

Ms Feng's response to the NAMT Committee report.

January 31, 2003

Reply to the 2002 NAMT Committee's "Final Report".

Mr. Jiang is a high-level professional player of Go. He is right to have pride for this. When we play Go, we are competitors, but he is not my enemy. I respect him. I have no wish to make any public fight with Mr. Jiang. I also have no wish to make any public fight with the NAMT Committee. I was happy to be in the NAMT tournament, and I appreciated the hard work of all staffs of the tournament team.

I too am a world tournament-class pro. I too have pride, and I deserve respect. I am very sad to read the "Final Report" of the 2002 NAMT committee, because I believe that the Report is not balanced, not fair, and many "facts" are not accurate. I am afraid that someone who reads this Report may have a bad idea of what really happened and a bad idea of what kind of person I am.

Someone who reads the Report may think that I asked to have the result changed. I never asked for this. I am a pro. I accept that time is part of tournament games. During the games, the time system and the clock confused me. After the games, I asked for a meeting of the NAMT committee to prevent the same problems occur in coming tournaments, and improve on organizing the tournament for next time. I never asked to change the 2002 NAMT result.

Someone may think that it was wrong to ask about the clock after the game started. I have played in professional tournaments in China and in international pro tournaments for 28 years. I have never had any difficulty with the time system in these tournaments. In previous tournaments, I had never used this kind of clock, and have not encounter the similar problems. This NAMT is also first time of losing on time in my professional career for 28 years. I know that time counting in the NAMT is very different from counting in other tournaments. I did NOT know that the NAMT would use some clock that is not familiar to me. (It is true that I played during part of the 2001 NAMT, but I did not play in the final round and I never saw the clock that was used in the 2001 final round.) The Report says "it is the responsibility of the players to raise any questions or concerns regarding equipment, rules, or procedures *prior to start of play*". I think that it is not good enough for amateur organizers to make this some absolute policy. There is not such rule in any other countries saying: players can not ask questions during the

game. As far as I know, in pro tournaments in other countries, if there is some problem with equipment or game procedure, then a player can ask the referee at any time. Before the game, nobody had showed me how to use the clock, the questions and concerns aroused during the games were not expected. The start of byo yomi is the first time that I could know that there is some kind of problem. If you use a different time system from other pro tournaments, and if you do not show the kind of equipment that is going to be used until the game starts, then I think it should be OK to ask questions when the player realizes the problem.

The Report emphasis many times that I asked questions during opponent's "thinking time". This is not stated on a neutral position and is not the full truth. I believe the report maker is making this statement intentionally, not on a position of umpire. Someone who reads the Report may think that I asked questions only during Mr. Jiang's time, or maybe deliberately to distract Mr. Jiang, or to cheat him from his time. The truth is some questions I asked also has requested arisen during my thinking time. Whose time doesn't matter. Players have right to raise question during the game when he/she encountered problems, no matter in whose time and even protest to referee, it is also referee's right to answer or not, opponent should not instruct or command referee what to do. The equipment was confusing to me and I asked questions to the referee, not to Mr. Jiang. Also I was worried about how the clock works for Mr. Jiang too, not just for me. I think committee should realize that I am not clear about clock, the question is not only for me. I asked questions when I found the problem, not intentionally to interrupt opponent, as the report maker implied in the Report.

The Report says that I "complained that Mr. Jiang was rude" because he had left the playing room after the game, but (the Report says) in fact Jiang stayed and I left. None of this is right. The truth is: Jiang left the room, and then I left the room. (Of course, Mr. Jiang might come back some time later, and analyse the game as the recollection of Ms. He and Jeff Shaevel.) The truth is that in the following committee meeting, Tournament Director CD Lin blamed me that I left room unpolitely, so I explained that I left the room only when my opponent was not in the room. I did NOT say Mr. Jiang is rude and I never blamed Mr. Jiang left the room. I think it very common for players to leave their seats when they finished the game. No one told me that the losing player should stay to discuss the game and I did not know anyone expected me to stay. In fact, CD Lin was absent when the game was finished, so his manner of blaming me that I left the room was humiliating to me.

Why should the report maker be so unbalanced? Why should the committee

publish on the Internet such an unfair report? Someone who reads the Report may think that I whine and complain with no reason. Please look at who I am. I am Feng Yun, a champion Go player. I have been a professional for almost 30 years. I have a pro's spirit and dedication deep in my heart. I do not ask questions or make suggestions just because I lose some game or just to make trouble. Sure, I like winning more than losing, but losing some game is part of Go. I can accept that. I ask only to be sure to get a fair chance.