U.S. Senior Women's Amateur

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

Martha Leach
Quick Quotes

Q. After an 88 in the first round of stroke play, did you think you'd be advancing to the Round of 32?

MARTHA LEACH: Oh, heck no. The first day, I could just not believe it. I was having out-of-body experiences. I really was. I mean, I'm a pretty straight hitter, and I was missing fairways. And the desert is not like hitting it into the trees. I had unplayable lies, lost balls, everything going wrong. Then I started missing greens with 7-irons going into the desert. So, it was just one of those days.

Q. But you shook it off with a 77 in the second round...

MARTHA LEACH: Well, the first hole I hit it out of bounds and triple, so I was like, 'Oh my god. Here we go again.' Thank goodness this is a difficult golf course. I don't want anyone else to play poorly, but it happens. I'm very fortunate to have made it to match play.

Q. Today, in match play, you had four consecutive birdies on holes 9-12 to take control of the match...

MARTHA LEACH: I missed a fifth one by half an inch, and another one on the following hole by about a quarter of an inch. On 9 I hit a great shot into the hole, but the wind laid down so it ended up in the bunker and then I knocked it in. It was pretty spectacular. I haven't done that in a while. The other birdies were really good shots and good putts.

Q. Is there any rhythm out there to the course in terms of match play? Do you have to get a lead early or finish strong?

MARTHA LEACH: You can't ever relax on this golf course. I feel like one little errant shot into the greens can really make a difference on each hole. I feel like you really just have to grind it out on every hole.

Q. This is your 82nd USGA championship, right?

MARTHA LEACH: Yes. I always say, 'But I've only won one.' That was odd. But I'm getting a lottery ticket tonight so it could all change. Maybe I won't play tomorrow if I hit it. That would be really great... no offense.