U.S. Girls' Junior

7/16/2025
Johns Creek, Ga., USA
Atlanta Athletic Club

Natalie Yen

Q. 2 and 1 win against Brynn, your future teammate. Can you walk through the match?

Yen: Honestly, both of us were kind of underprepared for teeing off, because we kind of got short notice on our tee time. Match play is definitely different from stroke play, but none of my strategies really changed. I would say one of the highlights of the day for me was that honestly, I just felt like I made a lot of good 6-footers for par. Which I know that sounds really bad, but it saved me halves, won me a couple holes. I felt like on the back nine my ball striking kind of turned around and that helped me hold onto the match towards the end.

Q. Going into tomorrow, how are you feeling about the week as a whole and where your game is at?

Yen: I'm feeling good. I think I'm going to get some lunch, maybe hit some balls, just make sure everything is neatened up, because it was a little messy this morning. Then just go home, get some rest, and then have hopefully two matches tomorrow. So yeah, just looking forward to the next match.

Q. Can you talk a bit about your relationship with Brynn, being teammates this fall?

Yen: I've known Brynn probably since I was 6, she was 5, she's a year younger than I am. Growing up, we've always been pretty good friends. We play, see each other across the country a lot. When we committed back in 2023 it was a new level of excitement that we were going to go to college together. Playing with her today, it's a lot of fun because we're living pretty close to each other, so we can talk about planning to decorate my apartment, because she's mostly decorated, but I still have some work to do.

It's easy, because it's easy to get conversation, we have a lot of topics in common.

Q. You both were laughing out there, having a good time – can you talk about what it's like to play both against her and with her?

Yen: We played a lot two weeks ago when we were in College Station for our new student orientation. So, we have a lot of built up rapport, I guess that would be the word I would use. She was telling me about a maintenance guy she met at on our practice facility who accidentally turned the sprinklers on her, and he was like, 'Oops, wrong button.' It's funnier in the moment, but I mean it was pretty fun to see what she's feeling like, how I'm feeling heading into college. We're excited to go play for the Aggies this fall.

Q. You guys are going to be living right across the hall from each other in the fall, how excited are you about that?

Yen: I'm excited. I keep threatening to prank her at 2 a.m., go knock on her door. But to be honest with you, I'm a pretty sound sleeper, and I don't think I'm getting up at 2 a.m. to knock on her door. But yeah, it's going to be pretty fun.