

U.S. Senior Women's Amateur

10/02/2023
Scottsdale, Ariz., USA
Troon Country Club

Ellen Port Quick Quotes



Q. Talk a little bit about your round.

ELLEN PORT: Well, I hit some good shots. And I got ahead, which is really key. To get up early. Because Kay is a very good player. I think I had it 4 up, and then it was 2 up. And a risk-reward hole on 10, I've been going over, and I had a little trouble on 10. But I really don't – I got up and I said, 'I'm going right,' after I finished the ninth hole and dodged a bullet with a bogey. But, it's a shot I can do, you know, so I go off that hole. But I was proud that I then kept it even after that. I lost that hole, and I think she made a birdie, which was great for her. So, she got it back to two, and that's when you can kind of start going, 'Oh my gosh,' you know. Then I just hit some good shots coming down the stretch, par was a good score. And I'm thankful to move on.

Q. What's the key to winning in match play on this course?

ELLEN PORT: You know, it's fairways. You have to keep the ball in play. Putting it in the best spot you can on the greens. I think club selection – I have a great caddie, and there are times where I might've hit one more club, but we stuck with the number. And I think getting your distances accurate and trusting it. You know, they tuck pins. You have to trust that you can clear the pin, because if not, they're firm and if you take one more club, boom. You're off the back. So I think getting your yardages right and committing, and then of course, everybody will say the greens.

I mean, you have to do everything on this golf course. I've played in a lot of these, and it's kind of a relentless golf course. You have to have it all. It's a good test, it's a fair length. You can make some birdies, but you can also make some others.

Q. We're seeing some champions like yourself really thrive out here, and I'm wondering, is this a course where that kind of experience gives you an edge?

ELLEN PORT: Oh, not really. I've been out of it for so long. I mean, I'm playing three or four tournaments a summer, I feel like I haven't played enough. So, I'm just re-learning, you know, my swing is where I want it but I can sense a little bit of the nerves creep in there. And I think everybody has that. And there's so many good players in here that play a lot of competitive golf. I just need to rely on focusing on each swing and rolling that putt and trusting it. You really do have to commit and trust your lines on the green and everything.

Q. Whether it's you or someone else, what is the winner of this championship going to have done best the whole week?

ELLEN PORT: I think just make some putts. Make a lot of pars. And then it always comes down to one or two key putts. They just have to be steady, and the winner knows they have to get a little lucky, and then hit a lot of quality shots and putts.