

Asians in American sports • Asian Americans in world sports

Morikawa leads Asian golfers in PGA restart

By Mike Street

Special to The Asian Reporter

As other professional sports leagues prepare to start, or resume, their seasons this month, one league quietly returned to play in June. Very quietly. The Professional Golfers' Association (PGA) picked up where it left off in March, playing three tournaments in front of empty, silent galleries. While no athletes with Asian roots won those tournaments, several notable finishes highlight the present and future of eastern PGA stars.

When COVID-19 shut down the world in early March, the PGA had just completed the Arnold Palmer Invitational on March 8. At that tournament, athletes with Asian roots were all over the top ten. South Korean Sungjae Im, age 22, finished in third place, fizzling during the weekend after a promising start. So far this season, Sungjae had already won the Honda Classic in March and finished second in the Sanderson Farms Championship last September.

Behind Sungjae at the Arnold Palmer Invitational sat two other South Korea-born participants: New Zealand's Danny Lee tied for fifth place and Sung Kang, who was tied for ninth with Harris English and Collin Morikawa.

Lee was born in South Korea, but became a citizen of New Zealand after his parents moved there when he was eight years old. Now in his eighth year on the PGA Tour, Lee has just one win, back in 2015, and he notched his first second-place finish this season. Sung Kang has been on the PGA Tour one year longer than Lee, collecting his first win at the AT&T Byron Nelson in 2019.

Morikawa, a Japanese American with Chinese roots, is the newcomer of the bunch but he's got a promising future. Previously ranked as the world's top amateur, Morikawa has been on the PGA



Tour for just a year, but already picked up his first Tour win in 2019, in just his eighth start, qualifying him for this season too.

After the Palmer Invitational, the league paused along with the rest of the sports world to adjust to COVID-19. The PGA cancelled or postponed 12 tournaments, and the season resumed on June 11 with the postponed Charles Schwab Challenge.

The Charles Schwab Challenge was played to an empty gallery to prevent the spread of the coronavirus, but the absence of spectators didn't prevent a dramatic finish. A tightly packed final round left two players tied at the top of the leaderboard and six more within two shots of the lead. The two tied for first were Collin Morikawa and Daniel Berger.

Berger had finished in the top ten of the last three tournaments before the break,

FORE! Collin Morikawa, top photo, tees off on the 17th hole during the first round of the Travelers Championship golf tournament at TPC River Highlands on June 25, 2020, in Cromwell, Connecticut. In the bottom photo, Sung Kang of South Korea watches his tee shot from the 15th hole during the first round of the Travelers Championship. The Professional Golfers' Association (PGA) quietly resumed play last month. (AP Photos/Frank Franklin II)

including a fourth-place finish at the Honda Classic. And Morikawa, in addition to his ninth-place finish before the break, had made 22 consecutive cuts, the best rookie streak since Tiger Woods.

At the Charles Schwab Challenge, Morikawa had his chances to put away the win, both before and after the playoff hole. He missed a six-foot birdie on the 18th hole for the win, and then flubbed a three-foot putt on the first playoff hole to give Berger the victory.

In the next tournament, the RBC Heritage, Berger followed up his win with a third-place finish, but no Asian or Asian-American players put up competitive scores. Morikawa kept his cut streak alive, finishing in a tie for 64th, two strokes ahead of Danny Lee, who finished in a tie for 70th.

The best performance by a player with Asian roots came from Taiwan's C.T. Pan. On the Tour since 2017, Pan earned his first win in 2019 — at the RBC Heritage. But he didn't play nearly as well this year on the same course, shooting a nine under to finish tied for 52nd.

June's final tournament was the Travelers Championship, where a new group of Asian and Asian-American golfers showed their talent, and others fell by the wayside. One of the bigger disappointments was Collin Morikawa, who finally missed his first cut; C.T. Pan and Danny Lee joined him below the cut line.

Several South Korean golfers had good finishes. Sung Kang and Sungjae Im made the cut but finished in 46th and 58th, *Continued on page 10*

Awkwafina, Zendaya among 819 invited to join film academy

By Lindsey Bahr

The Associated Press

Cynthia Erivo, John David Washington, Eva Longoria, Zendaya, and Awkwafina are among the 819 people who have been invited to join the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences. The organization that puts on the Oscars announced the new invitees last month. If they accept, which most do, those in the new class will have voting privileges at this year's Oscars.

The massive 2020 list includes a diverse swath of people from all sectors of the industry, from acting to



Awkwafina. (AP Photo/Chris Pizzello)

publicity to costume design. Invited actors include Ana De Armas (*Knives Out*), Brian Tyree Henry (*If Beale Street Could Talk*), Florence Pugh (*Little Women*), Lakeith Stanfield (*Sorry to Bother You*), Beanie Feldstein (*Booksmart*) and Constance Wu (*Crazy Rich Asians*). Directors like Lulu Wang (*The Farewell*), Ari Aster (*Midsommar*), Terence Davies (*The House of Mirth*), and Matthew Vaughn (*Layer Cake*) are also on the list.

A handful of actors from this year's best picture winner, *Parasite*, including Jang Hye-Jin, Jo Yeon-jeong, Park So-dam, and Lee Jung-eun, were also invited to join. The Academy said 49% of the new invitees are international and represent some 68 countries.

Other notable invitees include TV mogul Ryan Murphy, who produced the documentary *A Secret Love*,

country singer Tim McGraw, who was in *The Blind Side*, and lyricist Bernie Taupin who contributed to the Elton John biopic *Rocketman*.

Academy president David Rubin said the organization is "delighted to welcome these distinguished fellow travellers in the motion picture arts and sciences."

Diversifying its ranks continues to be a main focus for the film academy, which in 2016 committed to doubling its female and minority membership by 2020. It has since surpassed those goals and continues to infuse membership classes with both women and people from underrepresented communities. Women make up 45% of the 2020 class and people of color comprise 36% of the total of invitees this year. The academy has also announced a new five-year plan that includes implementing inclusion standards for nominees.

"We look forward to continuing to foster an Academy that reflects the world around us in our membership, our programs, our new museum, and in our awards," said academy CEO Dawn Hudson in a written statement.

This will also be the first year that talent agent members will be able to vote on the awards.

The 93rd Academy Awards are set to take place on April 25, 2021, two months later than originally planned due to COVID-19's effects on the industry.

The humble Knoxville scientist who became a worldwide hero

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get the fiber technology into domestic manufacturers' hands quickly.

A spokesperson for ORNL confirmed that it had assisted a filtration material manufacturer based out of Cookeville, Cummins, with the installation of equipment to produce Tsai's filter technology.

Tsai said this was far from the only consulting work he had been doing. He said he'd been doing pro-bono consulting work and research around the clock.

Theodore said Tsai vigorously tried to turn

down payment for his work with ORNL but had to be paid per ORNL policy. Tsai said that being helpful during this time was all that mattered to him.

"This is an opportunity for me to contribute to the community," he said. "If I can do this, it will be a good memory for the rest of my life."

The work has not been without its toll. Tsai said that since the start of the pandemic, he had lost 10 pounds, but he was optimistic.

"Someone said I should get a Nobel Prize," Tsai joked. "But what I deserve is a 'No Belly' prize."

Was new Chex flavor worth South Koreans' 16-year wait?

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Like Americans, South Koreans typically eat their cereal with milk, but some say green onion Chex tastes better alone or with a drink like beer or soju.

Rashid positioned himself to be among the first to try it and acquired a box online. Then his face turned sour when he got his first taste.

It has an "artificial onion background taste," he said, reminiscent of onion ring snacks that are popular in Korea.

"It doesn't taste great," Rashid said, rinsing his mouth between bites. "And I think Kellogg knows that it probably doesn't taste great either."

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