

China teen makes history at U.S. Masters

14th April, 2013



A 14-year-old Chinese boy made sporting history on Thursday when he became the youngest ever golfer to play at the U.S. Masters. Guan Tianlang scored a 73 on his round, which means he "made the cut". This means he could continue to the next round of the world-famous golf tournament held in Augusta, Georgia. He is also the youngest

competitor to play in a Major in 148 years. One of Guan's playing partners was the American star Ben Crenshaw. He told reporters that Guan did not play like a young teen. He said: "He played like a veteran today. Played a beautiful round of golf." Guan's score of 73 was better than the 76 that legends Arnold Palmer and Jack Nicklaus got in their first Masters.

Guan is currently 10 shots behind tournament leader Jason Day of Australia. The teenager said he was very happy with his progress. He told reporters: "It's the most amazing experience I've ever had. I was a little bit shaky at the beginning, but a good first shot erased my nervousness." He added: "I made no big mistakes and hit a couple of birdies. It feels like a victory already." Guan's day was made even more special when he got to train with his golfing hero Tiger Woods. Guan said: "I was happy to practise with Tiger. Actually my golf career partly started because of him. He is my idol." The previous record for a youngster at the Masters was set by the Italian Matteo Manasser in 2010, at the age of 16.

Sources: Xinhuanet / BBC Sport

Writing

Golf is the best sport in the world. All schools should have a golf course. Discuss.

Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

sporting history / golfer / the next round / tournament / young teen / veteran / progress / amazing experience / nervousness / mistakes / practice / career / idol

True / False

- A 14-year-old became the youngest ever leader at a golf tournament. T / F
- The boy's score was good enough to go through to the next stage. T / F
- The boy is the youngest to play in a Major in nearly 150 years. T / F
- The boy beat golf his playing partner, the golf legend Arnold Palmer. T / F
- Jason Day is just 10 shots behind Guan Tianlang. T / F
- Guan said he wasn't so full of confidence at the beginning. T / F
- Guan didn't make any serious errors. T / F
- Guan shared a train ride with his hero Tiger Woods. T / F

Synonym Match

- | | |
|--------------|----------------|
| 1. scored | a. weak |
| 2. round | b. initial |
| 3. held | c. old |
| 4. veteran | d. recorded |
| 5. first | e. presently |
| 6. currently | f. staged |
| 7. amazing | g. hero |
| 8. shaky | h. stage |
| 9. idol | i. awesome |
| 10. previous | j. past master |

Discussion – Student A

- What do you think about what you read?
- How great is it for a 14-year-old to compete with the best golfers?
- Do you think golfers from China will start winning big tournaments?
- What do you think of golf?
- How popular is golf in your country?
- What skills do you need to be good at golf?
- Is golf a rich person's game?
- Do you think Guan could become the best player in the world?

Phrase Match

- | | |
|--------------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1. made sporting | a. I've ever had |
| 2. he could continue | b. playing partners |
| 3. One of Guan's | c. with his golfing hero |
| 4. He played like a | d. of golf |
| 5. a beautiful round | e. tournament leader |
| 6. 10 shots behind | f. already |
| 7. the most amazing experience | g. history |
| 8. It feels like a victory | h. record for a youngster |
| 9. he got to train | i. veteran |
| 10. The previous | j. to the next round |

Discussion – Student B

- What do you know about the history of golf?
- Are American or European golfers best?
- Do you like watching golf on TV?
- Why is golf so popular around the world?
- What three pieces of advice would you give to Guan Tianlang?
- Who is your sporting hero, and why?
- Would you like Guan Tianlang to win the U.S. Masters?
- What questions would you like to ask Guan Tianlang?

Spelling

- made sporgint history
- oecdrs a 73
- world-famous golf tnmnateour
- the youngest oocretipmt
- he played like a taenrev today
- dsgelen Arnold Palmer and Jack Nicklaus
- cylrterun 10 shots behind
- happy with his sospegr
- the most amazing xcnreeeeeip
- erased my sneonvrsuse
- my golf earrce
- the iosuepvr record

Answers – Synonym Match

1. d	2. h	3. f	4. j	5. b
6. e	7. i	8. a	9. g	10. c

Sporting History

Who made history?	What did they do?	How was it?
1. Golfer _____		
2. Footballer _____		
3. Tennis ace _____		
4. Athlete _____		
5. F1 driver _____		
6. Cyclist _____		

Speaking - Idol

Rank these and share your rankings with your partner. Put the best at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- sport
- movies
- gaming
- singers
- business
- technology
- writers / poets
- religion

Answers – True False

a	F	b	T	c	T	d	F	e	F	f	T	g	T	h	F
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Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.