

LPGA Takefuji Classic
Las Vegas Country Club
Las Vegas, NV
April 16, 2005

Final round quotes

AN INTERVIEW WITH LORENA OCHOA

THE MODERATOR: Lorena, thanks for coming in and speaking with us. You shot 74 the first round, you were on the verge of missing the cut, and you came back with a 63 and then 7-under today. I mean I know you always want to win tournaments but you have to be pretty happy with this finish.**Error! Bookmark not defined.**

LORENA OCHOA: I am. I am pretty happy. It will be almost too much to win this week, but I mean I was close, I tried really hard. I had many chances today to make birdie, a couple of holes lipped out. I feel really good, a really good momentum, and I was close. But I'm happy, Wendy won. She deserved it. I respect her. She is a great player and congratulations to her.

Q. Was there a difference the first day, the last two days, was it the wind or putts just falling?

LORENA OCHOA: Well, I think my first day I didn't have a chance to talk to you. I made some changes last week on my swing, on my putt, and my stroke, and I was just too worried about how should I move the club, how should I putt. Instead of just going out there and leave the practice on the range and just try to hit close to the pin and make some birdies. I was mad at myself. I was angry. I decided to come the next day, play relaxed, enjoy and try to make birdies. I play so good the second round as well as today. I am very happy because it gives me confidence for next week too, and that's going to be a really important week for me. I think I am ready for.

Q. You said you made a lot of birdies. Can you tell us about the birdies? Can we go over your scorecard. Birdie on No. 4?

LORENA OCHOA: I made a birdie on No. 4. I don't remember. I had about 95 yards. I hit my 50 degree wedge just long of the pin, maybe 20 foot, and I made it, long putt.

Make birdie on No. 5, I hit my 9-iron really close 125 yards, maybe three feet and made it.

Make birdie on No. 6, I hit my 5-wood from 220 to the green and I have like 20 foot birdie for eagle. I made putt for birdie.

Birdie on No. 9, I was 166 to the hole and I hit my 6-iron just past the hole, a long putt maybe 25, 30 feet, and I made it.

Make birdie No. 10, I was in the left side bunker so I have to just put it out, then I have 110 yards, I hit my wedge maybe four feet, and I made it.

Make a birdie on No. 11, I have 92 yards to the hole. I hit my sand wedge a little bit short, maybe fifteen feet and I made it.

I make birdie on 16, I hit my 9-iron for 130 yards, pin-high on the right side, maybe another 15 feet and I made it.

Q. So you made some long putts today?

LORENA OCHOA: Yes. Yesterday the longest putt I made was like four or five feet. Today pretty much all of them were long.

Q. What sort of changes were you trying to make with your swing with your putting?

LORENA OCHOA: I didn't hit the ball good in Nabisco, I just got a little bit too close from the ball and I was swinging outside, inside. I hit a couple of drop kicks and my confidence went down, and I tried to manipulate the ball a lot and it would go, all of them, to the right. I was a little bit out of alignment. I went home and I'm glad that the problem was simple. I was able to get good alignment and it worked. I'm hitting with a lot more confidence. And with my putts, I hit the ball a little bit behind, and I miss all of the putts to the right. My face was open at the impact, so I tried to put the ball a little bit more forward and it's working better. It jumps a little bit still but the line is much better.

Q. Although you were charging very well today, Wendy kept playing well, she didn't give you anything?

LORENA OCHOA: Oh, I know, yes. I did everything I could too and Wendy just had a great day. You know, she never went down. Every time I looked behind she was close to the pin. People were clapping. She was making putts. A really good day for her. It's fair, she played three consistent days and a good player.

Q. If somebody would have told you before the tournament you shot 63, 65 on the weekend what would you have said?

A. I take it. It was a great experience. It's very special for me that yesterday I broke the record and I really like the course. I am going to be happy to come back next year.

Q. In the end, just too big of a hole to get out of, too much to climb, you came close, but the hole, the first day, was too much to get out of?

LORENA OCHOA: I think so. Just like Paul said the first day I thought it would be really hard to get close to have a chance to win. And, you know, just prove how difficult and weird golf is, anything can happen. All of a sudden I show up on the second round, and I start with two birdies and I told my caddy, let's shoot 10-under today and we are just feeling good and shooting at all of the pins and making all of the balls. It was a great experience for me. My best round here on TOUR and a special day for me.

Q. Can you tell me how you are impressed with the amateur, eighth last year as a 15-year-old. This year she is 16, she even gets better than that, as a veteran player out here, is that impressive to you?

LORENA OCHOA: Very impressive, yes. It just shows how many young players are coming in. I think that's really good for golf. It doesn't matter which country they are coming from. We are waiting for them. Hopefully we will have more young players in the LPGA in the next couple of years.

Q. Lorena, talk about how you were relaxed today and calm. Next week going back to Mexico City, it's going to be a bigger and more rowdier environment, like a soccer event, how will you keep your focus?

LORENA OCHOA: Well, I think hopefully I'm ready. I think I'm ready. I have my first experience with the tournament in Mexico City in Bosque, it was a big show and a lot of pressure. Just nervous the whole week, a lot of things to do, a lot of time consuming, a lot of stress, you know, mentally and physical stress. And I think this is going to be the second tournament in Mexico, so I know what I'm going to do and I know what to expect. So hopefully I am more prepared and I'm just really looking forward to it. I think it's a week that everybody in the country should enjoy and just, you know -- so I can share with them what I do and play in my own country. I don't think we have much to lose. It will be a win win situation for everybody, to bring the best players in the world into the country. It's something amazing they have been waiting for many years and just go there and play for the gallery and enjoy the week.

Q. Also, with your game, 63, 65, I mean do you feel like you are ready to hit that peak and go out there and play your game to create more fan frenzy?

LORENA OCHOA: Yes. I think I'm ready to win. I prove myself, and I have been close many times. I have already a couple of wins, next week will be very special place for me, and hopefully I can do it, you know, for my country.

Q. Lorena, one other question, you said on your birdie on nine, you said you hit a 6-iron from 166, 25 feet, you 2-putted there, is that correct?

LORENA OCHOA: Yes.

THE MODERATOR: Thank you.

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