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Wolf looks to turn the page

For The Austrian, Last Year's Meltdown Still A Fresh Wound; Anika, Tvesa Tied-9th

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Gurugram: There is a quiet determination about Christine Wolf this week. The high-fives with her mates after stepping off the greens said it all. A win will mean so much more to her. It will be her redemption song after the howlers last year at precisely the same stage of the Hero Women's Indian Open. "We will cross the bridge when we come to it," was her riposte after the third round of the \$500,000 event as she stayed ahead of the pack by one stroke with a birdie on the final hole.

It all began unravelling on the 18th during the penultimate round in 2018. The golfer from Igls had a three-stroke cushion but found the lake flowing down the left side of the fairway not once but twice for a quadruple bogey. The scene

was reprised on the final day when her hopes of notching her first triumph on the Ladies European Tour drowned in a watery grave. "Even my caddie keeps talking about it," said Wolf. "I've been hitting well the last two days so why should it be any different today."

There was an emphatic 'Yes' when asked if she had been looking forward to coming back to India more than anything else, and reversing the tide. "It took me a while to get over the heartache. But it also made me grow up a little bit. I have learnt to embrace it, not make the same mistakes. I want to take care of unfinished business but it would be a mistake again to look that far ahead."

A bogey-free 5-under 67 for an 8-under total was the perfect setup for the final battle with the sometimes unforgiving DLF G&CC Gary Player course. On an otherwise smooth outing, Wolf hit the hazard on the eight but made a good recovery on the second shot for a par and that gave her a push in the right direction. Two birdies followed on the 11th and 12th and she closed with two more on the

17th and the 'dreaded' 18th, her approach drawing 'aahs' rather than 'ohs' this time.

Meghan MacLaren, a stroke behind Wolf, could be seen peering into the distance, checking out how the leader group was doing.

Anika shines among Indians

This 15-year-old is not named after Anika Sorenstam, but after goddess Durga. The timing is apt as the Noida girl who is now settled in the US powered up the board to tied-9th along with Tvesa Malik, courtesy a 5-under 67. It could have been better if not for a bogey hiccup on the 17th. Playing the Indian Open for the third year, the former No. 1 in the Indian amateur rankings said experience had made this climb possible. "It's not just playing in the US but also playing here the last couple of years, you kind of get used to the environment."

Under coach Noah Montgomery, she has learnt it is "not just the game but also how you think about the game that is important." So, "an open mind" on Sunday, and an open canvas to paint on.