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'I give my best under pressure'

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 If competitive golf has been her passion, then mathematics was her first love. But Nalini Singh Siwach, the 22-year-old, chose to continue with her passion and her recent string of good performances had strongly indicated the emergence of a new star in the India women's pro circuit.

Currently ranked second in the Order of Merit list of the Ladies Pro Tour behind Sharmila Nicollet, Nalini has so far recorded eight titles to her name, including two wins this year.

The promising golfer, who turned pro in 2007, now plans to move a step ahead and make a mark on the European Tour.

"I am planning go to the Ladies European Tour Qualifying School in January 2012. But I am yet to send my name there. I have been playing in the domestic circuit for quite a while, and played several Asian Tour sanctioned tournaments. Now I want to play in European Tour events.

"The season, so far, has been decent for me with a couple of good performances and three top-3 finishes. I am also able to produce low scores and am feeling more confident now," Nalini told this paper.

On the forthcoming Indian Open at the DLF Golf and Country Club, the Gurgaon-based golfer said, "I have been playing the Indian Open since its inaugural season in 2007.

My best performance in the national event has been in 2009 where I finished as the best Indian (11th overall).

"Last year, I missed the cut but I am confident of a better show this time around. DLF has been my home course and there will be a lot of crowd support," said Nalini.

However, the young golfer isn't expecting her family to follow her on the course during the Open.

"They don't want to put extra pressure on me. So they don't follow me. But I am okay with it. I am actually excited to play against a few top players of the world," added Nalini, who picked up golf from her father and brother as a child.

A first-class graduate in Mathematics from Venkateshwara College (Delhi University) in 2009, Nalini spoke further on her game. "I just love competitive golf and always perform better in intense situation. That's why I want to play in Europe and compete with LPGA players. I am working on my short game and putting. I am focussing on one tournament at a time and give my best in it. Let's see how I perform at the Open before setting my targets for next year," added the golfer who wants to also pursue an MBA course besides playing golf.

Nalini lauded Women's Golf Association of India for their effort to lift the ladies golf in the country.

"It is all because of the WGAI that women's golf is growing in this country and more girls are coming forward to play the sport," she said.



Nalini Singh Siwach