
LPGA Takefuji Classic
Las Vegas Country Club
Las Vegas, NV
April 15, 2006

Final-round tournament quotes:

AN INTERVIEW WITH LORENA OCHOA

PAUL ROVNAK: Lorena, congratulations, a wire-to-wire victory this tournament was yours from the start with the opening round 63, and you closed it today with a birdie on 18. Your fourth career title, just talk about winning.

LORENA OCHOA: Yes, thank you. It was a great day today. I was very calm, very relaxed. I had a lot of control with my game. I make no bogeys today, only a couple of drives to the right which I managed to make up and down.

It was great. I really enjoy the week. Since the beginning we have a lot of good time on the golf course, Lance, my caddy, was great. Every time we were laughing, joking around, we keep making birdies. We told each other more or less, let's have a good day. Let's have fun. It was a special round, and more making that birdie on 18, that was a plus.

PAUL ROVNAK: Can you talk about winning this tournament after going through the 2 playoffs earlier this year, and coming up on the short end. Just talk about the year in general.

LORENA OCHOA: Yes. Well, I've been so close. I'm going to just keep trying. I think those playoffs really teach me, you know, when you are under pressure, how to just focus, and how to just really be aggressive whenever you need to be aggressive. You know, at the end, they help you for the experience and get better for your golf, and I think that's what they did.

What happened, a couple of weeks ago, just make me a better player, and also makes me wanting to win so bad that I just came really strong this week. And I tried to take everything as being positive. And I'm going to keep doing that.

PAUL ROVNAK: We'll, go ahead and take questions.

Q. You had the low 9, the low 18, the low 54 right here, you obviously must like the place?

LORENA OCHOA: I do. I really like this golf course. We are talking about that maybe this is a record for the three day tournament.

Q. It is, yes.

LORENA OCHOA: It is.

PAUL ROVNAK: It's a tournament record, it's not an LPGA record, a tournament record.

LORENA OCHOA: I don't know, what can I say?

Q. We asked Wendy Ward after the first day if she thought anybody could break 16-under, what she shot last year. She said it was going to be very difficult, you not only broke it, but by a long margin, did you amaze yourself considering the conditions yesterday that you were able to do that?

LORENA OCHOA: I think yesterday was the key. The way that I played the back 9 in those tough conditions, I keep myself in a good position, and I didn't let, you know, two or three strokes back. Keeping that leading distance was very important. And today I knew I needed to be strong, and just be aggressive. Like Juli Inkster, she played so good today, if she would have been only three or four shots behind me, that would be tough for me. Anything can happen on this course, just try not to think about other players, keep doing your things, play aggressive and try to make birdies because you don't know until the end.

Q. Lorena, when you started, you made a birdie on the first hole, and you had, I think you were 3-under after 5 or after 6. I mean, do you think that you kind of deflated your competition because, you know, they knew you're playing good, it's hard to catch you from behind the way you were playing?

LORENA OCHOA: I didn't understand the question.

Q. Do you think that you have an advantage by getting out of the gate so quickly, by making the three birdies that you did early?

LORENA OCHOA: I think that was key. I think that was very important. Birdie on No. 1 and a birdie on No. 5. I think those were really important, just for the players to see them posting on the leaderboard, and to make sure I'm not having a bad day, or I didn't start as good as I did the first couple of rounds. So making those birdies, I think was good for that. Just to keep them, like, I'm still up there and she is still making birdies.

Q. Lorena, how big of a relief is this to get a victory today after your near misses earlier this year?

LORENA OCHOA: It's not a relief. I don't want to put it that way. It's just a lot of joy, a lot of good things happened this week. It's been a very special week, I have a lot of friends. My sister, and my cousin are here from Mexico. There are more than 30 Mexicans here. It was a very special week for everybody.

Q. What is your sister's name?

LORENA OCHOA: Daniela.

Q. Can you remember the lowest score in a three day tournament that you had before?

PAUL ROVNAK: Her lowest score.

Q. Before this tournament?

PAUL ROVNAK: The LPGA record is 24, the record for three days. For Lorena? Do you remember your lowest?

LORENA OCHOA: Probably this one, I think. I'm almost 100% sure this week.

PAUL ROVNAK: Maybe last year she finished 14-under for three days.

Q. On 18, with a 2-shot lead, you decided to go for the green, a lot of people would have laid up there, was it important for you to finish with a birdie; why did you decide that?

LORENA OCHOA: Well, I'm trying to get better and better, and it was a good situation. I knew I had a 2-shot lead, and if you lay up on that hole, it's almost harder that third shot into the wind uphill, the pin in the front.

I told myself make sure you hit it long in the middle of the green long, and it will be easier to make birdie coming from behind.

So it was really a hundred percent sure just to go for it, it would be better.

Q. Back to your near misses for a moment, was there any sense of frustration, or did you feel like I have to just keep playing like this and it will happen?

LORENA OCHOA: Today?

Q. Back to the losses, just generally, did you feel like I'm playing well, I just have to keep doing this?

LORENA OCHOA: See, it's not frustration. I will say sometimes they really hit you, and you kind of get down a little bit. But I always told myself, just don't be too hard on yourself, you are starting to win tournaments, and get the lead or to win a tournament, a playoff. And I always say that to myself, don't be too hard on yourself. Just learn from what happened and keep it going. And we play, so many weeks out here, that it's nice just to say, I'm going to get them next week. It's good.

Q. Did you have any kind of special feeling when you made the double eagle the other day, hey, this might be my week finally?

LORENA OCHOA: Not because of that double eagle. But after the front 9 on the first day of the tournament, I just feel so relaxed and comfortable. I started really good, I think I shot 5-under on my front 9. You know, I could tell it will be a special week for me.

Q. It looked like it was a fun celebration on No. 18?

LORENA OCHOA: Yes, the first time a member of my family, or friends close to me, when I win. The other three times I was by myself, so this is the first one that I get to have them with me.

Q. And you get sprayed?

LORENA OCHOA: Yes, hopefully we get good pictures and we keep them.

Q. You mentioned your caddy's name, what is your caddy's last name?

LORENA OCHOA: Bennett, B E N N E T T. Lance Bennett.
PAUL ROVNAK: Can you take us over your scorecard, Lorena?
LORENA OCHOA: I make birdie on No. 1. I hit my wedge 120 yards, and I was maybe 20 feet short, and I made it.
PAUL ROVNAK: I thought you birdied 5, did you?
LORENA OCHOA: Yes. And then I birdie No. 5. I hit my 6-iron, three feet, and I made it.
PAUL ROVNAK: 6.
LORENA OCHOA: No. 6, I went over the green on two and I had like maybe five yards chip from the back fringe, and I putted maybe four feet and I made it.

Q. 9?

LORENA OCHOA: No. 9, I hit the green on two, with a 7-iron, and I make two putts for birdie. It was a long putt, maybe 35 feet.
PAUL ROVNAK: What was the birdie putt?
LORENA OCHOA: One foot.
PAUL ROVNAK: 10.
LORENA OCHOA: 10, I hit the green on two with a 5-iron, and I have a long putt again maybe 35 feet. And I leave it short about four feet, and I made it.
PAUL ROVNAK: 18.
LORENA OCHOA: And then 18, I hit my Sonar Tech, got it on the green, just went past, and I chip it maybe seven feet, and I made it.
PAUL ROVNAK: Anymore questions for Lorena?
LORENA OCHOA: Thank you for everything.

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