

Epson Tour

Thursday, May 12, 2022

Hyo Joo Jang

Press Conference

EPSON TOUR

HYO JOO JANG:

Q. Tell me about your background and golf.

HYO JOO JANG: So I was in Korea; when I was about 12 I start playing golf, like 11 in Korea age, and I got National Team in Korea luckily.

Q. How old were you then?

HYO JOO JANG: It was 2019.

Q. Okay.

HYO JOO JANG: So 2018 to 2019. Yeah, I got National Team and I decided to come America for the LPGA, and then I wanted to be more global, world, I wanted to see more bigger layouts, so that's why my parents made big decision and I got America 2019 October.

Q. How old were you then?

HYO JOO JANG: I was freshman in high school.

Q. Oh, wow. So you were 14, okay, at the time, 14, 15.

HYO JOO JANG: No, I was like 16.

Q. 16?

HYO JOO JANG: Yes, I was 16, and now I'm 18.

Q. Oh, wow. Okay.

HYO JOO JANG: And I was keep playing golf. I was playing AJGAs and I don't know that much American so I was just trying to learn culture, and now after a year I got better at it, so I played some of AJGA invitationals and I get to know how road to LPGA is.

And I heard how amazing it is, how they support for the LPGA.

Q. And you went to -- did you win anything on the AJGA?

HYO JOO JANG: I got second place.

Q. Uh-huh.

HYO JOO JANG: I got to like third place few times. I didn't play that much. Just a few tournament.

I had back injury at the time, so I went back to Korea for heal it. Now I'm better; I don't have any of it.

So that year was pretty bad to me, and I decided to play Stage I, Stage II Q-Series, and I prepare for that for like three, for month; didn't even play any tournaments.

Q. Did you do that here or in Korea?

HYO JOO JANG: In here.

Q. Here?

HYO JOO JANG: Yeah.

Q. Now, where did you move, Orlando?

HYO JOO JANG: Orlando.

Q. You speak English so well. Did you speak English in Korea before coming over?

HYO JOO JANG: Just barely.

Q. How did you learn?

HYO JOO JANG: I had to do well for my golf, and if I don't understand I won't leave here without my parents. So I just study hard at high school and I keep ask my friends, hang out with America friends and trying to speaking English.

Q. So just immerse yourself in English?

HYO JOO JANG: Yes. Still bad at the grammars and school stuff.

Q. No. It's terrific. I'm so surprised. There have been Korean players here 15 years that don't speak as well

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as you do.

HYO JOO JANG: If they try it they will do well.

Q. Yeah. But I think you do a wonderful job.

HYO JOO JANG: Thank you. Yeah, I got to know the Stage I, Stage II Q-Series and then I played not bad. Stage II I got third place and Q-Series I only play first week. I couldn't get into second week.

So my parents told me, you decide to turn pro or go to college, because college is also amazing. I'm only 18. So I told them I really want to turn pro.

Q. Okay.

HYO JOO JANG: That's why it's my first tournament here and I'm very excited.

Q. That's fantastic. Well, we're excited for you. Where do you live now in Orlando?

HYO JOO JANG: It's called IJGA International Junior Golf Academy. It's literally my second home. It's very comfortable to me. I have my house there, I have like my house parents and like all the stuff; they support me.

Q. Who's your instructor, coach?

HYO JOO JANG: They have a lot of instructors, but like I usually contact with my Korean coach.

Q. I see. So your coach is in Korea and you communicate that way?

HYO JOO JANG: Yes, that's true.

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