

New Mexico Activities Association Student-Athlete Spotlight



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Chung Seeks Third Individual Championship

By Tyler Dunkel, Sports Information Director at the NMAA

Davis Chung, a senior at Las Cruces High School has the opportunity to become a three-time individual state champion when he tees up his golf ball on May 11-12 at Pinon Hills Golf Course in Farmington for the 6A Furr's Buffets State Golf Championships, presented by Farmers Insurance Group.

"It would be nice to win the individual title again but I would take a team title over that. It would mean a lot because it would show that I stuck with it and my dedication paid off," said Chung.

Since Chung was a young boy, becoming a professional golfer is all he has dreamed about. He was first introduced to the game by his father, Dr. Hwiman Chung, as they would spend time at the golf course playing or at the driving range together. Chung's love for golf grew from those moments.

"My dad didn't start playing golf until the time I was born. He was always pretty dedicated to it as a hobby and became a pretty good golfer with a one handicap. He always took me out to the driving range or the course and let me play. I like the intensity of golf. It's not a two hour game, it's a two or three or four day event, where you have to be at your best. I love the competition."

Chung has been a varsity member of the Las Cruces High School Golf team since his 8th grade year. He has competed all over the country at AJGA tournaments with other elite players from around the country. This year, Chung finished first at the Dona Ana/Las Cruces High School Tournament, finishing in the top-15 at two AJGA Junior Tournaments in Dallas, Texas and Scottsdale, Ariz. He says one of his biggest accomplishments came at the Amateur Public Links last year, where he finished in the top-10.

As a freshman, Chung was the state runner-up and the 3-5A district champion. As a sophomore and junior he was the 5A State Champion, joining an elite group of players as a repeat State Champion in 5A. He was also the youngest repeat champion in the state's history.

He has qualified and competed at the Junior World Golf Championships outside of school in addition to his many accomplishments as a member of the Las Cruces High School golf team.



Chung credits his success to the countless hours of preparation he has dedicated to his game over the years, something he learned from his father.

“My dad being a successful golfer has helped me. He knows how hard it is to be a good golfer and I was fortunate enough to have him there when I was younger and it helped me realize more quickly that other kids around the world are putting in the hours to be successful. I just feel that everyone who is successful has a crazy story about the time and hard work they put into something and if this is going to be our job later in life, you might as well be dedicated to it.”

Las Cruces Head Golf Coach Mike Cruz agrees that Chung’s work ethic is second to none.

“Davis has a strong work ethic and puts in all the extra hours needed to be successful. In his spare time, Davis is always at the driving range working on his golf game. He is hands down our hardest worker and the time he spends preparing has correlated to his success on the course.”

When asked what Chung’s strengths are in his game, Coach Cruz said his composure and confidence set him apart from the rest of the field.

“I think his maturity, composure and confidence have come a long way since his eighth grade year. If you ever watch Davis play, you can’t tell if he is playing well or poorly because his emotions are in check. I also believe this has allowed him to be a consistent golfer and never record a blow up round. Davis is consistent in every part of his game. He keeps the ball in play, hitting a lot of fairways and greens, which allows him the opportunity to make good shots. He is never scrambling to make par.”

Cruz also said that he feels Chung’s confidence comes from his competing on a national level.

“A lot of Davis’ confidence comes from competing nationally. Almost every weekend, Davis is playing in a tournament out of town. Recently, he competed in Texas and Arizona. Davis has played in the Junior World Championships, in U.S. Open qualifiers and qualified for several USGA events.”

Chung agreed that his ability to control his emotions on the course has been a big part of his success.

“Golf is tough because you are competing for such a long period of time. It’s difficult to get into a rhythm, unlike basketball or football, where a few good plays can get you into that groove. In golf you are hitting one shot every five minutes so you definitely have to hit one shot at a time and not let the other shots you had previously get to you. I feel I’ve done a pretty good job of that.”

He continued by saying, “I think the best part of my golf game is ball striking. I like to keep my rounds around par but when I’m not hitting the ball well, my short game saves me a little bit. My putting isn’t the best but it is something I work on all the time.”

In addition to his play, Chung has also helped Coach Cruz be a better coach over the last five years. “It has been a learning experience for me as a coach. Davis has always had the talent to play the game, so I didn’t have to teach him how to play golf. He has taught me about other aspects of the game, like having composure. I’ve always known that emotions play a huge part in golf but watching him and seeing how composed he is on the course helped me to teach that to the rest of the kids. He’s been a great example for me to point to with our other players. Davis has helped me grow as a coach.”

Chung has verbally committed to play collegiate golf at New Mexico State University and plans to sign his National Letter of Intent in the next few weeks. He wants to major in engineering while at NMSU and hopes to one day live his lifelong dream of playing on the PGA Tour.