

News Release

JAPAN HOLDS COMMAND AT TOYOTA JUNIOR GOLF WORLD CUP

Hosts are teams to chase at midway point; Shinchi leads by 6 for girls' medalist

TOYOTA CITY, Japan (June 25, 2025) — On Tuesday, it was Mamika Shinchi's record day that set the stage as Japan's girls grabbed firm control to open the 31st Toyota Junior Golf World Cup.

One day later, it was the boys' turn in the spotlight.

With Taisei Nagasaki firing a 6-under-par 65 that now stands as the best thus far in the boys' division, Japan pushed past upstart France to grab a two-shot advantage at Wednesday's midway point of the annual showcase.

"I think we may be the strongest ever among (Japanese) teams that have participated here," suggested Nagasaki, who also holds a share of the individual lead with Colombia's Tomas Restrepo. "And we compete with each other in a good way, so I feel good about our team."

Defending boys' medalist Mao Matsuyama added a 68 to Japan's effort, as the host nation was the only one to post three rounds in the 60s. With a total of 16-under 268, Japan matched the lowest mark since the boys' division switched last year to a format that takes the top two of three scores.

Even so, the race is tight. France finished two days at Chukyo Golf Club at 270, with three more teams just five shots off the lead — Canada, England and the United States. And defending champion Korea is one additional stroke behind.

"It's really a pleasure to compete against players like this," said France's Tom De Herrypon, who lurks one shot off the individual lead.

There's a little more separation on the girls' side, where Japan and Thailand seem to have pulled away from the rest of the nine-team field. And the gap between the two is just a little bit closer.

What began the day as a five-shot margin narrowed to just three when play was finished. Credit that to Thailand's Pimpisa Rubrong, who experienced a nine-shot turnaround from her first-day struggles — a 75 to a 66.

"Yesterday I hit a lot of shots close to the hole but could not make a putt," Rubrong

said. "Then today I hit (my shots) the same as yesterday and my putter was kind of perfect."

Shinchi threatened to turn the individual contest into a runaway, following her record 64 in the opening round with a 69. At 11-under 133, she'll take a six-shot cushion over a trio of pursuers into Round 3.

With Anna Iwanaga also shooting 69, Japan's girls reached the midway point with a score of 16-under 272. Thailand was next at 275, then a six-shot gap to Canada in third.

"Honestly, I'm not paying much attention to the individual tournament," Shinchi said. "I know some of the Thai players and how good they are. But I feel like I have teammates who are better than the Thai players."

After an opening round in daylong rain, Wednesday brought sunnier and drier conditions — until just minutes after Restrepo's group was the final one to leave the course. A torrential downpour opened up that left standing water on the fairways and greens.

More rain is in Thursday's forecast as Tropical Storm Sepat weakens off the Japan coast, before the final round brings clear skies.

"It was a bit of a fight out there today," said Restrepo, whose second consecutive 66 came at the end of a roller-coaster day. The Colombian was the only one of Tuesday's four Round 1 co-leaders to still share the top spot a day later.

Restrepo didn't find his rhythm until an eagle at the par-5 sixth — his second in as many days — sparking a run of 4-under in four holes before the turn. He didn't make another birdie, though, until going back-to-back at Nos. 16 and 17.

"I really needed to maintain patience and keep working," he said. "Yesterday it was (needing a good) attitude because of bad weather. Today the attitude was needed because of the golf."

Nagasaki went bogey-free Wednesday, now on a run of 26 consecutive holes without dropping a shot. He hit 17 of 18 greens in regulation, the exception coming at No. 9 where a stellar chip over a swale behind the green to 3 feet kept the streak going.

"I don't think I'm playing my best golf," he said, "but on the greens I am putting well."

With Nagasaki and Restrepo at 10-under 132, De Herrypon and Team USA's Brooks Simmons lurked just one shot back. Canada's Jager Pain was three shots off the pace after a 68, with Matsuyama another stroke behind.

Simmons fired a 66 Wednesday that for a time looked like it could be so much better. The big Texan was 5-under in his first seven holes, briefly alone atop the leaderboard, only to finish with 11 consecutive pars.

"The putter got really hot on the front," Simmons said, "then I barely missed (a birdie) on 8 and barely missed one on 9. Then on the back nine, my putter got ice cold real fast."

A run of four consecutive birdies, though, saw Simmons make 50 feet of putts in just that quartet of holes. The stretch was bookended by a pair of 20-footers, capped by one at the par-4 seventh that was uphill with a hard leftward break.

De Herrypon's 67 was capped by a deft wedge to a tucked pin position at No. 18 that came to rest 5 feet from the hole.

"It was a good way to end the day," the French golfer said. "From where I was, I thought the pin position was in the water."

After Shinchichi's opening 64, tying Jasmine Koo (2024) for lowest round in girls' history, she admitted to being a little nervous about what the next day would bring. And Wednesday did produce a slow start, with two early bogeys before finally getting a birdie to fall.

"I felt like maybe I was a different person," she quipped.

But Shinchichi played her final 12 holes in 5-under, leaving a steep climb for any of her pursuers to make a challenge. Iwanaga (69), Canada's Shauna Liu (72) and New Zealand's Emma Zheng (70) were next at 5-under 139.

"I hadn't been playing that well for the last two or three months," Shinchichi said.

Liu's round came despite a bout with allergies, though she noted it's something she deals with fairly regularly.

"I'm still able to focus on the golf," the reigning Junior Orange Bowl champion said. "A couple of sniffles, but it's all good."

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, including a video library that includes interviews with former participants.

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BOYS TEAM STANDINGS

1.	Japan	135-133=268 (-16)
2.	France	132-138=270 (-14)
t3.	Canada	135-138=273 (-11)
t3.	England	136-137=273 (-11)
t3.	United States	139-134=273 (-11)
6.	Korea	135-139=274 (-10)
7.	New Zealand	145-132=277 (-7)
8.	Colombia	141-138=279 (-5)
9.	Mexico	144-139=283 (-1)
10.	Chile	143-142=285 (+1)
t11.	South Africa	143-143=286 (+2)
t11.	Morocco	143-143=286 (+2)

GIRLS TEAM STANDINGS

1.	Japan	134-138=272 (-16)
2.	Thailand	139-136=275 (-13)
3.	Canada	141-140=281 (-7)
4.	New Zealand	143-140=283 (-5)
5.	England	143-141=284 (-4)
6.	United States	146-140=286 (-2)
6.	Colombia	144-144=288 (E)
8.	Italy	150-146=296 (+8)
9.	Morocco	162-160=322 (+34)

BOYS INDIVIDUAL STANDINGS

t1.	Taisei Nagasaki, Japan	67-65=132 (-10)
t1.	Tomas Restrepo, Colombia	66-66=132 (-10)
t3.	Tom de Herrypon, France	66-67=133 (-9)

t3. Brooks Simmons, United States	67-66=133 (-9)
5. Jager Pain, Canada	67-68=135 (-7)
6. Mao Matsuyama, Japan	68-68=136 (-6)
t7. Arthur Carlier, France	66-71=137 (-5)
t7. Lim Taeyoung, Korea	67-70=137 (-5)
t7. Koshin Nagasaki, Japan	68-69=137 (-5)
t7. Minsu Kim, Korea	68-69=137 (-5)

GIRLS INDIVIDUAL STANDINGS

1. Mamika Shinchi, Japan	64-69=133 (-11)
t2. Shauna Liu, Canada	67-72=139 (-5)
t2. Anna Iwanaga, Japan	70-69=139 (-5)
t2. Emma Zheng, New Zealand	69-70=139 (-5)
5. Kritchanya Kaopattanaskiul, Thailand	67-73=140 (-4)
6. Pimpisa Rubrong, Thailand	75-66=141 (-3)
t7. Lauren Crump, England	71-71=142 (-2)
t7. Prim Prachnakorn, Thailand	72-70=142 (-2)
t7. Maria Isabella Errichetto, Colombia	71-71=142 (-2)
t10. Aira Nagasawa, Japan	70-71=143 (-1)
t10. Michelle Xing, Canada	75-68=143 (-1)
t10. Charlotte Naughton, England	73-70=143 (-1)
t10. Gianna Clemente, United States	73-70=143 (-1)