

Indian charge was amazing all day

Tvesa Malik

The two birdies, especially the one on the 18th, was a big relief after being 5-over through the first 10 holes in the second round of the Hero Women's Indian Open. At seven-over and with only eight holes left, it seemed like a sword hanging over my head.

I kept telling myself that this is my home course, where I have played a lot of golf. So, I can find my way back even after three bogeys at the start. The birdies on the 12th and the 18th brought me back into the event in a manner of speaking. That gives me a chance to fight back on the weekend.

Our Indian contingent was amazing all day. It was such a great feeling to see a sea of Indian flags in the upper half of the leaderboard. Vani Kapoor had led the first day and her tee off on the second day was in the afternoon wave. She was the topic of discussion all of

Thursday. On Friday morning, Hitaashee teed off very early and a superb bogey free 67 saw her get to the top of the leaderboard. She stayed here right till the end.

But there were times when it looked, she might be joined by the amazing young star, Zara Anand, who unfortunately dropped a double bogey towards the end on the 17th. Yet, she displayed great grit with a birdie on the 18th and rose back to tied second.

Pranavi Urs, who has been doing well on the LET, showed that she is getting back to her ways. A fifth place in France showed she has found her form in time. She shot a superb 67, a score we have seen from

Vani and Hitaashee this week.

And finally, what about Vani. She is so gritty and loves this tournament a lot. Both of us have played this event more than 10 times and would love nothing more than contending here and hopefully win it. Despite her game not working well today, she hung in and at Tied-seventh she still very

much in the fight over the last two days. Diksha Dagar also fought back after a first round 78 and made the cut and then there is Avani Prashanth, too. It has been nine years since Aditi Ashok won the HWIO in 2019 and hopefully on Sunday it will be an Indian holding the Trophy.

