

Delia Goes Through But Wee Wern Falters

By Alex Wan

The first round of the Naza PSA Women's World Championship got off to a quick start as the afternoon session turned into a whitewash.

World number 12 Nour El Tayeb, making her first appearance since the US Open last year, needed just minutes to beat Hong Kong qualifier Liu Tsz Ling 11-6, 11-7, 11-3.

The 23-year-old showed no signs of that shoulder injury that laid her out for six months as she quickly sealed her place in the second round.

"This was my first match in six months and I spoke with my coaches on how to prepare myself for this match," said El Tayeb.

"I've watched her play before and I knew what to expect. I was more focused on my own game and it's a good win as I look to build up my confidence match by match.

"I'm also feeling a lot stronger since my injury. I had surgery after the US Open and I don't think I'll be doing anymore dives or splits for a while."

After El Tayeb, seventh seed Amanda Sobhy got the job done even quicker as she took 23 minutes to beat Kiwi qualifier Megan Craig 11-4, 11-5, 11-2.

Raneem El Welily and Omneya Abdel Kawy completed the first session of the day as they both recorded identical 3-0 wins, both in 27 minutes.

"It was actually tough for me, from the mental point of view. It was the first match after all. But even though I was all nervous inside, I managed to look calm in front of everyone," said world number three El Welily.

"It's still too early to tell how I'll do but I'm definitely happy with the way I played today."

The evening session had India's top player Joshna Chinappa kicked off with a rather easy 11-8, 11-3, 11-5 win.

Joshna had control of the match and was cruising along as Lust struggled with her shots and grew increasingly frustrated with herself.

The tournament nearly lost its top seed and world number one Laura Massaro in the first round. The Englishwoman, famed for her incredible mental strength and ability to dig herself out of a bad spot, however came back strong to beat Mexico's Samantha Teran 9-11, 13-11, 11-6, 11-3.

"The court felt bouncier when I practiced on it a few days ago. Today it just felt more dead and I struggled with my length as she picked me off early," said Massaro. "I was also feeling a little flat emotionally and I had to change my body language a little and lengthen the rallies a little more.

At 5-9 down in the second, that was when the pressure lifted on me a little and I managed to dig in and hold on."

Massaro, the 2013 world champion, takes on Joshna Chinappa of India in the second round.

The crowd was slowly building up for the Malaysian double header later in the evening.

But former world number five Low Wee Wern was unable to deliver as she crashed out in straight sets despite a good display against New Zealand's Joelle King.

Wee Wern, who missed months of action due to an anterior cruciate ligament (ACL) injury, lost 9-11, 6-11, 7-11 to the Kiwi.

The Malaysian did however have something to cheer as world number 15 Delia Arnold delivered a classy performance to beat Egyptian qualifier Mariam Metwally.

Delia who has never gotten past the first round of the world meet in six previous attempts, won 12-10, 10-12, 12-10, 11-9 to set up a second round clash with Kawy.

"It was my first time meeting Mariam and I knew it was going to be a tough match. But I played well enough to win in four. Now I have a day's rest before I prepare to take on Omneya," said Delia.