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Article :

The Significance of Hideki Matsuyama's Masters Victory

Directions: Read the following article aloud.

The three honorary starters of the 2021 Masters Tournament were Jack Nicklaus, Gary Player, and Lee Elder, all considered to be among the greatest golfers of all time. Elder, 86, became the first African-American to play at the Masters in 1975.

Golf had been historically dominated by white men until Tiger Woods changed the face of the game. Born in 1975, not only did he become the youngest champion of the Masters in 1997 at age 21, but he was also the first golfer from an ethnic minority to win. On the way to the ceremony, Woods hugged Elder and thanked him for paving the way.

Hideki Matsuyama became the first Japanese man to achieve the exceptional feats of winning the Masters and claiming a men's major championship. Matsuyama received a congratulatory tweet from his childhood idol, Tiger Woods: "Making Japan proud Hideki. This historical Masters win will impact the entire golf world."

The championship was held at the Augusta National Golf Club in Georgia, a southern state sometimes still rocked by racial discrimination. President Biden had criticized an election law passed by the Republican-dominated Georgia state legislature in March, expressing concern that it could make it harder for black people to vote. Some African Americans' rights organizations had also called for the Masters, traditionally held there, to be canceled in protest.

In March, a mass shooting in Atlanta, capital of Georgia, left six Asian women dead. Harassment and violence against Asians including Japanese nationals and Japanese Americans have been increasing in many parts of the U.S.

There has been growing urgency to fight racism in sports, with athletes such as tennis player Naomi Osaka calling for respect for the Asian community.

In this environment, the Masters victory by the first Asian winner, Hideki Matsuyama, holds significance not only for Japanese people but also for the greater Asian community.

Source: **The Significance of Hideki Matsuyama's Masters Victory**
[JAPAN Forward](#)

2 Key phrases and vocabulary

Directions: First repeat after your tutor and then read aloud by yourself.

1. of all time 史上～(最上級)の、空前の

I read an article about the 50 greatest rock bands of all time.

2. ethnic minority 少数民族

A lot of ethnic minority groups in Myanmar have fled to Thailand.

3. discrimination 差別

The new law is expected to protect people from discrimination based on gender identity.

4. concern 懸念、心配、不安、関心、気遣い

My biggest concern is whether I will be able to handle the overwhelming tasks by myself.

5. call for ～ ～を求める、～を呼びかける、～を要請する

People called for his resignation after he made an inappropriate comment in public.

3 Questions

Directions: Read the questions aloud and answer them.

1. Who was the first champion of the Masters from an ethnic minority?

2. How did Tiger Woods congratulate when Hideki Matsuyama became the first Japanese golfer to win the Masters?

3. What is President Biden's concern about the election law passed by Georgia state legislature in March ?

4. Have you heard any news on discrimination recently?

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日本語関連記事：
松山英樹選手マスターズ勝利の意味

今年のマスターズ・トーナメントには、「名誉スター」として3人が招待されていた。往年の名手、ジャック・ニクラウスさんとゲーリー・プレーヤーさん、そしてリー・エルダーさんである。86歳のエルダーさんは、1975年に黒人として初めてマスターズに出場した。

もっとも、ゴルフ界の「白人支配」はその後長く続く。風穴を開けたのが、75年に生まれたタイガー・ウッズ選手だった。97年に史上最年少の21歳で、初のマイノリティー（人種的少数派）チャンピオンとなる。ウッズ選手は表彰式に向かう途中、エルダーさんを見つけて抱き合った。「道を開いてくれてありがとう」。

松山英樹選手が、日本人男子選手として初めてマスターズを制し、四大タイトル優勝の快挙を成し遂げた。子供の頃からあこがれてきたウッズ選手からは早速、ツイッターで祝福の言葉が贈られた。「ヒデキは日本の誇りだ。歴史的勝利は、ゴルフ界全体に衝撃を与えるだろう」。

会場となったオーガスタ・ナショナルGCのある南部ジョージア州は、今も人種差別問題で揺れている。3月に共和党が多数を占める州議会で成立した選挙関連法は、黒人の投票を制限するものだ、とバイデン大統領は強く批判した。黒人人権擁護団体は、マスターズを中止して抗議の姿勢を示すよう求めている。

州都のアトランタでは3月、アジア系女性6人が銃撃事件の犠牲となった。日本人、日系人を含めたアジア系住民への嫌がらせや暴力行為は米各地で急増している。テニスの大坂なおみ選手が「アジアの人々を尊重して」と訴えるなど、スポーツ界でも危機感が高まっていた。

松山選手が「アジア人」として、マスターズを初制覇した意味も大きい。