

Hilton Grand Vacations Tournament of Champions

Friday, January 31, 2025

Orlando, Florida, USA

Lake Nona Golf & Country Club

Rio Takeda

Quick Quotes

Q. All right, very pleased to be joined by the only rookie in our field this year, Rio Takeda. How does it feel to tee up in your first LPGA event as a member?

RIO TAKEDA: Yeah, had a really good round today and yesterday, so hopefully I get to keep that momentum for the weekend.

Q. Obviously had a fantastic year last year on the JLPGA. Won the TOTO event. What have you taken from last season, winning all that? How do you hope that translates to Tour life this season?

RIO TAKEDA: I feel like I had a really great season last year which gave me a lot of confidence, so I'm just hoping that I can keep that confidence throughout the season.

Q. What have you learned the last two days getting to compete on Tour with some of the other members versus what you maybe expected coming into the season?

RIO TAKEDA: It's very fun. You know, not many opportunity get to play with the celebrities. So just trying to enjoy every moment.

Q. Who is traveling with you when you're on the road in the U.S.? Have you talked to any other Japanese players who have been playing on the LPGA for advice about this transition?

RIO TAKEDA: So basically I only travel with my mother. Advice I got from Japanese player is to bring a rice cooker to travel.

Q. And I understand there are a lot of golfers in your family. Can you tell me a little bit about the background of your mom and I think your brothers play baseball; your aunt played on the LPGA a little bit.

RIO TAKEDA: So my mom used to be a professional

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golfer. My dad, he plays golf as a hobby. My aunt used to play on the tour for maybe one or two years, on the LPGA Tour.

Q. Did your mom teach you how to play?

RIO TAKEDA: Yes.

Q. And your dad owns a golf shop; is that right?

RIO TAKEDA: (No audible answer.)

Q. In what town?

RIO TAKEDA: City of Kumamoto.

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