

## **THAI GIRLS CLIP JAPAN AT TOYOTA JUNIOR GOLF WORLD CUP** *Japan boys hold off U.S. challenge for team title; Nagasaki, Restrepo share medalist*

TOYOTA CITY, Japan (June 27, 2025) — Before last year, Thailand never got its girls' team to qualify for the Toyota Junior Golf World Cup. And they were one of the feel-good stories in 2024, placing second behind a record United States victory.

This week, Thailand sent nearly the same roster to see if they could do at least something similar. And it was their lone newcomer who delivered a championship — albeit one in nail-biting fashion.

Shaking off a watery tee shot at Friday's 18th hole, Kritchanya Kaopattanaskul managed to scramble for a winning bogey as Thailand overtook host Japan in a tense battle over the final nine at Chukyo Golf Club.

"It means a lot for us," Kaopattanaskul said after signing for a closing 2-under-par 70. "We tried very hard to make it, and we finally made it today."

After a record-tying 64 from eventual medalist Mamika Shinchii staked Japan to a five-shot lead on a rainy opening day, Thailand managed to chip away in each of the next three rounds. The margin stood at three after 36 holes, then just one heading into Friday's finale.

"As a leader, it is tougher to play," said Thailand coach Pompetch Saraputhi. "But as a follower, we think we have a chance. We set a goal to get to 30-under, no matter who wins."

As it turned out, 24-under was good enough for the crown. It also marked the first time anyone has come from behind on the final day since the girls' division was added a decade ago.

Japan raised the boys' trophy for the second time in three years, though that one also turned out to be tighter than expected. A hard-charging U.S. team made up a six-shot deficit on Friday, briefly surging ahead before the host

nation regained the edge.

“I realized we might be competing closely after about five holes, but I thought it would be France chasing us and not the USA,” said Taisei Nagasaki, whose closing birdie sealed both the team title and made him co-medalist with Colombia’s Tomas Restrepo.

With Lorenzo Rodriguez firing a 6-under-par 65 and Brooks Simmons adding a 66, Team USA already was in the house as Nagasaki came to No. 18 with Japan holding a one-shot advantage. Nagasaki took any drama out of the sequence, though, striping his approach to about 8 feet and draining the putt.

Japan finished four days at 32-under par, two shots clear of their U.S. pursuers. The Americans did manage to put themselves in the record book, with Friday’s 11-under 131 the lowest team round since the event tweaked its boys’ format to take the best two of three scores.

“We knew we had to go low today to have any sort of chance,” said Rodriguez, the reigning Junior Orange Bowl International champion. “Seeing we were right there, that was exciting because we’d been chasing the whole way. To make it head-to-head coming in felt great, but we came up just short.”

Restrepo saved his best for last to claim co-medalist honors, firing a 7-under-par 64 that was the week’s best in the boys’ division. That included a sizzling start, playing the back nine in just 30 strokes after starting his finale at No. 10.

“I did the things I could control, and I’m really happy about it,” said Restrepo, who won the South American Junior earlier this year. “I’m happy with the way I managed my emotions, managed my nerves inside.”

Three consecutive birdies got Restrepo to 5-under by the turn before cooling a bit. He bogeyed No. 4, then ran off three more birdies at Nos. 6-8 that included a 30-foot bomb at No. 7 that gave him some late momentum.

“It was a pump (of adrenaline) to continue,” he said. “Then I made a crazy second shot to 3 feet on Number 8 and made that one also.”

Restrepo is the Colombia’s first medalist in tournament history, and the first from South America since Joaquin Niemann (Chile) claimed the honor in 2016.

Nagasaki, meantime, gave Japan its second consecutive boys’ medalist and sixth overall. Mao Matsuyama claimed individual honors last year, placing ninth Friday.

“Because this is an international event, it’s very unusual to win both,” Nagasaki said after his closing 66. “That makes it very special.”

Shinchi’s opening 64 was enough of a springboard to go wire-to-wire for the girls’ individual crown, her total of 13-under 275 finishing two shots better than Kaopattanaskul. That came on the heels of a runner-up finish last year behind Jasmine Koo (USA).

All week, though, Shinchi had placed an emphasis on team glory so there was a tinge of sadness as she discussed her own victory.

“We knew it was going to be tough,” Shinchi said. “We knew the Thai team was playing very well, so we knew we had to keep up. ... We’re very sad that we lost by one stroke.”

With teammates Anna Iwanaga (72) and Aira Nagasawa (73) unable to get into red numbers, it opened the door for Thailand to pounce. Kaopattanaskul reached 4-under for the day early in the back nine, though she made just one birdie the rest of the way.

Her week, though, may best be remembered for that clutch final bogey.

“I was a bit nervous on the last hole,” Kaopattanaskul said. “On 17, I hit (my drive) a little bit right, so I was trying to focus on hitting my best one. But it

went to the left and into the water.”

Saraputhi strolled over and informed her that with a two-shot lead, she could afford to make bogey. Even so, she faced a tricky wedge shot that wound up bouncing off the back of the green.

“I had to make like a three-quarter (swing),” Kaopattanaskul said. “When I made impact, I knew it was too hard — ‘Ohhh, it’s going to be over the green.’”

As teammates Pimpisa Rubrong (71) and Prim Prachnakorn (71) anxiously locked arms as spectators, Kaopattanaskul walked up to her ball.

“That shot was the nervous one,” she said.

But well-executed, as Kaopattanaskul’s ball came to rest about 2 feet from the flagstick. She stroked home the putt, and Thailand completed its quest.

“Everybody (back home) will be very happy about it,” Saraputhi said.

The Toyota Junior Golf World Cup is the final stop of a process that began with 70 national teams entered in regional qualifiers across six continents. The boys’ field features 12 teams competing for the championship; nine teams advanced to the girls’ finals.

More information about the Toyota Junior Golf World Cup Supported by Japan Airlines can be found online at [WJGTC.org](http://WJGTC.org), including a video library that includes interviews with former participants.

## **BOYS TEAM STANDINGS**

- |                  |                           |
|------------------|---------------------------|
| 1. Japan         | 135-133-133-135=536 (-32) |
| 2. United States | 139-134-134-131=538 (-30) |
| 3. France        | 132-138-137-141=548 (-20) |

4. Korea	135-139-140-136=550 (-18)
5. Colombia	141-138-138-135=552 (-16)
6. England	136-137-140-141=554 (-14)
t7. New Zealand	145-132-139-139=555 (-13)
t7. Canada	135-138-144-138=555 (-13)
t7. Mexico	144-139-138-134=555 (-13)
10. South Africa	143-143-138-142=566 (-2)
11. Morocco	143-143-145-145=576 (+8)
12. Chile	143-142-145-148=578 (+10)

## **GIRLS TEAM STANDINGS**

1. Thailand	139-136-136-141=552 (-24)
2. Japan	134-138-138-143=553 (-23)
3. United States	146-140-137-137=560 (-16)
4. Canada	141-140-137-143=561 (-15)
5. England	143-141-140-144=568 (-8)
6. New Zealand	143-140-147-141=571 (-5)
7. Colombia	144-144-140-145=573 (-3)
8. Italy	150-146-145-143=584 (+8)
9. Morocco	162-160-155-161=638 (+62)

## **BOYS INDIVIDUAL STANDINGS**

t1. Tomas Restrepo, Colombia	66-66-69-64=265 (-19)
t1. Taisei Nagasaki, Japan	67-65-67-66=265 (-19)
3. Brooks Simmons, United States	67-66-68-66=267 (-17)
4. Tom de Herrypon, France	66-67-68-69=270 (-14)
5. Lorenzo Rodriguez, United States	73-68-66-65=272 (-12)
t6. Minsu Kim, Korea	68-69-70-66=273 (-11)
t6. Koshin Nagasaki, Japan	68-69-66-70=273 (-11)
8. Jager Pain, Canada	67-68-71-68=274 (-10)
9. Mao Matsuyama, Japan	68-68-70-69=275 (-9)
t10. Robby Turnbull, New Zealand	72-66-69-69=276 (-8)
t10. Jack Swift, England	70-68-69-69=276 (-8)

## GIRLS INDIVIDUAL STANDINGS

1.	Mamika Shinchu, Japan	64-69-71-71=275 (-13)
2.	Kritchanya Kaopattanaskul, Thailand	67-73-67-70=277 (-11)
3.	Shauna Liu, Canada	67-72-69-71=279 (-9)
4.	Anna Iwanaga, Japan	70-69-69-72=280 (-8)
5.	Scarlett Schremmer, United States	73-72-68-68=281 (-7)
t6.	Nikki Oh, United States	74-70-69-69=282 (-6)
t6.	Prim Prachnakorn, Thailand	72-70-69-71=282 (-6)
8.	Michelle Xing, Canada	75-68-68-72=283 (-5)
9.	Pimpisa Rubrong, Thailand	75-66-72-71=284 (-4)
t10.	Aira Nagasawa, Japan	70-71-69-73=285 (-3)
t10.	Maria Isabella Errichetto, Colombia	71-71-68-75=285 (-3)