuries set a player back quite a bit. Mentally it sets you back too as you can't hit the shots you want to hit. It kind of plays in your mind out there. Like I said, I've relooked my swing in 2006 and 2008 when I played the best golf of my life. I think I'm on the right track and I think things will fall in place.

**Are you injury free now?**

Yes, I'm feeling good. I've been working hard on my physical side. Looking forward to it. But after hitting 40, injuries come and you've got to take it in your stride.

**Any unfinished business before you eventually hang up your clubs?**

For sure, I just feel I have a lot of golf left. I've got 10 years left and I like to play in the Seniors Tour also. I've got a goal set, that I want to win again. The last three years, a lot of things have been said that when a player goes down, it's tough to come back. For me personally, I just feel I want to win again to prove something to myself. I think I will do that before I get to the Senior Tour.

**Is it harder to do it with the young guns coming out now?**

That's the nature of the sport now, in any sport in fact. The young guys have to take over. When I have dinners with CEOs or Chairmen, I tell them that in sport, the older you get, you will go down but in their profession, the older they get, they will go up there. You're moving up the ladder. There's a time frame for an athlete to do well. It's tougher but the way I look at it, I look at Tom Watson who nearly won the Open at the age of 59 and there was also Greg Norman and Fred Couples. If they can do it, why not me? I would like to try and give it my best shot. The young players do have the advantage but the older players do have the experience. It evens out.

**What advice would you give junior golfers?**

Obviously, my advice would be to work hard, stay focused and set goals. For young players, when they win on the Asian Tour, they must get up to the next level, which is Europe and US or world's top-50. If you don't do that, you get complacent and don't push yourself.

**What did you spot from watching the old videos?**

Because of the injury in my right shoulder, I started doing something in my swing which wasn't working for me. I think the most important thing for a golfer is he needs to know where the club is when he takes it back. For the last three years, I didn't know where it was and it was too quick. The best golf I played with was when I know where the club is and when it comes back, it comes back square to the ball. So, I've got something which I've tried in Dubai in the last round. I felt really good, I hit a lot of golf shots which I felt like the way I used to hit it. It's a matter of time when everything clicks, I've been working on the right stuff. Like I said, I will win this year.

**How do you like to be remembered when you finally hang up the clubs?**

This game has given me a lot. I had a dream as a kid to play professional golf and make a living out of it and I'm fortunate that I've done well. I would like to give back and hopefully have some academy set up in India or Asia and do something good for the Tour so that we have more younger players coming out of Asia and make their presence felt in the world. Asian golfers have a lot of talent. They just need to go out there and have the belief they can do well. They need to go out and play the bigger tours when they win here. They'll learn and that's what I did. You've got to have goal setting. Every individual is different. What do you want to do, play just in Asia or aim for the US. He's got to work towards that to get to the next place.