Chiara grinds to keep lead, Pranavi tied-2nd

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Gurugram: "I'm so tired," yawned Chiara Tamburlini. The alarm was set for 4:15 am as she went through her routine checks before embarking on another eventful journey at the DLF G&CC course. With a pink ribbon on her cap in support of breast cancer awareness, and matching apparel, the former Europe No. 1 admitted it was a bit more stressful on the second day of the $500,000 Hero Women's Indian Open as she turned in a card of one-under 71, after the hurrah of a 67.

WOMEN'S INDIAN OPEN

A series of 15 pars also had a story to tell, on a day when the cutline dipped to 9-over. "They weren't all tap-ins," smiled the petite Tamburlini, who stands 5ft 3in.

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TIPS TO SUCCEED: Chiara exchanging notes with her caddie Sunil

She also got by with a little help from friendly local caddie Sunil. The motivator could be heard shouting "good shot, good shot", building up the confidence she may have lost on the LPGA circuit in her rookie year. Two happy people rarely go wrong. "Essentially I do everything by myself, but he keeps up, stays in a good mood."

For inspiration, the Swiss 26-year-old looks to the one and only Roger Federer. "So humble, a tough fighter, a fair, fair sportsman. And he's getting into golf now, so maybe one day I'll have the courage to just reach out," she gazed into the crystal ball for her fan moment.

That "fun feeling" at the top keeps her excited. Keeping her company on Saturday will be Pranavi Urs, and a steady stream of home spectators.

Pranavi rallies, Ojaswini makes history

Still unwell, Pranavi managed to string together another fighting round of two-under 70, to rally to tied-second place. "It's important to be patient here as one bad hole doesn't mean you can't come back," said the Asian Games gold medallist.

Amateur Ojaswini Saraswat, 13, posted a 69 for a 4-over total, to become the youngest to make the cut in HWIO.

Round 2 scores: -6 Chiara Tamburlini (Swi) 67-71; -4 Pranavi Urs (Ind) 70-70, Magdalena Simmermacher (Arg) 68-72; **Select scores:** -2 (T7) Vani Kapoor 73-69; Par (T12) Tvesa Malik 71-73; +13 Diksha Dagar 77-80.