

# U.S. Open Championship 2021

Wednesday, June 16, 2021

San Diego, California, USA

Torrey Pines Golf Course

## Hideki Matsuyama

### Flash Interview



**THE MODERATOR:** We are joined by Masters champion Hideki Matsuyama. Hideki, talk about your preparation this week and how the course is playing.

**HIDEKI MATSUYAMA:** It's a difficult Torrey Pines again. Some of the differences, when we play earlier in the year, the rough is much thicker and the greens are much firmer. It's going to be a tough test this week.

**THE MODERATOR:** Your second major back as a major champion. Do you feel more comfortable with that title, and what is your mindset like?

**HIDEKI MATSUYAMA:** All I can do is my best. It's good to be a major title winner, and hopefully that momentum will carry through this week.

**Q. A lot of talk about the rough here. Talk about how you've been playing out of it, especially around the greens.**

**HIDEKI MATSUYAMA:** You're exactly right. Around the greens is very difficult, especially compared to when we play earlier in the year. It is going to be a real difficult test, and there's some places where you just can't miss it around the greens.

**Q. A lot of the commentators talk about your one-handed finishes and that you don't always look happy with your shot. Are you really thinking you've hit a bad shot, or is there something else going on there?**

**HIDEKI MATSUYAMA:** Even on some good shots, if I'm not striking it the way I want to, a lot of times that one-arm finish will occur, and it's not like I'm upset at the shot, but hopefully people won't read too much into it.

**Q. Can you talk a little bit about what makes U.S. Open week different? A lot of people think it's a tougher test but that they relish that test for a week out of the year.**

**HIDEKI MATSUYAMA:** Yeah, it is a special week. It's not only a major, but it requires you to drive the ball in the

fairway and hit greens. Fairway and greens are really important. Par is a good score at the U.S. Open. You just have to avoid the bogeys from time to time. I'm looking forward to the challenge.

**Q. In this country everyone knows who Michael Jordan is. Can you explain to us, for those that wouldn't know, what it's like to be a major champion and living in Japan.**

**HIDEKI MATSUYAMA:** I'm really just getting started. I'm not in that class, that level of player. I just have to keep working hard, and hopefully every day I'll be able to improve my game and be a worthy major title holder.

**Q. Does he feel like there's more demands on him now that he's won a major, at least in Japan?**

**HIDEKI MATSUYAMA:** You're right, there are a lot more demands than before, but actually it's a happy thing. Hopefully I can keep playing well and the demands will become even greater.

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