

# NW Arkansas Championship

Sunday, September 26, 2021

Rogers, Arkansas, USA

Pinnacle Country Club

## Nasa Hataoka

### Press Conference



**Q. You win, second time here. How does that compare, how does today's win compare to the others?**

NASA HATAOKA: It was pretty tight, very stressful because I was so -- the other player was so close to me. So it was pretty stressful for me, yeah.

**Q. I was going to ask you about that. On No. 18, your first putt, 15 feet past. Were you a little amped up or what happened on that first putt?**

NASA HATAOKA: This week, I haven't had any long putts this week, so I guess -- plus it kind of looked like it was going uphill so I just went for it.

That's what I got.

**Q. Does your mom still travel with you?**

NASA HATAOKA: (No oral response.)

**Q. Tell me about this little hop you do for your tee shot and your fairway shots?**

NASA HATAOKA: It kind of helps me relax. Not every time, but it helps me relax, get into the shot.

**Q. Okay. Talk about the Olympics a little bit. What was it like to represent your country in the Olympics, and having that time in your home country, what was that like?**

NASA HATAOKA: Being extended a whole year with the Japanese golf level going up, I was really, really honored to be able to be chosen. Because I was chosen, I wanted to really prove myself. Kind of didn't work out that way, but at least I'm very honored to be chosen.

**Q. You seem to always play well at this course. What is it about this course that suits your game really well?**

NASA HATAOKA: The grasses type, it matches what I

was doing when I was young, and so I'm able to kind of know how it reacts, so that kind of helps me. And so I like this course, yeah.

**Q. I was going to ask today was a little crazy. We had a different kind of tee time that we're not used to. What were your nerves like as you were setting up for the round today?**

NASA HATAOKA: Morning I was so easygoing I was kind of worried that maybe I better start getting a little stressed out and control myself.

But that came to the end and kind of got me. (Laughter.)

**Q. I have a couple questions from people that texted me. Playing in the group that you were with, the other two golfers, and you guys were really close, within a shot or two of each other, do you feel more pressure playing when they're that close or does it matter?**

NASA HATAOKA: Here and there I did feel pressure, but they're shot makers. I did feel pressure on the second shots because they are players that really get close to the pin. So that's where I did feel the pressure.

**Q. All right, 50-foot par putt on 13. How fortunate of a break was it just to hit the hole and keep it just a short bogey putt?**

NASA HATAOKA: I think it was really, really good that I was able to keep to a bogey because it was something that might have been a three-putt.

So I was lucky on that one, yeah.

**Q. Then on 18, the nerves there on that final hole, did it remind you of that putt that you had on 13 just a few holes before?**

NASA HATAOKA: 18 was a little different. I was shaking there, so it was completely different.

**Q. And then this tournament, your second win here, two aces, beautiful weather. How memorable is this win out of all the other ones you've had?**

NASA HATAOKA: My first win being here and of course



the two hole-in-ones, it kind of feels like it's my power spot.

**Q. I like that. When you were going through the par-3s today were you thinking of maybe holing just one more?**

NASA HATAOKA: Yes, it was in the back of my mind, yes. Like on 11 I was pretty close so yeah, it is in the back of my mind, yeah.

**Q. What kind of confidence does this give you about the season you're having as we go through the next stretch of tournaments and close it out just soon?**

NASA HATAOKA: Winning here with so many few tournaments it's really giving me confidence to keep going and go for it.

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