

DEAR ABBY

Write to Dear Abby online at dearabby.com or by mail at P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069



Dear Abby: My tattoos are destroying my marriage, and I just don't understand why. I'm a 56-year-old elementary art teacher and the father of three grown children. Since I was young, I have loved the artistic expression of tattoos, and I ALWAYS envisioned having them, lots of them.

It had been about 10 years since my last one, but I decided to get another one. Telling my wife about wanting another one was awful. My wife of 28 years hates tattoos. We have terrible arguments every time I get one. I have covered my entire upper body. (Other than my hands, none of them are visible while I'm wearing my work clothes.) I love them.

I just returned home with roses tattooed on my hands, and my wife is ready to leave me. She says I have gone too far with all my ink. I'm a responsible and respectful person. I don't drink, smoke, gamble or have any destructive vices. I'm highly regarded as a leader and role model at my school.

Friends, colleagues — even strangers — compliment me on my tattoos. However, you would think my tattoos and I are the devil in my wife's eyes. Am I the problem, or is her perception of tattoos the issue? Please, any advice would be greatly accepted. I can't understand her stance on this.

— Art in Las Vegas

Dear Art: It is your body, and you have the right to do what you want with it. While not everyone is a fan of body art, I assume that you had tattoos before you and your wife married. It is possible that over the years, when you told your wife you were getting

more, knowing her feelings about it, it came across to her as disrespectful of her feelings. As you have acquired more and more, it may have felt to her like one insult piled on another.

Having never spoken with your wife, I can't guess her reason for talking about leaving you, but it's important you ask why those roses were the last straw. (Am I correct in assuming there's no place else on your "canvas" that hasn't been illustrated?)

Dear Abby: My husband and I have been married 20-plus years. His mother has never liked me. I have never done anything to her or her husband.

My father-in-law passed away two years back, and my mother-in-law is older. If something happens to her, how am I supposed to react? I know I have to be there for my husband. My husband and I get along wonderfully, but at the same time, I would feel like a hypocrite if I went to her funeral. We haven't spoken in over a year.

Other family members have repeated things she has said about me as well as my family. I put up with her behavior for years. I only quit talking to her or going around her a year ago.

— Hates Hypocrisy in Michigan

Dear Hates: Funerals are for the living. Do not succumb to the temptation to use your mother-in-law's as a platform to demonstrate your dislike of her. Attend the funeral and comfort your husband, who likely will be hurting and need your support. And when you do, ABOVE ALL, refrain from humming, "Ding, Dong, the Witch is Dead."

GOLF

Masters is a win for Hideki Matsuyama, and for Japan

BY DOUG FERGUSON

AP Golf Writer

AUGUSTA, Ga. — The question became inevitable at some of the bigger golf tournaments, whether it was for Jordan Spieth or Tiger Woods. And it had nothing to do with them.

Japanese reporters, having quietly rehearsed the words in English, wanted to know what the best players thought of Hideki Matsuyama.

This wasn't about validation. Everyone knew he could play. Matsuyama was still in college when he won his first professional event. He made the cut at the Masters as a 19-year-old amateur. He won the Japan Golf Tour money title as a rookie. When he played in the Presidents Cup at age 21, he had more wins that year than anyone on his team.

This was about acceptance.

The ultimate validation came on a Sunday at the Masters that neither Matsuyama nor his golf-crazed nation will ever forget.

Matsuyama had a four-shot lead that was whittled to one when he walked off the first green. His six-shot lead in the middle of Amen Corner was down to two shots when he stepped onto the 16th tee. But he held steady to the end, leading to a monumental occasion in fabled Butler Cabin.

That's when Fred Ridley, the Masters chairman, turned to defending champion Dustin Johnson and said, "We'd be honored if you'd place the green jacket on our newest champion, Hideki Matsuyama."

"I'm really happy," Matsuyama said, significant because they were the only words he spoke without his interpreter.

All of Japan had reason to celebrate.

The week at Augusta National began with 17-year-old Tsubasa Kajitani winning the Augusta National Women's Amateur. Nine days later, Japan had its first male winner of a major championship, which feels certain to have a lasting effect.

Adam Scott can attest to that.

One of his endorsement contracts take him to the Japan Open, and he has seen the popularity of the game and the passion for its stars. He played alongside Matsuyama and Ryo Ishikawa, the first Japa-



David J. Phillip/AP

Hideki Matsuyama, of Japan, hugs his caddie Shota Hayafuji after winning the Masters golf tournament on Sunday in Augusta, Georgia.

"It's thrilling to think that there are a lot of youngsters in Japan watching today. Hopefully in five, 10 years, when they get a little older, hopefully some of them will be competing on the world stage."

— Hideki Matsuyama, 2021 Masters winner

nese star of this generation. Scott had not felt that ignored since he played with Woods and Phil Mickelson in the U.S. Open at Torrey Pines.

"He's a bit like a Tiger Woods to the rest of the world," he said of Matsuyama, who went on to win that week.

Now picture Matsuyama in a green jacket.

"I can't imagine what it's going to be like," Matsuyama said, this time through his interpreter. "But what a thrill and honor it will be for me to take the green jacket back to Japan. And I'm really looking forward to it."

Now try to picture the reception at Kasamigaseki Country Club, the site of the Olympics in about three months. They have been delayed a year because of the COVID-19 pandemic, and assuming the games go on, the timing couldn't be better for golf.

A private club that only recently allowed female members — that should sound familiar — Kasamigaseki is where Matsuyama walloped

the field by five shots to win the Asia-Pacific Amateur in 2011. The tournament was the brainchild of Billy Payne, the former Augusta National chairman who wanted the green jacket to inspire greater growth in Asia.

Matsuyama earned his first trip to the Masters by winning, and he made his first trip to Butler Cabin as the low amateur.

His next trip to Butler Cabin was Sunday after his one-shot victory in the Masters. He no longer was a teenager with potential. A nation was watching.

"It's thrilling to think that there are a lot of youngsters in Japan watching today," he said. "Hopefully in five, 10 years, when they get a little older, hopefully some of them will be competing on the world stage."

Jumbo Ozaki remains an iconic figure in Japanese golf, a winner of more than 100 tournaments, though he rarely left home. He was inducted into the World Golf Hall of Fame in 2011, the year Matsuyama first played in the Masters.

Isao Aoki was the closest

Japan had come to winning a major. He was tied with Jack Nicklaus going into the final round of the U.S. Open at Baltusrol in 1980, and wound up two shots behind golf's greatest champion.

"I've been blessed to spend a lot of time in Japan," Nicklaus posted on Twitter. "I know they love the game of golf. They're also very proud people and they're even prouder today! I competed against the great Isao Aoki, and know how revered he was and is. Hideki will also now forever be a hero to his country."

Nicklaus already had a soft spot for Matsuyama. His first PGA Tour victory was in 2014 at the Memorial, the tournament Nicklaus runs at Muirfield Village in Ohio.

"I just think you've just seen the start of what's going to be truly one of your world's great players over the next 10 to 15 years," Nicklaus said that day.

He already had more PGA Tour victories than any Japanese player and now is up to six, to go along with nine other wins worldwide. He wasn't interested in declaring he was the best ever from Japan. He is young and has too much respect for those who came before him.

Still, Masters champion goes a long way.

"However, I'm the first to win a major," he said. "And if that's the bar, then I've set it."

YOUR HOROSCOPE *By Madalyn Aslan*

Stars show the kind of day you'll have

★★★★★ DYNAMIC | ★★★★★ POSITIVE | ★★★ AVERAGE | ★★ SO-SO | ★ DIFFICULT

HAPPY BIRTHDAY FOR TUESDAY, APRIL 13, 2021: Resourceful, dedicated and persuasive, your independent streak makes life interesting. This year, you work on a team that encourages individual expression. A secure income stream relieves anxiety and allows you to purchase extras like gadgets and sports equipment. Mend fences with friends who have drifted but who always have your back. If single, your perfect mate is someone you know. If attached, book that romantic getaway. SCORPIO understands you deeply.

ARIES (March 21-April 19)

★★★★ Creative cooking is on the agenda. Exchange recipes with friends. Ask elders in your family for dishes that warmed your heart growing up. Start saving for an item that has special meaning but others might think is unnecessary. Tonight: Decorate the walls.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

★★★★ Excitement about a future activity starts to gain steam. Visualize what you want to achieve, and it will begin to unfold. Don't let someone's doubts or negativity spoil your day. Keep looking at the glass as half full. Tonight: A learning experience.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

★★★★ Feeling under the weather could give you a late start. Pace yourself, and if you must, postpone a meeting to a later date. You will gather momentum as the day goes on. Tonight: Get hooked on a detective novel.

CANCER (June 21-July 21)

★★★ A friend from the past surprises you with an email. Think twice before reviving a connection with someone whose life is different from your own. Prepare a group presentation. Control your nerves, and you will do fine. Tonight: A lively family discussion.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

★★★★ Get closure on a longstanding assignment. Devise a plan of action and follow it through. Time your activities so you can take a power walk or run during a break or at the day's end. Tonight: Start a creative project.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

★★★★ Explore your talent for teaching. Share your expertise or train someone in a skill you've mastered from experience. Cultivate patience with those who learn slowly. Research reference material in the local library or on its website. Tonight: Hot bubble bath.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

★★★★ Talk to someone close about your deepest feelings and emotions. Be earnest about insecurities, but equally honest about your generosity and loyalty. Create boundaries with people who take more than they give. Tonight: Relax in front of the TV.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

★★★ Check your calendar. Mark down important birthdays, anniversaries and other milestones you do not want to miss. Review papers you need to sign and check the fine print. There could be words you missed the first time around. Tonight: Donate books.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

★★★★ Don't take constructive criticism personally since it is not aimed that way. Cheer up someone who is down in the dumps. You have a way of making others laugh and the ability to switch their mood around. Tonight: Romantic plans.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

★★★★ Thinking about a romantic interest makes you grin and will brighten an otherwise routine day. Follow where flashes of inspiration may lead. Write them down so you don't forget and can act on them later. Tonight: Listen to a podcast.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

★★★★ Collect family anecdotes and stories to pass on to children and grandchildren. Contact a relative to verify different versions of the same events. Memory can play tricks on you when you recall the past. Arrange a visit. Tonight: Beautify your home.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

★★★ You could be goaded into a conversation on hotbed subjects. Do all you can to avoid politics and religion. You hold strong opinions and could be coaxed into a debate. Change the topic as quickly as you can. Tonight: Family dinner.

Transfers

Continued from A5

There's no doubt last season had to be difficult on both as they were not allowed to see their families, attend classes or do much of anything due to precautions surrounding the coronavirus.

Some have wondered if they left because of the talent that is coming in over the next couple seasons. Having watched both play, I'm thinking that fear of competing for playing time would not be a concern. Goforth showed signs of being one of the best players to come through the program. And Samuel more than held her own when she got the opportunity.

Others have said playing time is an issue, and that is certainly a valid reason for many players. While you can argue they should stick it out and be loyal, remember that a college career lasts just four seasons (longer with a redshirt year) and they will never get that time back.

It's certainly hard on fans who want to get to know and root for the players for four seasons. I think we would all love to see that happen. The one-and-done rule in men's basketball has been as bad or worse as far as that goes.

Others have said they have a moral obligation to stay for four years. To be honest, the players have the same moral

obligation to stay at a school as a coach does — coaches can easily jump ship at the next best opportunity.

I was always in favor of one free transfer with no sitting out a year to allow athletes an opportunity to not be punished for realizing the situation they thought was right for them at

16 or 17 years of age isn't what fits their needs and desires at 19 or 20.

In a perfect world I would have loved to watch Goforth and Samuel play at Oregon State for the next three years. With those two, coupled with what the Beavers have coming in the next few years, who

knows how good they could have been?

But I would much rather have both players find a place that makes them the happiest on and off the court.

The transfer portal appears to be here to stay.

We might as well get used to it.

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