

U.S. JUNIOR AMATEUR – JULY 22, 2016

EUGENE HONG

Post-quarterfinal

Q. Just tell me about the stretch on 15 and 16. You were 1-down and then you came back to get all square and took the lead on 16. Just tell me about those holes.

EUGENE HONG: On 15 I hit like a 5-iron from 190 to about like six feet. Wei Wei hit it in the water, so that hole was conceded.

But it was a tough shot because like the pin was left, and I don't want to like give away the hole. But I kind of took a risky line just right of the pin and it worked out.

On 16, pin was like tucked away on the right side, so I hit 8-iron to about 13 feet and lagged it about one foot short. Wei Wei already passed the hole by about six feet and lipped out for par, so I ended up winning that hole.

Q. He got off to a good start against you. How do you keep calm and not overdo it, do too much to get everything back at once?

EUGENE HONG: Because my match with Davis like really helped me today, because like when I was coming down the stretch with Davis I was really nervous. I kind of learned like how to stay patient and keep calm and not really get any pressure.

So coming down the stretch I wasn't as nervous as I was before. That really helped me calm my nerves and hit the right shots at the right time.

Post-semifinal

Q. He had a 3-up lead on you and you really made him earn it; you didn't give up. Does it help you knowing that, that you fought until the end?

EUGENE HONG: Yeah, Min Woo played really good. Like he made like chip-in on two and he was making 30-foot putts. He was just playing really good golf and he really deserved to win. I tried my best, but I was a little short.

There was nothing I could do. Min Woo played really good. He did a really good shot in the semifinal.

Q. And he hit some really great shots on a couple holes there. Those are things out of your control, and you seemed to handle that well and just kept grinding.

EUGENE HONG: Yeah. Yeah, I just tried to keep on trying my best, because like I can't control what he does. Like if he plays good and beats me, there is nothing I can do.

I just tried, but in the end I was a little short. It's okay, because like making the semifinals two years in a row was a big accomplishment for me. I didn't expect to make it this far, but I'm really thankful to finish again in the semifinals for the second year in a row.

Q. Does this take your confidence to another level having reached this two years in a row?

EUGENE HONG: Yes. I learned a lot this week. I had a lot of fun out here. It was really tough and the course was a good challenge, so I had a lot of fun out here this week and learned a lot. I hope that it helps my game.