

U.S. JUNIOR AMATEUR – JULY 22, 2016
JOHN PAK

Post-quarterfinal

Made quarters last year; now you've taken the next step. You don't have much time to process, but how does it feel?

JOHN PAK: Awesome. It feels great. Yesterday I was like, You can't do worse than last year, so it was a great feeling just to be out here in the morning.

But winning and getting into the semifinals is a great feeling.

Q. How much did it help winning 2, 3, and 4, right out of the gate to build a cushion against a really good player like him?

JOHN PAK: Yeah, I mean, Won Jun is a really great player. I have a lot of respect for his game.

You know, having a 3-up lead after 4 was really helpful because gave me a little cushion, as you said.

Q. He makes a run at you and takes the lead. How do you not get ahead of yourself and not overdo things?

JOHN PAK: You know, I tried waiting for him to make a mistake, but he just didn't. I had to start attacking some pins. Made a good birdie on I think 13 and 16, and then 17, and, you know, really helped me out there.

Q. Tell me about the birdies on 2, 7, and 13. What did you hit and what happened on those holes?

JOHN PAK: On 2 I went for it and he was in a little bit of trouble. Hit a 3-iron right at the pin. Was a little short. Left it in the bunker and got up and down for birdie.

On 7, I actually went for the green with a driver. Was just short, right of the pin. Got up and down for another birdie.

What other hole?

Q. 13.

JOHN PAK: 13, the first day wasn't covered by that tree on the right. I took a driver this time. Hit it to about 15 feet and made another birdie.

Q. Thanks, man. Good luck this afternoon.

JOHN PAK: Thank you.

Post-semifinal

Q. Was that match worthy of a finals match?

JOHN PAK: Hard to say, but I think it was. It was a great match. We both played really great. Took it to 20 holes, so that's a good run for a finals match.

Q. How are you feeling about getting this far even though you came up a little short?

JOHN PAK: Feels great. Last year I made it to quarterfinals. This year semis is an improvement. Just trying to win one more match is just so much harder.

Just to keep going throughout the week it gets harder and harder and better and better players. People are tired. So I'm happy about the way I played this week.

Q. What do you think you gained out of this experience for the future?

JOHN PAK: You know, I got better. I played against great players. I don't know what else to tell you.

Q. Do you think you'll have more confidence now?

JOHN PAK: Oh, yeah, definitely. You know, this is probably the biggest junior tournament out there. Coming in in third or semifinalist gives me a lot of confidence knowing that I beat 153 players, 54.

Q. Let's go back to the putt you made on 16 to square up the match. About 30 feet across the green.

JOHN PAK: Yeah.

Q. Tell me about the putt.

JOHN PAK: I was just trying to make par, honestly. I hit it really hard, and luckily there was a hole there so it was awesome. That gave me confidence. Almost made a good par on 17. That made me feel like I still had a good chance of winning the match.

Q. Then you got up and down on the first extra hole.

JOHN PAK: Yeah.

Q. Kept the match going. Tell me about that chip shot.

JOHN PAK: First the second shot. I was in it pretty big trouble there. You know, I got lucky enough to get it out there about 30 yards away.

You know, I know Noah is a great putter, so I was actually trying to make it thinking he would have a chance of making it.

Ended up three feet away, missed the putt, and made the three-footer, so...

Q. And then the tee shot got a little bit away on the 20th hole.

JOHN PAK: Yeah. I started spraying my driver a little down the stretch. Just hit a little right and didn't end up in a great spot.

Q. Tough side-hill lie there.

JOHN PAK: Yeah, once you see someone hit it to six feet from 215 yards and you guys are all tied up, you got to go for it.

Q. And then you had no choice but to take the unplayable?

JOHN PAK: Yeah. I couldn't even stand in there.

Q. Okay. Thanks for your time.

JOHN PAK: All right. Thank you.