**XINJUN ZHANG FEATURE**

00:00:00:00 00:00:03:00

My name is Xinjun Zhang.

00:00:03:00 00:00:06:00

I am from a remote town called Xiaozhai in the valley of Lantian County in Xian.

00:00:06:00 00:00:09:00

In the old times the town was not accessible by any public transportation.

00:00:09:00 00:00:12:00

The only way to get out of the town was to climb the mountains on foot.

00:00:12:00 00:00:15:00

The road to school was very far so I had to run to make it on time.

00:00:15:00 00:00:18:00

Along the road there were cemeteries and birds or animals making creepy noises, which all made me so nervous.

00:00:18:00 00:00:21:00

But I just had to run and deal with it every day.

00:00:21:00 00:00:24:00

Interviewer: And then you ran all the way to PGA TOUR!

00:00:24:00 00:00:27:00

Haha Yes!

00:00:27:00 00:00:30:00

I played my very first PGA TOUR event in Napa.

00:00:30:00 00:00:33:00

I was beyond excited to be on PGA TOUR. It was absolutely a dream come true.

00:00:33:00 00:00:36:00

Nobody thought he could have made it to PGA TOUR within one year, and he didn’t even expect it himself.

00:00:36:00 00:00:39:00

We all thought it was amazing! Haha!

00:00:39:00 00:00:42:00

All the cameras were on me and media gave me so much attention, which made me extra excited.

00:00:42:00 00:00:45:00

My first round ended under 70 and I was very happy with the result.

00:00:45:00 00:00:48:00

My performances were not bad in the next couple of events either.

00:00:48:00 00:00:51:00

I knew exactly what he was thinking: I played well in the first couple of events, so it wouldn’t be too hard to keep the TOUR card and maybe even win a tournament.

00:00:51:00 00:00:54:00

After the first couple of events I started to set goals for myself: I want to keep my card, I want to earn enough points, and I want to make cuts at every tournament.

00:00:54:00 00:00:57:00

Golf is not easy! Let alone being on PGA TOUR!

00:00:57:00 00:01:00:00

In the latter part of the season, I started to lose confidence and felt like that I might lose my card.

00:01:00:01 00:01:03:01

I could not loosen myself up and my mind was constantly feeling the tension.

00:01:03:01 00:01:06:01

I kept making stupid mistakes on course because I gave myself too much pressure.

00:01:06:01 00:01:09:01

I was missing cuts back to back to back and it finally caught up to me and I officially lost my TOUR card.

00:01:09:01 00:01:12:01

I felt extremely sad.

00:01:12:01 00:01:15:01

I had a lot of obstacles the first year living in the States.

00:01:15:01 00:01:18:01

I didn’t speak any English so I could not communicate when I went out.

00:01:18:01 00:01:21:01

I missed home, my kid and family.

00:01:21:01 00:01:24:01

I was lonely.

00:01:24:01 00:01:27:01

I kept doing self-reflection and I think my biggest problem was my mind.

00:01:27:01 00:01:30:01

I had a lot to improve this season, but my biggest challenge for my self was to change my mindset.

00:01:30:01 00:01:33:01

I set a goal for myself at every tournament: Do not think about the result, only focus on this moment and this shot.

00:01:33:01 00:01:36:01

I also needed to do some adjustments in my techniques.

00:01:36:01 00:01:39:01

My stance was never right. My foot were really close and my shoulders were very open.

00:01:39:01 00:01:42:01

In my backswing, my hip didn’t turn enough and neither in my downswing, so my distance and consistency were limited.

00:01:42:01 00:01:45:01

The next important thing was that I needed more physical training.

00:01:45:01 00:01:48:01

The first time I saw Xinjun, I never thought that he was close to a professional athlete.

00:01:48:01 00:01:51:01

He just hung out with his friends, went out to eat and drink, and never worked out.

00:01:51:01 00:01:54:01

However, when he is playing golf, you can see that he is hungry for victory.

00:01:54:01 00:01:57:01

Since he came to the States, his hunger for victory and his desire to shine on this stage have gained even stronger.

00:01:57:01 00:02:00:01

No matter it is on a competition day or not, he always gets up before 6am. He trains and practices from the morning until sunset.

00:02:00:01 00:02:03:01

He never slacks off at the gym and has strong self-discipline.

00:02:03:01 00:02:06:01

I will never give up. My goal is to go back to PGA TOUR.

00:02:06:01 00:02:09:01

Little rabbit, little rabbit, open the door. I am coming!

00:02:09:01 00:02:12:01

Xinjun is barely home.

00:02:12:01 00:02:15:01

Can daddy take a bite?

00:02:15:01 00:02:18:01

In the past two years, I only saw my daughter twice a year at most.

00:02:18:01 00:02:21:01

Every time I saw her, we only spent about a week together.

00:02:21:01 00:02:24:01

It could be months before I even saw her again and she was only a tiny baby girl.

00:02:24:01 00:02:27:01

Every time I see her, she changes so much. She looks different, talks different and does things differently, but I missed all the parts in between.

00:02:27:01 00:02:30:01

It is such a shame and it hurts me.

00:02:30:01 00:02:33:01

I like to spoil her.

00:02:33:01 00:02:36:01

I will prefer her not playing golf because I think it is such a tough job. Haha!

00:02:36:01 00:02:39:01

Let’s bury it and go to the beach!

00:02:39:01 00:02:42:01

Yeah bury it!

00:02:42:01 00:02:45:01

I am confident that I will be able to come back to the PGA TOUR. I knew this from the beginning of the season.

00:02:45:01 00:02:48:01

He told me at that time that he had a feeling he could win a tournament in 2019.

00:02:48:01 00:02:51:01

He told me this in person for real.

00:02:51:01 00:02:54:01

He said he was really feeling his putter these days and he finally understood how to play golf.

00:02:54:01 00:02:57:01

After building up for two years, he finally took off!

00:02:57:01 00:03:00:01

I got my first win at Dormie Network Classic.

00:03:00:01 00:03:03:01

That week I was making everything!

00:03:03:01 00:03:06:01

After that victory I basically got my TOUR card back.

00:03:06:02 00:03:09:02

I was thinking to myself at that time, “Can I win one more?”

00:03:09:02 00:03:12:02

And then I won again at Lincoln Land Championship.

00:03:12:02 00:03:15:02

That victory secured my PGA TOUR card totally and gave me a better chance to maintain my No.1 Status on the Korn Ferry Points List.

00:03:15:02 00:03:18:02

Hello, welcome to my house!

00:03:18:02 00:03:21:02

The first year was tough for Xinjun.

00:03:21:02 00:03:24:02

His mind was everywhere and he didn’t have friends, so all those contributed to his game.

00:03:24:02 00:03:27:02

He has totally different racial background and speaks different languages.

00:03:27:02 00:03:30:02

He needed time to conquer the cultural shock.

00:03:30:02 00:03:33:02

I helped him in various ways after I talked to him, including creating a fan club called “Xinjun Zhang PGA TOUR Fan Club”.

00:03:33:02 00:03:36:02

Welcome everybody to my house.

00:03:36:02 00:03:39:02

We are here to celebrate Xinjun’s victories.

00:03:39:02 00:03:42:02

Let’s open up the champagne!

00:03:42:02 00:03:45:02

Homemade buns for everyone!

00:03:45:02 00:03:48:02

This will help him feel like home and won’t feel lonely and helpless in another country.

00:03:48:02 00:03:51:02

It’s definitely an intangible encouragement for him.

00:03:51:02 00:03:54:02

The reason I can make it back to PGA TOUR is because I am ready in every way.

00:03:54:02 00:03:57:02

I got help from my coaches and mentally I am really a better version of myself.

00:03:57:02 00:04:00:02

The most important thing is that I am finally accustomed to the lifestyle in America.

00:04:00:02 00:04:03:02

I am so excited right now. I got my PGA TOUR card again!

00:04:03:02 00:04:06:02

I think the reason Xinjun is successful is that he is a simple person who truly loves golf.

00:04:06:02 00:04:09:02

He gained confidence and sense of achievements from golf and built his family around golf too.

00:04:09:02 00:04:12:02

My son was born this June. His name is Kai Zhang.

00:04:12:02 00:04:15:02

I am so happy. It is a double celebration!

00:04:15:02 00:04:18:02

He has a strong mind and he is super perseverant.

00:04:18:02 00:04:21:02

A kid from a remote valley came all the way to here. That is quite a story.

00:04:21:02 00:04:24:02

He is finally adjusted to the American life and understands how to compete here.

00:04:24:02 00:04:27:02

I believe that Xinjun will definitely bring us a fresh look in the new season.

00:04:27:02 00:04:30:02

I think golf is a game that tests one’s perseverance.

00:04:30:02 00:04:33:02

And I am extremely perseverant.

00:04:33:02 00:04:36:02

That’s why I love this game so much.

00:04:36:02 00:04:39:02

Coming back to PGA TOUR gives me another chance to improve myself.

00:04:39:02 00:04:42:02

Hope this year I can continue to learn and be a better self.