U.S. Girls' Junior

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Johns Creek, Ga., USA
Atlanta Athletic Club

Natalie Yen

Q. Walk me through your round and what went well for you today.

Yen: So, as is with any USGA match play event, the first two days are all about getting into match play. For me, strategy doesn't change that much from match play to stroke play; it's just taking one shot at a time, don't do anything particularly rash with your decision-making, you don't have to go after every pin. I did today and got some birdies out there, but overall, it was just a solid day.

Q. How do you feel your last two U.S. Girls' Junior Championship experiences will help you this week?

Yen: Having the awareness of how difficult the USGA makes their tracks for a championship. This is a championship test. Eisenhower was very difficult on the greens, and El Caballero was difficult tee to green. Today was just tight with a lot of undulations. You must have good course management, and it is on the longer end at 6,200 yards for a par 71. It's long, but I feel like that plays to my strengths a lot because I am a good ball striker.

Q. What does it mean to you to have played in three U.S. Girls' Junior Championships?

Yen: To play in any USGA event is an honor. To be able to say I played in three, you know I played in two [U.S. Women's Amateur] Four-Balls, and I will play in the U.S. Women's Amateur in a couple of weeks. Six USGA events before I go to college is pretty good, some people don't even make it to one. For me to be able to say I played in three U.S. Girls' Junior Championships is pretty special.

Q. How does winning the 2025 U.S. Women's Amateur Four-Ball help coming into this week?

Yen: I feel like it's positive and it shows me that I can go all the way in a USGA event. Asia is a great player, but you have to ham and egg it pretty well in four-ball because you have two good players per side, so if anything you have to play better on your own ball because sometimes they're not in the best position or you have to make sure you are consistent behind them, so that way they can go for greens because strategy wise for four-ball you have to play the holes differently if you have different strengths. I would say it helps here because match play rounds in any format help in preparation for this.

Q. What are you looking forward to for the rest of the week here at Atlanta Athletic Club?

Yen: Just having fun, this is my last junior event, I don't really consider this event to be a junior event, I consider it to be a high-level amateur event. I would say my last junior event was last week at Wyndham Cup, so one of my last tournaments before I go off to college at Texas A&M.

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