

# U.S. Girls' Junior Championship

Thursday, July 18, 2024

Tarzana, California, USA

El Caballero Country Club

## Avani Prashanth

### Press Conference

**Q. Is this the first USGA event you've played?**

AVANI PRASHANTH: Yes.

**Q. How has the experience been so far?**

AVANI PRASHANTH: It's been great. It's been how everyone usually describes it about how good of a job they do. I'm really glad to be here and absolutely enjoyed it so far.

**Q. What did you know about USGA championships coming in?**

AVANI PRASHANTH: What or when?

**Q. What did you know about.**

AVANI PRASHANTH: So everyone said it's wonderfully organized, which obviously it is. USGA creates a great atmosphere for the players, which it definitely has.

So it's lived up to everything and more that people said.

**Q. And so just going into your match play, 19 holes in your first match; 1-up in in your second match; this time 3&2. Has it felt like you've been under pressure? What's the experience been like?**

AVANI PRASHANTH: In the first two matches, yes, because I was dropping quite a few shots on unnecessary holes, and especially after being 2-down with four to go, my heart rate was like 165 after seeing that.

But managed it well.

And then even the first match this morning I was one down with one to play. Clutched up and made the birdie on the last, so, yeah. It's been good.

**Q. Is there anything that you do specifically when you're in a moment like that to keep yourself...**



AVANI PRASHANTH: So I try and take a couple deep breaths and distract myself in the best way possible, which is either to stare at my yardage book while I think of something else, or I'll just talk to my caddie, Nico, who has been really helpful distracting me from these things all week.

**Q. Is your caddie local or your main caddie?**

AVANI PRASHANTH: No, he's local.

**Q. And what's your experience in match play in general? Have you played in a match play event before?**

AVANI PRASHANTH: I played the R&A Girls in 2022, and then there are match play events held back home. So I'm a two-time national champ as well. I love playing match play. Back home when I'm not playing a tournament I'm busy playing match play rounds in the with the guys on the Asian Tour.

So there is a good competition. We put money on it, so makes it very fun.

**Q. What's it like playing with the guys?**

AVANI PRASHANTH: It's a lot more competitive than any other round that I've played back home. I think it's really set me up to deal with pressure a lot better, because obviously the girls here this week are great.

So thanks to them I've been able to deal with the pressure of having -- being 2-down with four to play, et cetera, yeah.

**Q. And are you looking at any schools here in the United States?**

AVANI PRASHANTH: No. My plan is to turn pro. I'll probably be playing the LPGA Q-School this August.

**Q. Nice.**

AVANI PRASHANTH: Yeah.

**Q. What were your expectations coming into the week I guess being your first USGA event.**

**ASAP** . . . when all is said, we're done.®  
sports

AVANI PRASHANTH: Obviously the goal is to win, but expectation-wise I just wanted to execute my plan that I've set out. So just not do anything risky and do anything extra that could bring in a bogey.

So main plan was to keep bogeys out of play, which I've done decently, but obviously it can get better.

So, yeah.

**Q. And lastly here, what's your confidence levels going into tomorrow and maybe how does that compare to coming into the event?**

AVANI PRASHANTH: So I'm playing Gianna tomorrow so that's going to be a fun match. We know each other quite well. That will definitely be a testing of who is actually better.

That will be good. I'm excited. We both have to put our best foot forward.

**Q. Would you say you feel more confident now than you did coming into the week? Same level?**

AVANI PRASHANTH: I think just a little more confident because now the putter is hot and so it's been working well. Hopefully just shows up tomorrow as well.

**Q. What's been the strongest part your game so far this week?**

AVANI PRASHANTH: I think my driver. I've not missed more than maybe four fairways in the last six rounds.

**Q. Is that typically the strongest part of your game?**

AVANI PRASHANTH: Yeah.

**Q. And thoughts on the course overall?**

AVANI PRASHANTH: I think the greens are very difficult to read and obviously you cannot miss the greens. That's just what makes it very difficult. Otherwise it's a great course.

I absolutely have enjoyed my time here so hopefully I think make it Saturday.

**Q. What other events are you looking to play it summer?**

AVANI PRASHANTH: Junior PGA at Congressional next week and U.S. Am and LPGA Q-School.