

# Cognizant Founders Cup

Thursday, May 12, 2022

Clifton, New Jersey, USA

Upper Montclair Country Club

## Nasa Hataoka

### Quick Quotes

**Q. Here with Nasa Hataoka. A 7-under day. Currently with the clubhouse lead. Just take me through what today was like for you at the Cognizant Founders Cup.**

NASA HATAOKA: I was able to hit the ball in the fairway, and make some putts.

**Q. You hit every single fairway out there today. How important was that, and how much was that a factor to your good play, do you think?**

NASA HATAOKA: My swing feels really good, and I made some putts. Reading good.

**Q. You started on No. 1 today, so you had a nice eagle on No. 2, your second hole of the day. Just take me through that hole.**

NASA HATAOKA: Just from the tee to the green everything was perfect, so I was able to get the eagle.

**Q. What was the looks like? How far were some of the shots for you?**

NASA HATAOKA: So the second shot that I hit in was 201 yards with my 4-hybrid.

**Q. To keep it bogey-free, how much of that was a goal for today knowing this is a challenging course?**

NASA HATAOKA: Obviously I was able to hit a lot of close shots into the pins and then had a lot of par saves out there as well.

**Q. Where were some of the par saves that you really think helped your round today?**

NASA HATAOKA: Yeah, by being able to hit a lot of the greens. I was 15 of 18 for the greens, so that contributed to just carrying that momentum into having more birdies with me.

**Q. Three birdies on 12, 14, and 18. What was it like to**



**close with a birdie on the final hole there?**

NASA HATAOKA: Just from the tee shot it was really good, and I was able to stick a good one in there on the last one and walk away with birdie.

**Q. When players win a tournament, they don't want to stop playing. You won in L.A. two weeks ago and then went home. Did you consider staying out on the tour? And I guess it didn't hurt you taking the week off.**

NASA HATAOKA: Yeah, I was originally planning to play in Palos Verdes last week, but I decided take the two weeks off and gear up for this tournament.

**Q. Did the trip home -- did you get good cooking, or what helped?**

NASA HATAOKA: I rested for three days and then met my trainer and did some strength training.

**Q. So you continued to practice?**

NASA HATAOKA: Yes.

**Q. What about this course do you like best that allowed you to go so low today?**

NASA HATAOKA: I think it's just because I was able to hit a lot of really good shots and put them close that allowed me to go low today.

**Q. With that, also what will you take away from today's round as you head into Friday?**

NASA HATAOKA: Yeah, I feel like I'm really managing my game well right now, so just kind of carry that into tomorrow's round as well.

**Q. I want to ask, you've been working on a little something other than training. How are you getting so good at your English?**

NASA HATAOKA: English, it's because I'm practicing my English more than my golf game. (Laughing).



**Q. Fun times. Thank you, Nasa.**

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