

U.S. Girls' Junior

Monday, July 17, 2023
Colorado Springs, Colo., USA
Eisenhower Golf Club, Blue Course

Yana Wilson



Q. Congratulations on a great start. Can you walk me through your round today?

YANA WILSON: Yeah, so, on the first hole I wasn't that nervous, I was just feeling confident with my game. I knew that this course, you had to play pretty conservative and kind of smart, so I feel like I did that really well. I shot a bogey-free 70, so that was really good, and I feel like if I make it all the way to match play, that round is really going to give me confidence.

Q. In the leadup, everything before your first tee shot as the defending champion, how were you feeling compared to last year?

YANA WILSON: There's really no difference to how I felt last year. I mean, this year, everyone's reminding me that I'm the defending champion, but in my mind I'm just trying to convince myself that this is a whole different course, a new year, not everything is going to go the same as last year. So, trying to keep myself humble, be confident in my swing and my game, and just play how I did last year.

Q. You mentioned the course being difficult, did you think today it played any differently than during your practice rounds?

YANA WILSON: I would say the pins were a little bit tougher. I feel like in the practice rounds they were more in the center of the greens. I left myself a couple of downhillers today, which I shouldn't have done, but, you know, you live and learn, and I'm excited for tomorrow.

Q. Did you feel like elevation was a factor during your round today?

YANA WILSON: Yeah, totally. Being from Vegas, I'm used to half of the altitude, but when I got here, I can't lie, I got kind of winded when I was hitting shots on the range. But I feel like I've adjusted really well to it, you know, just try to stay hydrated, eat a lot while playing here and just stay strong.

Q. Any gameplan specifically for tomorrow?

YANA WILSON: I'm probably just going to try and keep doing my thing. I hit most of my fairways and greens today, so that's my goal for tomorrow. I'm just going to try and do the same thing. Hopefully putt a little better tomorrow, I left a couple out there, so I'm definitely going to go grind on that practice putting green right now.