

Blue Bay LPGA

Friday, March 7, 2025

Hainan Island, Republic of China

Jian Lake Blue Bay Golf Course

Nasa Hataoka

Press Conference

THE MODERATOR: Nasa, first of all, congratulations today. In total right now in the first position on the leaderboard. Talk about your performance today, please.

NASA HATAOKA: Today I was really good especially my iron shot, and my middle range putt was good, too.

Q. First one, the back nine is notoriously a lot more difficult than the front and you went bogey-free. What were some of the keys out there to avoid those bogeys?

NASA HATAOKA: Under this windy condition, I was trying to hit the control shot with irons, so I think it was -- it works good with good distance control.

Q. I want to go back to last round, yesterday. Not the start you probably wanted, but you finished very well. Obviously had a great round today. After making the turn yesterday, was there a different kind of mindset you had or what was maybe the difference from when you started to now?

NASA HATAOKA: I had three bogey first on front side, but it wasn't too bad, my swing. So me and Greg talk about keep doing my swing and putting and then I think to work good on back side yesterday.

Q. How do you maintain yourself and keep this good performance? How do you adjust to playing in a windy day?

NASA HATAOKA: I still need to fix my tee shot and iron shot some, but, yeah, working on my swing think. Keep doing same.

Q. From past generation of the Japanese golfer they are willing to stay in Japan to play the Japan's golf tournament. Now the new generation, you guys choose to play in LPGA. So any expectation, any goal that you chose to play in LPGA nowadays?

NASA HATAOKA: (Indiscernible.)... and major, and then



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they know like, oh, I can play in a major, too. I want to play on this Tour, too. And then more I think Japanese player, JLPGA player wanted to come here.

And then just right now, there are so many Japanese here. I think everybody is wanted to play the best of the best.

Q. Last year, actually it's a little bit disappointed you didn't get into the Paris Olympic gold. New generation right now of Japan golfers play really well. Is there any atmosphere to make yourself to getting better and better and play in LPGA to get better and better?

NASA HATAOKA: Of course disappointed that I wasn't get to play in Olympic, but it just happened. Then I think there is so many tournament I can play on this Tour, so I'm just trying to focus on each tournament.

Q. (Regarding finishing Top 10.) Recently this two years, most of your final result like tied two, tied three. Do you think any challenge to stop you to make the champion? And right now you are in the very first position in our leaderboard. So any expectation for this tournament?

NASA HATAOKA: Disappointed I didn't win almost three years, but always me and Greg trying to win in the tournament.

So I hope win this year.

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