

# Volunteers of America LPGA Texas Classic

Thursday, July 1, 2021

*The Colony, Texas, USA*

Old American Golf Club

## Matilda Castren

### Quick Quotes

**Q. Capped it off with that great birdie on 18. How did it feel out there? It is so hot. How did you manage the conditions today?**

MATILDA CASTREN: Yeah, it is really hot. I was just trying to go hole by hole and shot by shot and on the back nine I felt -- I mean, I wasn't dizzy but I felt like I was getting there.

So I just really trying to push through and give myself opportunities. Yeah, just tried to finish the round.

**Q. You managed it very well. How did it feel last week, this week, for the first time being announced as an LPGA champion on the first tee?**

MATILDA CASTREN: It feels pretty good. They no more say rookie, so it's nice to be called LPGA winner. It has a special ring to it definitely.

**Q. That's awesome. How did you celebrate? Your coach told me you took the week off. How did you do that?**

MATILDA CASTREN: Well, I had planned to take that week off earlier already, and I went home to San Diego, spend sometime with my boyfriend and some friends and ate really good food and practiced a little bit.

Yeah, just enjoyed the week.

**Q. That's awesome. Sounds like quite the celebration. Earlier this week you were confirmed to represent Finland in the Olympics. What does that mean to you to represent your country in Tokyo in a month or so?**

MATILDA CASTREN: It's awesome. I mean, it's something that I've dreamed of since I was a little girl. Since golf became an Olympic sport it was one of my goals. To be able to represent my country is a huge honor and I can't wait to go.



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**Q. Missed the cut last week in your first event as an LPGA Tour winner, but bounced back with a solid round like this. Different pressure last week on yourself?**

MATILDA CASTREN: I mean, I think there was less pressure because I was just playing and I didn't really have like -- I'm not like playing for my card anymore. Like I don't have to go to Q-School. Like I'm doing well in the rankings.

So I guess it was a little bit less pressure, and I feel like I get the best out of me when it's kind of a tough spot and a little more pressure.

So I was kind of like, Okay, what are your goals now that I won already? I kind of had to regroup. And I didn't hit the ball that great last week. Just didn't score well.

So I knew my game was there, it was just hiding last week. Yeah, just wanted to come here and play well and try to get another Top 10.

**Q. Came out and played well today.**

MATILDA CASTREN: Uh-huh.

**Q. What is about Old American that you enjoy? Besides no shade.**

MATILDA CASTREN: Yeah, there is not much shade out there. It was definitely warm. I like the layout. I like the little links style. I think the course fits well for my game.

Yeah, I managed to hit a lot of greens today and give myself a lot of opportunities. Yeah, scored well.

**Q. Did you play here in December?**

MATILDA CASTREN: I didn't.

**Q. So you didn't get to experience the 60-degree cooler temperatures.**

MATILDA CASTREN: No, but I've heard about it. I'm glad I wasn't there. I think I'll pick this one over that anyway.



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**Q. Warm over cold any day.**

MATILDA CASTREN: Yeah.

**Q. Game plan? When you can put yourself in a position like this after day one, what does a championship mindset look like heading into day two to continue that?**

MATILDA CASTREN: Try to keep myself cool and put myself in position. Hit good shots off the tee. Hit some greens. I mean, give myself chances for birdies. Just take it hole by hole and see what happens.

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