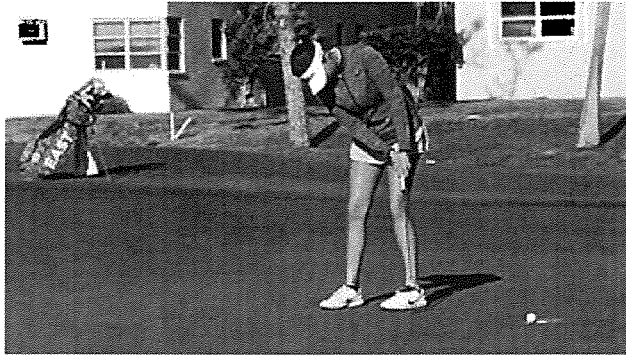


Pano, Messina, Arnoux and McKim make it through to Doherty semifinals



Alexa Pano sinks a putt during Wednesday's match against Jamie Freedman in the Ione D. Jones/Doherty Women's Amateur Championship. (Courtesy Ione D. Jones/Doherty Women's Amateur Championship)

Staff reports

South Florida Sun Sentinel

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On another windy day against a tough opponent, ailing Meghan Stasi could not defend her title in the 87th Ione D. Jones/Doherty Women's Amateur Championship at Coral Ridge Country Club in Fort Lauderdale.

Oakland Park resident Stasi came down with the flu on Monday, had a bye Tuesday and struggled in Wednesday's 2-up loss to Plantation's Marisa Messina.

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Stasi won the first hole with a par, but Messina won the next three holes to go 2 up. She led the rest of the way.

Messina plays Courtney McKim of Raleigh, N.C., in a semifinal match Thursday.

Alexa Pano wasn't bothered by winds that topped 20 mph in her match against Davie's Jamie Freedman. The Lake Worth 14-year-old earned a 5-and-4 victory to advance to Thursday's other semifinal in the Amateur Championship division.

Pano, the 2017 Doherty champion and winner of the Dixie Amateur in December, and Freedman were all square through four holes. Then Pano birdied the fifth and sixth holes to take a 2-up lead and never looked back.

Pano next faces Marie Arnoux of Miami, a 3-and-2 winner over Elle Nachmann of Boca Raton.