

delhi THE AGE

Learning from Tiger's teacher

AGE CORRESPONDENT

Of the young overseas talents teeing off at the 4th Albatross International Junior Golf Championship are two students of the Hank Haney International Junior Golf Academy.

Japan's Tennoshin Ogawa and Taisuke Ono, playing in Category 'B', will both be keen to prove that their time at a golf school run by one of the most recognised teaching pros in the world has been well worth it.

So, can learning the game under the tutelage of a man who once coached the best player in the game be a motivating factor?

"It gives students a great

advantage, to learn the game, and to learn how to compete under Hank Haney," says Patrick O'Toole, director of international business development at the academy.

"Haney says you can only control two things — your attitude and your efforts.

"The best students are those who manage to do that. There is no secret, no magic formula," adds O'Toole. The Albatross International Junior, incidentally, is co-sanctioned by the Hank Haney IJGA.

Ogawa, from Aichi, and Tokyo's Ono, are 13-year-olds who are keen to turn pro.

And neither misses home too much.

"Being in the US is good for me," says Ogawa. "It's good for learning the game, for practising, and for getting better as a player."

Ogawa is into the second semester of his first year at the academy; Ono is also in his maiden year, and is currently in his first semester. The sacrifice of being away from home, so that they are able to grow as golfers, can only reap rich rewards for these boys, in the years to come.

Meanwhile, the fourth edition of the championship was declared open in a short ceremony in the evening on Tuesday. Feroz Garewal and Tvesa Malik led the oath of participation.