

SPORTS

GOLF CAPSULES



AP Photo

Lorena Ochoa watches her putt on the fourth green in the final round of the LPGA Samsung Challenge golf tournament Sunday.

Ochoa holds off Sorenstam for win

The Associated Press

PALM DESERT, Calif. — Lorena Ochoa took a huge step toward dethroning Annika Sorenstam as the LPGA Tour player of the year, overwhelming her Sunday with a 7-under 65 that turned a three-shot deficit into a two-shot victory in the Samsung World Championship.

Ochoa was relentless at the start, a little lucky in the middle and solid down the stretch at Bighorn to win for the second straight week and fifth time this year, tops on the LPGA Tour and almost enough to wrap up the points-based award that Sorenstam has captured the last five seasons.

Trailing by two shots at the turn, Ochoa hit a 60-foot putt on the 10th hole that banged into the back of the cup, hopped out briefly and then dropped back in the hole for a birdie that turned into a two-shot swing when Sorenstam made bogey from a bunker.

The 24-year-old Ochoa, the winner last week in her native Mexico, stood on the green in mild shock, then smiled and shook her head.

Sorenstam, who closed with a 70, must have felt like she had seen that all day. Ochoa took only 28 putts in the final round.

Ochoa matched the best score of the tournament. Juli Inkster earlier posted a 65, which was 10 shots better than her playing partner, Michelle Wie. The 17-year-old from Hawaii had more trouble in the desert and finished with a 75, her worst score on the LPGA Tour this year and her eighth consecutive round without breaking par.

Wie finished 17th in the 20-player field.

Ochoa earned \$218,750, pushing her season total over \$2.3 million. Sorenstam or Karrie Webb would have to win their final two tournaments of the year to keep Ochoa from winning player of the year.

Rookie Matteson wins first PGA Tour title: In Las Vegas, consistently hitting his approach shots close and remaining cool and collected on the tense final holes, rookie Troy Matteson shot a 3-under 69 to win the Frys.com Open for his first PGA Tour victory.

Matteson, the three-time All-American from Georgia Tech who had to complete the last six holes of the rain-delayed third round early in the morning before beginning the final round, held off Ben Crane and Daniel Chopra by one shot.

Matteson finished at 22-under 265. Crane, a two-time winner on the tour, shot a 65, and Chopra, left looking for his first victory, had a 66.

The 26-year-old Matteson won twice last year on the Nationwide Tour and broke the developmental tour's money record with \$495,009. His initial tour win wrapped up a three-week stretch when he was edging toward the top, with a tie for eighth in Mississippi earlier this month, and a tie for sixth last week in Greensboro.

Playing in the final group with Chopra and nursing a one-shot lead, Matteson stuck his second shot on the 444-yard, par-4 18th within 8 feet of the pin. After Chopra missed his birdie try from 18 feet, Matteson needed only to two-putt. He barely missed the first, then tapped in for the victory.

Haas wins rain-shortened tournament: In Spring, Texas, Jay Haas won his sixth career Champions Tour title when rain forced the cancellation of the final round of the Administrators Small Business Classic.

Haas shot a 9-under 63 on Saturday to take five-stroke lead at 17-under 128. He earned \$240,000 for his fourth victory of the year and also passed Loren Roberts in the Charles Schwab Cup points race. Bruce Lietzke and Tom Purtzer tied for second.

It was the second week in a row a Champions Tour event ended after two rounds. Tom Jenkins won the rain-shortened SAS Championship last week in North Carolina.

Players thought DNA tests would clear them

By AARON BEARD
The Associated Press

RALEIGH, N.C. — The three members of Duke University's lacrosse team charged with rape say they expected DNA testing would clear them of a crime they insist they did not commit.

The three — including one from New Jersey — said Sunday they were frustrated when authorities continued to pursue the case after those tests failed to find a match with the accuser.

"We were told it would help to clear everything up, so we were happy to go," said Collin Finnerty, 20, who was interviewed on CBS's "60 Minutes" along with David Evans, 23, and Reade Seligmann, 20, who lives in Essex Fells, N.J.

The accuser, a student at near-

DUKE LACROSSE SCANDAL

by North Carolina Central University, told police she was raped in a bathroom by three men at a March 13 off-campus team party where she had been hired to perform as a stripper. Evans told "60 Minutes" he cooperated with police as soon as they arrived to start investigating the allegations.

"It was scary," Evans said. "I woke up from a nap to 10 police officers in my living room with a search warrant. I went through every part of it — told 'em where they could find things and that we'd fully cooperate and answer any questions they had."

The network previously released selected excerpts of the interviews, the first for Seligmann and Finnerty since they were

indicted in April on charges of rape, kidnapping and sexual offense. In May, the grand jury indicted Evans on the same charges, and he proclaimed his innocence outside the Durham County jail after posting bond.

Defense attorneys, who have insisted their clients are innocent, declined repeated requests in recent weeks from The Associated Press for interviews with the indicted players.

District Attorney Mike Nifong was not interviewed by "60 Minutes," and he has generally refused to comment about the case. Nifong's office said last week he was out of town and would not return until Monday. A trial isn't expected to begin until

next spring.

Nifong initially complained publicly about a lack of cooperation from the team, and said the DNA test would reveal who committed rape and who was innocent. When the tests failed to find a definitive match, he said there is no DNA evidence in most sexual assault cases and vowed to press ahead with the case. Indictments against the three players soon followed.

"It's so frustrating because that was an opportunity for us to exonerate ourselves," Seligmann told "60 Minutes." "And we were told that. If we cooperated, those that were innocent would be shown to be innocent. ... It didn't play out that way."

Evans said he regretted his decision to host the party.



Photo by Randy Mills/allproshots.com

Wallkill Valley quarterback Matt Briggs is brought down by Vernon linebacker Brian Jerrick Saturday afternoon. The Rangers found plenty of running room against Vernon, but couldn't find the end zone.

Notebook

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Sparta is 12th in North I, Group II with 17 power points, but should be able to get in with wins in its next two games. The Spartans play at Kittatinny and at Newton. Both teams are ahead of them in the section. The Cougars are eighth with 24 points and the Braves are ninth with 22.

The situation is much more manageable for the Patriots. They're in fifth place in North II, Group II with 17 points. Lenape Valley plays on the road in Jefferson and Hopatcong in its final two games. The Patriots have some wiggle room, since only six teams in the section would qualify for the playoffs if the season ended today.

Vernon is still fighting in North I, Group IV but is ninth with 25 points. The Vikings (4-2) may need help, since the three teams directly in front of them only have played five games.

Passing League?

For whatever the reason, there were more passing yards than usual this week in the SCIL.

Jefferson and Newton combined for about 600 yards through the air, but that's not a surprise. Vernon passed for 154 yards, which is about average.

But Pope John and High Point aired it out, too.

Lions quarterback Eugene McGuire threw for 117 yards and completed 10 of 15 passes in Pope John's 41-20 win over Jefferson. The passing attack turned into points, including a 29-yard touchdown pass to Theo Lusardi.

As for the Wildcats, more throws led to a more effective offense. Quarterback Matt Danko threw for 132 yards and finished 9 for 21. High Point's only score came on a pass from Danko to Kyle Donadio.

Players of Week 6

Mike Groome (Lenape Valley), Dan Lisa (Vernon) and Joe Martinek (Hopatcong)

All they did was combine for 15 touchdowns and one rushing record.

Groome ran for 290 yards and six touchdowns on 29 carries in the Patriots' 48-35 win. And Groome played with so many injuries that it's a small miracle he was even on the field.

Lisa did it all for Vernon in its 48-13 victory. Lisa passed for 154 yards and four touchdowns on only nine completions. He also rushed for 127 yards and two touchdowns. If that wasn't enough, he recovered a fumble, too.

Martinek now stands alone on New Jersey's all-time rushing yardage list. He ran for 224 yards and three touchdowns to set the new record Friday in the Chiefs' 28-7 win. Martinek has 6,811 career yards and counting, while the old mark was 6,720. The forgotten part of his game was his two sacks.

Game of Week 6

Newton at Lenape Valley

Any game that has 83 points had to have some intrigue, and this one certainly did. The Patriots (3-3) earned a much-needed victory and to get back to .500.

The way Lenape Valley accomplished that was the opposite of Newton (3-3). The Patriots piled up the rushing yards led by Groome's 290 yards and 102 yards from Jim Hamill.

Newton utilized the passing game, and Steve Zander was 23 for 49 for 332 yards. If you like offense this was the game for you.

Looking Ahead

Hopatcong plays at Vernon next week in

what will be crucial for both teams, but for different reasons. The Chiefs want to get a top seed in North I, Group II. The Vikings are playing for a playoff berth in North I, Group IV.

There's also the 35-7 drubbing the Chiefs handed to the Vikings last year. Vernon would obviously like to avoid blowout defeats at home to Hopatcong in consecutive years.

Sparta at Kittatinny is another good matchup. The Spartans are currently on the outside of playoff picture, while Cougars are among the top eight in North I, Group II.

Rankings

1. Pope John (6-0): If the Lions can combine 117 yards passing with their running game, look out.

2. Hopatcong (5-1): The Chiefs have allowed an average of eight points in their last five games — that's usually a winning recipe.

3. Vernon (4-2): Its offense broke out to the tune of 48 points, after scoring 68 in the first five games combined.

4. Kittatinny (4-2): The Cougars' offense struggled against Hopatcong, but they have company.

5. Sparta (3-3): Its offense was dominant in the first half Saturday, leading to a 19-0 halftime lead.

6. Lenape Valley (3-3): It will win plenty of games if it continues to rush for over 400 yards and seven touchdowns.

7. Newton (3-3): The Braves have lost two straight and their defense couldn't stop the run Friday.

8. Jefferson (2-4): It passed for 258 yards but its downfall was four turnovers.

9. High Point (0-6): The Wildcats' aerial attack was successful in the second half Saturday.

10. Wallkill Valley (0-6): The Rangers ran for 312 yards but it only led to two touchdowns.

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