



**Arkansas' Maria Fassi Wins NCAA Individual Championship;  
Third Round Matches Suspended; "Race for Eight" to Resume at 6:45 a.m. Tuesday**

FAYETTEVILLE, Ark. – University of Arkansas senior Maria Fassi fired a bogey-free 5-under-par in the final round and carded a 54-hole score of 211 (-4) to win medalist honors at the 2019 NCAA Division I Women's Golf Championships, played at Blessings Golf Club (par 73, 6,473 yards).

Third round action was halted due to darkness at 8:14 p.m. after an afternoon that featured a weather delay of more than an hour and a half. The final six teams will look to complete their third round Tuesday at 6:45 a.m. and the top eight teams following completion of that round will advance to the match play portion of the tournament. Quarterfinal action gets underway at 8 a.m.

Fassi, the second Razorback to win NCAA medalist honors, got off to a quick start with birdies on holes 2, 6 and 8 to lead by one shot at the turn. After the weather delay, she birdied holes 12 and 16 to put secure the win. She joins Stacey Lewis, who also claimed the title in 2007.

"I've told coach (Shauna) Taylor many times that we were going to be walking down the fairway on 18 holding hands and that I would be the national champion," Fassi said. "It was way better than what I have imagined. Coming back to play for a national championship was one of the main reasons that I deferred my professional status. I think I've had a nice last couple of months, playing Augusta, winning the SEC's and advancing to the national championship. We're going to match play for the first time in program history. Being with my teammates and learning from Shauna and (assistant coach) Mike (Adams) has been amazing. I made the right decision."

With just a few holes remaining in Tuesday's third round, Texas is the current team leader at +6, followed by Duke (+14) and Southern California (+17). Among the leaders completing play are Arkansas (4<sup>th</sup>, +24), Wake Forest, Arizona, Stanford and Auburn (still playing). Currently looking to edge into the top eight are Illinois, Florida and Purdue.

Florida's Sierra Brooks was the clubhouse leader Monday after shooting an even-par 73 and stands at 4-under (215) through 54 holes. The junior was among the first golfers on the course and she finished her round prior to the inclement weather.

Arizona's Bianca Pagdanganan finished third with a 54-hole score of 217, followed by Texas' Hailee Cooper (218) and Virginia Tech's Amanda Hollandsworth (219).

GOLF Channel coverage continues on Tuesday with live quarterfinals action from noon-2:30 (ET) p.m. Coverage returns to the air for semifinal action from 5-9 p.m. (ET)

**GOLF Channel NCAA Women's Golf Championships Airtimes**

Tuesday, May 21	Quarterfinals, Team Match Play	Noon-2:30 p.m. ET (Live)
Tuesday, May 21	Semifinals, Team Match Play	5-9 p.m. ET (Live)
Wednesday, May 22	Team National Championship	4-8 p.m. ET (Live)



## 2019 NCAA DIVISION I WOMEN'S GOLF CHAMPIONSHIPS

### Third Round

Blessings Golf Club, Fayetteville, Arkansas  
Monday, May 20, Par 73, 6,397 yards

### THIRD ROUND QUOTES

#### **Texas head coach Ryan Murphy**

*On his team's six-under-par third round ...*

That was a great round that we played. We got off to a good start and played No. 1 well, which is a really hard hole. I think that just kind of started our day. That was great to have four pars on that hole, and then we made a couple of birdies on 2, and we were off to the races.

*On freshman Hailee Cooper shooting back-to-back rounds of 69 ...*

That was just two moving days for her that were huge. That's incredible to start with 80 and then finish fourth in this golf tournament. Just fantastic.

*On beginning match play on Tuesday ...*

Right now, I'm just worried getting my team fed and getting them in bed. We're excited about match play and we'll be ready to go.

#### **Maria Fassi, Arkansas, NCAA Champion**

*On mental state heading into and playing final round...*

I was feeling very comfortable with the way I was playing the previous two rounds and I knew I had to shoot a round in the 60's if I wanted to have a chance at the title. I was just feeling really good with my game. I've been feeling that way for two months or so. It was just like any other final round because I tried to go out there and stay aggressive.

*On deferring your LPGA membership to have this opportunity...*

Coming back for nationals was one of the main reasons I deferred my LPGA status. I think I had a pretty nice past couple months. I got to play Augusta; we made it to match play for the first time in our program's history; and getting to be with the girls, all our staff and getting to learn more from (head coach Shauna (Taylor) and (assistant coach) Mike (Adams) the last six months have been amazing. I think I made the best decision.

*On walking up 18 fairway....*

I told Shauna that we were going to be walking down 18 fairway, holding hands, knowing that I was going to be the national champion. I saw it in my head I don't know how many times. I dreamed it but this was so much better. The people that were out here today with us and the team was amazing to me and it felt surreal. It was just way better than what I had dreamed.

### **Arkansas Head Coach Shauna Taylor**

#### *On reality of winning set in....*

Probably when (us hosting the NCAA's) was announced, I would say, her and I have had these conversations. I think sometimes when you can visualize something, it becomes a reality eventually. We knew that preparation and being in the present was going to be a big part of that. It's way better than I envisioned, to walk up 18 with her, holding her hand and telling her I love her. I'm so proud of her. Also, to see our fans and our whole entire team behind the green, it was definitely cooler in person.

#### *On moving on to match play...*

You know, obviously our team goal is the most important goal for us. I know Maria feels the same way. Obviously, her winning individually is just a cherry on top of the cake. We still have a lot of work to do as a group. We'll try to figure out who we're going to play, give ourselves the best matchups and go out there and take care of business.

### **Sierra Brooks, Florida, NCAA Runner-Up**

#### *Thoughts on your play overall...*

I was really pleased with all three rounds, especially on this golf course. It took all the shots and it was a great test of golf. I think first round -- I just felt like I needed a round under my belt, especially under the conditions with the wind and after the first round, I got adjusted.

#### *On contending until the last round....*

Just to be in that situation, experience those feelings, was something that I had not done in a while. It was nice being in this situation today. I kind of knew how to handle it. I was much more prepared for the nerves and the tension that comes.