

"Golden Return" Choi Ji-hoon and Park Sung-han, "Taiwan is not a match to beat

National baseball outfielder Jihoon Choi (26) and infielder Park Sung-han (25, SSG Landers), who competed in the 2022 Hangzhou Asian Games, returned to the team on the 10th. Those who met with reporters before the away match against the KIA Tigers at Gwangju-KIA Champions Field on the 10th and expressed their feelings about winning the Asian Games gold medal, gathered their mouths and emphasized, "Taiwan is not an opponent to beat."

Outfielder Jihoon Choi said, "It's good. I won the gold medal after beating Taiwan in the final." I think I came back proud because I think I personally saved my face," he said with a smile. The Jihoon Choi said, "It is true that there was a burden. I thought I should lead the team well because I am older in this national team squad. "I felt burdened, but as a result, I won and came back well, so I'm relieved." Jihoon Choi played in six games and recorded a batting average of 0.524 (11 hits in 21 at-bats) and an OPS (on-base plus slugging) of 1.209, the best performance among fielders. Infielder Park Sung-han also said, "As I spent my baseball life, I went to an international competition and won my first medal. I'm happier that it's a gold medal," he said.

The match between Taiwan and South Korea in the group stage of the 2022 Hangzhou Asian Games was held at the first ball of the Shaoxing Baseball and Softball Sports Center near Hangzhou, Zhejiang Province, China on the 2nd. South Korea's Jihoon Choi (SSG Landers) is celebrating at first base after hitting a left-handed hit with two outs in the top of the fifth inning. Yonhap News Agency.

The "Hangzhou Asian Games" baseball team, led by head coach Ryu Joong-il, was widely expected to lose 0-4 to Taiwan in the group stage and not win the gold medal. The atmosphere of the national team wasn't good at the time. Park Sung-han said, "The atmosphere was not good. Players could have done it, but the atmosphere was also depressed as bad results came out. Still, there are remaining games and opportunities, so the players can do it together," he said.

The national team, which met Taiwan again in the final on the 7th, did not repeat two mistakes. The national team steadily accumulated scores, and won the gold medal with a 2-0 victory over Taiwan amid the pitching of the pitching staff. It was the moment when she lost four games in a row at the Asian Games. [스포츠토토](#)

The match between Taiwan and South Korea in the group stage of the 2022 Hangzhou Asian Games was held at the first ball of the Shaoxing Baseball and Softball Sports Center near Hangzhou, Zhejiang Province, China on the 2nd. In the top of the ninth inning, Taiwanese closer Liu Zhiroong is pitching hard. Yonhap News Agency.

Although they beat Taiwan at an important moment, the players think that Taiwan is no longer a natural opponent. Jihoon Choi said, "Starting pitcher Lin Yu-min was good to deal with, but I thought long-haired pitcher Liu Zhiroong was more picky at the back. I think the player now has the ball power that can be counted in his hands if he throws in the KBO League. Not only me, but all the players said that."

Jihoon Choi said, "I dare say it, but Taiwan is no longer a team that needs to win. I felt we had to improve a lot, too," he added. Park Sung-han also said, "I watched Taiwan and Japan play baseball, and they were better than I thought. I think we should strive as much as that. He said, "You say the gap is narrowing, and I think we need to prepare harder and do well accordingly."

Meanwhile, Jihoon Choi and Park Sung-han returned to the team on the 10th and started that day. They recorded two hits in four at-bats side by side, showing a good condition.