

# Dana Open presented by Marathon

Friday, July 14, 2023

Sylvania, Ohio, USA

Highland Meadows Golf Club

## Maria Fassi

### Quick Quotes

**THE MODERATOR:** We're joined now by Maria Fassi. Maria, back-to-back 67s. Just talk about your two rounds here so far and, yeah, here at the Dana Open.

**MARIA FASSI:** Yeah, really different one from the other. I think yesterday I was just very close to the pin all day. I had a lot of birdie opportunities and didn't necessarily convert all of 'em. I think today I got off to a little slower start and even through the middle of the round like I was just kind of giving myself 20, 25-footers all day and just not seeing many birdie looks. I was able to finish with three birdies, 16, 17 and 18. I knew those two par-5s, they're great opportunities for that down the stretch. Managed to make a longer putt on 16. So happy with where we're at. But I think there's still a lot of birdies out there for me and a lot of work for us to do to be ready for the weekend.

**THE MODERATOR:** We've heard that a lot that the par-5s here are prime for some scoring opportunities. What have you seen that are some of the keys to taking advantage of those?

**MARIA FASSI:** Yeah, like I said, I mean, yesterday I didn't birdie any of the par-5s. I knew that was something that I needed to work on. I managed to birdie two out of three today. I think that they, the par-5s, especially number 7, I think it's a tricky little green. It's firm and it's hard to get close to some of those pins.

And then I think 17 and 18, if you're just out of position in the fairway it's hard to give yourself a good layup or even attempt to going for it in two. So I think that the tee shots are extremely important to kind of set you up for success and I was able to do that well today and looking forward for the next couple days hopefully we can go deeper than that.

**THE MODERATOR:** What's going to be that mindset as you take on these next couple days here at Highland Meadows?

**MARIA FASSI:** Well, I love this golf course. It's one of my



favorite golf courses that we play. I think we have such a good game plan. I don't think anything changes. Hopefully more birdies come and I give myself plenty of chances for those, but like I said, we just have such a good game plan that we just have to stick to it and stay patient because on a day like today I was just 1-under par with three to go and walked out of there 4-under.

So I think there's plenty of opportunities and there's plenty of people at the top that are going to be taking those, so I think whenever you do get one you just have to convert and hope that you're converting more than everybody else.

**THE MODERATOR:** You mentioned it, sticking with your game plan. When you played a course multiple times how do you balance drawing back on what's worked in the past at this course versus what you're trying to work through right now and focus on?

**MARIA FASSI:** Yeah, I mean, I think most of the tee boxes are in similar spots. There's a few that have been moved back, there's a few that are new tee boxes for us this year. So I think that's kind of fun in its own way. I think it's nice -- like I played very good golf here and I kind of just try to go back and remember those good shots in case I'm kind of struggling through the day. But I know it's a golf course that you can go deep.

Like I said, I think we have a very good game plan combining what I knew from the past to kind of what I'm doing right now with my caddie and I think between what I know and what he knows we've done it all right. We have two more days to go as low as we can and then hope for the best on Sunday.

**THE MODERATOR:** Is there anything different this week that has just been clicking that maybe hasn't been in some of your previous starts this year?

**MARIA FASSI:** I mean, yeah, I mean I think I've been seeing a lot of growth and a lot of improvement. I don't think I had been able to play 18 good holes. I think I always had a hole or two per round that would kind of hold me back. I think again the golf course that's gettable in a way like this one, if you make a couple mistakes they are



going to cost you a lot, just because people are making a lot of birdies. So I think for me it's been that. I mean, I only made two bogeys this week and we will hope to keep that to a minimum as well this weekend. But I think that's been the biggest difference. Like, I've made some birdies, but I've really haven't made many mistakes and I think it's showing with how I'm playing and with how good our game plan is.

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