SUNGJAE IM: I have heard a lot of people call me the Iron Man. I’ve never heard anyone else call me by another nickname.

ANNC: Sungjae Im, The Iron Man these days.

SUNGJAE IM: People gave me that nickname because I play in many tournaments.

ANNC: He plays every week….

JI TAEK IM: Iron Man shows his strong will and mentality. He is not Iron Man in physical strength, but with his mind and mentality, he is Iron Man.

ANNC: Sungjae Im wins the Shriners Children’s Open.

SUNGJAE IM: I feel like Iron Man means someone who is very strong. When I think of that, the nickname fits me very well.

SUNGJAE IM: I am…

SUNGJAE IM: Iron Man

*Titles: Sungjae Im: Iron Man*

SUNGJAE IM: If you combine my time on the Japan Tour, I’ve been on tour for about 5 years. Having stayed at hotels for a long time, that it actually feels like home sometimes.

**PLAYING IN OVER 75 PERCENT OF EVENTS FOR THREE CONSECUTIVE YEARS ON TOUR – SOUTH KOREA’S SUNGJAE IM HAS NO GOALS OF CHANGING THAT ANY TIME SOON.**

**YET WHEN THE MOOD STRIKES FOR A RARE BREAK FROM THE ROAD – HE CAN FINALLY CALL A PLACE HIS HOME ON THE PGA TOUR…**

SUNGJAE IM: I think the timing was just right for me to have a home here.

**AFTER MOVING TO DULUTH, GEORGIA LATE IN 20-20.**

JI TAEK IM: Since Sungjae didn’t want to miss any competitions and kept playing every week, we missed out on the opportunity to purchase a house here in the U.S. However, as Sungjae played steadily on the PGA TOUR, we made the decision to get a house.

SUNGJAE IM: When I was on the Korn Ferry Tour, I practiced at TPC Sugarloaf a lot. As I was looking at some houses around the course, I liked the atmosphere here. I thought that when wanted to settle down, I would want to live here, and I really like it here.

MI KIM: It's good because it's a place where he can come and rest. Sungjae likes it here because it’s similar to Korea. There are many Korean restaurants and places where you can buy Korean food.

JI TAEK IM: The weather was similar to Korea, plus it’s easy to travel to tournaments from here. That’s why I chose this area.

SUNGJAE IM: Because I lived in Korea for over 20 years, I miss my hometown a lot.

SUNGJAE IM: Even though I wasn’t born in Jeju, I moved there when I was 4 years old, and it’s where I started playing golf.

MI KIM: At a young age, he really enjoyed golf and it became his playground. Whenever he came up with a goal, he almost always achieved it.

SUNGJAE IM: When I was young, I played around with my golf clubs like a toy. I followed my mom and dad to the driving range and practiced. I remember playing really well at my first competition. From then on, I really took an interest in golf and worked hard at it.

JI TAEK IM: Like everyone, he liked Tiger Woods and Rory McIlroy and watched them a lot. Sungjae has a special ability to memorize what he sees with his eyes. He sees something, remembers it, imagines it, and makes it real.

**SUNGJAE’S TALENT TOOK HIM FROM JEJU ISLAND TO THE MAINLAIND OF SOUTH KOREA – AND WHILE HE CONTINUED TO DEVELOP HIS GAME – IT WAS HIS MIND THAT EVENTUALLY TOOK OVER.**

JI TAEK IM: When he was in the 2nd grade, he competed in his first competition in Incheon.

SUNGJAE IM: When I was 9 years old, I competed in a National Tournament. Until then, my best score was 90.

JI TAEK IM: After the front nine, Sungjae passed me in his cart and shouted 37!

SUNGJAE IM: On the first day, I shot a 77. It was an unforgettable moment for me.

JI TAEK IM: I was surprised!

SUNGJAE IM: I felt like I wasn’t myself that day. Maybe I was able to focus better because it was a tournament.

JI TAEK IM: He is one of a kind in that area. Whenever he faced an important moment, he showed something amazing, like a miracle. Whenever he’s in the moment, he performs beyond his level.

**IT WAS THIS GIFT THAT THRUSTED IM INTO KOREA NATIONAL SPORT UNIVERSITY – WHICH IS DESIGNED TO EDUCATE AND NURTURE PROMISING JUNIOR ATHLETES…AND HELPED TO FINE-TUNE THE PHYSICAL BEING OF “THE IRON MAN”.**

MI KIM: At the golf academy, they stay together, eat together, and practice together at the driving range. After his studies, he spent most time at the Academy.

HYUN CHOI: I started giving Sungjae lessons at the end of his first year in high school.

SUNGJAE IM: In 2015, I met Hyun Choi and we have have built a great relationship since then.

HYUN CHOI: He was the best player on the National Team despite his age. However, I wondered how he could improve. When he did a backswing, he would lean to the right. So when he did a downswing, he sacrificed his accuracy. I thought that if he slowed down his backswing, he will strike the ball better. Because of that, he started to hit the ball very well.

JI TAEK IM: They have a unique teacher-student relationship and discuss a lot together.

HYUN CHOI: Early on, Sungjae lived in the dorms, but when he was in his 2nd year in high school, he stayed with me. Sungjae never rested. There was not a single day where he did not pick up his golf clubs. I’ve never seen anyone practice as hard as Sungjae did.

SUNGJAE IM: Because I was away from home from an early age, I was able to adapt to the lifestyle of a professional golfer.

**AND THUS, AT AGE 18, “IRON MAN” WAS OFFICIALY CREATED AS IM TURNED PRO AND BEGAN PLAYING THROUGHOUT ASIA…CONSECUTIVELY, OF COURSE.**

JI TAEK IM: When he played on the Japan and Korean Tours, veterans would ask him, “Aren’t you going to rest?”. Looking back, he played for 15 to 17 consecutive weeks.

**AFTER SUCCESS IN ASIA – IM SET HIS SIGHTS ON THE U-S AND THE KORN FERRY TOUR IN 2018.**

JI TAEK IM: When he played Q-School, our family came to the U.S. for the first time. We assumed that it would take 3 years to get his PGA TOUR card. If he failed after 3 years, he would go back to the Japan or Korean Tour.

SUNGJAE IM: I won the first competition and was runner-up in the second competition. Since I had a really good start, I felt more comfortable the rest of the season.

ANNC: Sungjae Im, the 19-year old a winner.

**WHILE THE FAMILIES THREE-YEAR PLAN PIVOTED – IM’S “IRON SOUL” DID NOT – AS HE STILL PLAYED IN ALL BUT TWO EVENTS THAT SEASON.**

ANNC: Sungjae Im, a commanding stamp of approval – number one on the money list.

**ADDING ANOTHER WIN IN BETWEEN ON HIS WAY TO HIS PGA TOUR DEBUT…WHERE HE COMPETED IN AN ASTOUNDING 35 EVENTS – SIX MORE THAN THE NEAREST COMPETITOR.**

SUNGJAE IM: The PGA TOUR is the stage that every golfer dreams of and the tournaments that everyone wants to compete in. Therefore, in my rookie year, I had this desire to compete in as many tournaments as I could, and I felt if I didn’t, I’d be missing out.

JI TAEK IM: Sungjae felt he missed out if he didn’t play, at the same time, it was training to him.

SUNGJAE IM: The fact that I am currently competing on the best tour in the world, the PGA TOUR, has been such a huge learning experience. Playing with such famous players makes me feel proud of myself, and I keep learning as I play alongside them.

**YET IN ALL THAT TIME ON THE ROAD – HE STILL DIDN’T HAVE A HOME BASE IN BETWEEN…**

JI TAEK IM: We are always moving from the courses, to hotels, to restaurants. This has been our routine.

**SO ON WENT SUNGJAE AND FAMILY FROM CITY TO CITY – OFTEN FINDING A COURSE TO LODGE AND HOST THEM FOR THE WEEK.**

SUNGJAE IM: On weeks where I’m not competing, I still practice consistently, and at the same time, I try to rest fully to prepare for future tournaments. I try to eat good food, so for dinner I eat Korean food as much as I can.

**IM’S COMFORT IN ANY SURROUNDING WAS PIVOTAL IN MAKING IT TO THE TOUR CHAMPIONSHIP – AND IN TURN - ROOKIE OF THE YEAR HONORS…**

**AND EARNING 3 AND A HALF POINTS FOR THE INTERNATIONAL TEAM IN HIS FIRST PRESIDENTS CUP.**

SUNGJAE IM: It was the greatest experience because it tremendously helped me improve my game in pressure situations.

**IM PROVED THAT NOTION WITH HIS FIRST CARER WIN IN HIS SOPHMORE SEASON.**

ANNC: The Road Warrior of the PGA TOUR is the youngest winner in the history of the Honda Classic, Sungjae Im has broken through.

SUNGJAE IM: Winning early in my career gave me a lot of self-confidence. It me believe that I can chase after that 2nd and 3rd victory and it has become a catalyst for me to work even harder out here.

ANNC: What a great day for Sungjae Im was determined to get his 2nd win, his first came on his 50th start, this on his 100th start.

**IM HAS SEEN SUSTAINED SUCCESS AS EVIDENCE OF CONSISTENLY QUALIFYING FOR THE TOUR CHAMPIONSHIP EARLY IN HIS CAREER…**

**BREAKING A 21-YEAR RECORD AT EAST LAKE IN 20-21.**

ANNC: “Now Sungjae Im has more birdies in a season than anybody in PGA TOUR history! “

JI TAEK IM: With every season, every step, we felt that could achieve this, but we never expected it to happen this early.

SUNGJAE IM: It’s hard to keep your Tour card out here by staying in the Top 125, but to have been in the Top 30 makes me proud and I hope I can continue that every year moving forward.

**SUNG-JAE WILL ALSO LOOK TO BE A BIG FACTOR IN HELPING THE INTERNATIONAL TEAM TURN THE TIDE IN THE PRESIDENTS CUP IN THE FALL OF 2022.**

SUNGJAE IM: I hope to win. The International team has only won once so helping to achieve that a 2nd time in my 2nd playing would be a highlight of my career.

**WITH THE COMFORT OF HIS NEW HOME AT TPC SUGARLOAF – HE CAN CONTINUE TO MAKE THOSE STRIDES.**

SUNGJAE IM: When I’m here, I like the training environment and I feel very comfortable.

NAT: *((phone ringing))* Hey Coach. Hi Sungjae. How are you?

**IT ALSO HELPS THAT HE KEEPS AN ADDITIONAL PIECE OF HIS HOME COUNTRY CLOSE.**

NAT: I think you’re using your lower body too quickly. You think so?

SUNGJAE IM: Here at night, when it’s morning in Korea, I send swing videos to my coach and ask for help. He checks it and gives me feedback, and then I practice accordingly.

NAT: Step on the wedge with your right heel.

HYUN CHOI: When he's home, he contacts me more often and we get to work with each other a lot more.

NAT: How was that? That one went straight.

SUNGJAE IM: It’s good to have a place to practice what I lacked during competition,

and I can do that immediately right around my house.

JI TAEK IM: I hope he continues to play well and remains on the PGA TOUR until he reaches PGA TOUR Champions.

SUNGJAE IM: It’s not my style to change things up so I won’t be making any huge changes and I’ll continue to play a lot every year. I’m really thankful that I’m even able to compete on the PGA TOUR and it motivates me to work harder every day. I’m going to stay here while I am able to play on the PGA TOUR.