

## Golf Pro Coach turns -average- teenage player into professional tournament champion in Record Time

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When Amy Yang won the Australian Ladies Masters Golf Tournament at the Royal Pines Resort on Australia's Gold Coast in February 2006, she had many heads shaking.

Competing against many of the world's leading professional women golfers, she wasn't concerned by her amateur status, lack of professional tournament experience, or being one of the youngest players in the competition.

Remarkably, 16 year old Korean girl Amy Yang speaks limited English and Aussie golf coach Lawrie Montague speaks no Korean.

Yang started playing at ten years old, following a daily routine of driving-range practice. Arriving at the Australian High Performance Golf Academy just over twelve months ago, her lack of chipping and putting skills was compensated by a big dream to be a champion golfer.

Montague figured her Yang's handicap was around three to five. Her limited English was not a concern for Montague, since he has developed a unique training method using a number of simple but extremely effective golf training aids to help his students.

"Golf language is international", says Montague, who regularly conducts training programs for students from Japan, Korea, and China, as well as catering for the local Australian market. His motto: "Lower Golf Scores in record time!" After young Amy Yang, who can argue with that?

Montague is still amazed with her performance. "To borrow the Bobby Jones line about Jack Nicklaus, Amy plays a game we are not familiar with," he said.

"When she first arrived at the academy, her upright, rhythmical swing, and lack of a meticulous short game made it difficult for her to shoot low rounds consistently." Montague developed a training program specifically to work on her strengths and weaknesses, and Yang was strict in her discipline.

Two hours' practice every morning from 5.30, before heading off to classes at Robina State High School. After school she returns to the golf course until dark, when she moves across to the driving range under lights. Every Saturday morning, her week's work is reviewed for 90 minutes.

Montague runs seminars and training programs in the corporate world, through his "Mind on the Game" Company, and understands that golf is a mental game as much as a physical game.

So after holding the lead throughout most of the tournament, Yang set out on what turned out to be the greatest day of her life with straightforward instructions from her coach, Laurie Montague. "Keep it simple, simple thoughts, play the shots you know you can play. No fear."

The Australian High Performance Golf Academy runs courses throughout the year. For more information about their unique training techniques and training aids visit their website at [www.golf-school-australia.com/](http://www.golf-school-australia.com/)

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