

U.S. Girls' Junior

Wednesday, July 19, 2023
Colorado Springs, Colo., USA
Eisenhower Golf Club, Blue Course

Gianna Clemente



Q. I assume that was your first time having to wait for the national anthem before a winning putt?

GIANNA CLEMENTE: Yeah, well, first time for everything.

Q. That was a tough match, what are your thoughts?

GIANNA CLEMENTE: Yeah, it definitely was. Not my best day, for sure. Made a lot of pars where I should've made birdies. But yeah, you know, just had to grind through it.

Q. It's not often you get to play someone younger than you. Was that a little different?

GIANNA CLEMENTE: It is a little different. I'm very used to being the young one in events for two or three years now, so definitely not something that's familiar. But I've played with a couple people that are younger than me in the past six or eight months, and yeah, it's definitely different.

Q. How different do you feel this year in this event compared to last year?

GIANNA CLEMENTE: I definitely feel like I have a lot more experience than I had last year. I've changed a lot since last year, since I pulled up to Old Stone. It was my first U.S. Girls' Junior, so I didn't really know what to expect. I had a little bit of match play experience prior, but obviously not as much as I have now. And yeah, the experience is definitely a lot more, which is really nice, but I definitely feel like I'm starting on a clean slate this year for sure.

Q. Did the course conditions change much from before the rain delay to after?

GIANNA CLEMENTE: Maybe a little bit – I had a drive that, when they blew the horn, I was in the rough, so I was a little bit worried. But that's pretty much it, I didn't notice a big change in the greens. It definitely rained a lot, but the course definitely soaked it up pretty well. It wasn't that bad.

Q. What did you hit on your approach [on 18]?

GIANNA CLEMENTE: I hit 4-hybrid.

Q. [Emily Song] was on the green, so you had to follow that up.

GIANNA CLEMENTE: Yeah, definitely, I honestly did not expect her to hit that great of a shot from back there, especially with the tree blockage. So yeah, I definitely had to top that, but, you know, sometimes you have to come in clutch.

Q. How far did you have?

GIANNA CLEMENTE: About 190.

Q. Did you feel like the rain delay affected you at all?

GIANNA CLEMENTE: Not really. I definitely wanted to be done a lot earlier than later, but it really wasn't that long. By the time we got in there, sat down and ate some lunch it felt like 30 minutes, so it wasn't that bad.

Q. Were there any key moments throughout the round that you maybe felt a shift in momentum?

GIANNA CLEMENTE: I think that me winning the first hole coming out of the rain delay, No. 14, I think was pretty big. I had the advantage on that hole, just because she had to chip out – she was in one of the fairway bunkers. She [landed] in there before they blew the horn, so I kind of knew she was already laying to up there. So I felt like I kind of had the advantage, and I at least sat in there during the rain delay with that in my mind. Other than that, I just think it was really just grinding all day.