

ROUND 1 INTERVIEW: AZAHARA MUNOZ
Friday, June 26, 2015



MODERATOR: Aza, I know you had the surgery in March on the hand but did you know, I mean coming into this week, did it suddenly start to feel better and could you just explain the impact it's had on your swing and where you're at in the recovery?

AZAHARA MUNOZ: Yeah, it's been a rough year. I started the season really well and then that happens so I had to get surgery. I just wanted to get out here as soon as I could, but I couldn't practice so it's been hard because I could play because you don't hit so many shots out there but I couldn't hit balls on the range. So it's been a struggle after not playing for six weeks and then you still can't practice, so even if you had a bad day it doesn't matter. So I kind of started losing confidence and it got to the point that I didn't really know what to do and I couldn't practice so I didn't really know what to do. But last week I had a really good practice with my fiance back in Florida and things started clicking, so coming into this week I finally felt much better. My hand's still a little sore but I can practice. I just have to be a little smart about it. Finally started hitting the ball much better and that was the difference. I was just not striking the ball very well.

MODERATOR: How did today feel, I guess, confidence-wise, and as the round went did you feel more and more confident as it was going on?

AZAHARA MUNOZ: Yeah, it felt great. Finally -- I don't remember -- normally I'm a really good ball striker and I hit my irons really close and I don't remember last time I did that. So today going for pins and hitting it really close, it felt really good, back to normal.

Q. You mentioned last week having such a good week in practice. What were some of the things that you worked on technique-wise, form-wise with your fiance in Florida?

AZAHARA MUNOZ: More than technique, we tried to focus on what I was feeling before my surgery because I was hitting the ball really well. I played really well in Thailand, really well in Singapore. I just tried to get those feelings back instead of focusing so much on technique because I feel that after my surgery happened, I felt so lost that I wanted to do -- I wanted to be so perfect with my technique, I just couldn't, I lost swing speed, I wasn't hitting it very far, obviously not solid. So I went more with feels instead of so much technique.

Q. You haven't finished well lately. How important was it today to get off to a good start, basically on top of the leaderboard, how important is that right now confidence-wise?

AZAHARA MUNOZ: It is really important. You know, obviously it's only the first round, but as I said before it's been a rough year. When you are playing really well and then all of a sudden you are not playing and then you are not playing well, you know, you can feel a little anxious. I've already made five events, I think, so when you get back you want to play really

well, but at the same time you know you're not going to play really well because -- I guess you could, but I hadn't practiced and I was just not playing well. I finally actually tried to relax a little bit and not be so focused on results and that was probably the difference. I just tried to have more fun again on the golf course.

It's been a rough year. I was not having fun. I almost -- this sounds stupid, but I almost felt that I was really unlucky that this happened to me because it's so silly because it was so simple, nothing bad, and some people are off for a whole year or two. You never know. Mine was just six weeks but for some reason I still got really down on myself. Last week I finally said this is it, it's not going to happen again. I'm super lucky. I actually couldn't be any luckier, I have so many good things going for me. So I almost felt ashamed that I was being a little bit of a brat, I guess. So finally I said this is it, no matter what, you've just got to be happy anyways. I know I'm a good golfer so eventually it's going to come. Obviously it's going to take a little bit of time but I know it's going to come back.

Q. You've had a good finish here before and played well here before. Does that help at all with your confidence coming into the week?

AZAHARA MUNOZ: Yeah, yeah, I really like this golf course, I love the grass on the fairways, I love how the greens roll. It sets up good. I like how -- I don't really like wide-open golf courses. This one I feel like every driver you have to hit a good drive, set yourself really well in the fairways and the same coming into the greens, so I really enjoy that.

Q. Aza, with the weather today, what did you do during the weather delays and can you talk about how that affects you mentally?

AZAHARA MUNOZ: Mentally, it doesn't affect me. Obviously you say it sucks, you know, you had all these plans for the afternoon and now they don't happen, but it is what it is. I got lucky, my two best friends on tour had the same draw as I did and Pernilla actually got lucky and she finished before the second delay, but Sarah was still out there, so we just sat and had a good time. It does suck, but you just try to make the best of it. At the end of the day I finished, so I got lucky. I can't complain. You eat a lot, things like that.

Q. You eat a lot?

AZAHARA MUNOZ: I do. (Laughter.)

MODERATOR: Thanks so much for coming in.

AZAHARA MUNOZ: Thank you, guys.