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WPBA TOUR CHAMPIONSHIPS RACE TO THE FINISH LINE

SEMIFINALS #2



Kelly Fisher

vs.



Sarah Rousey

November 16, 2008 – Hollywood, Florida : The Seminole Hard Rock Casino and The Hard Rock Live

The WPBA's #1 ranked player, Kelly Fisher, came to the second Semifinal of the day looking move into her fourth finals of the season. Her opponent, Sarah Rousey, was looking for her first finals ever. Kelly and Sarah have matched up twice before but never in a situation like this! Monica Webb was waiting in the wings, having defeated Vivian Villarreal in Semifinal #1 just an hour beforehand.

Both competitors stepped up to the table for the lag and the crowd ooo'ed and aahhh'ed as it was close but ultimately, Sarah won the lag. Nothing dropped though and Kelly surveyed the resulting layout, having a straight in shot on the 1 with easy position on the 2. From there it was connect the dots pool and Kelly made short work of things to win the first game of this match. Kelly failed to make a ball on her break in game 2 and it was Sarah's turn to show her mettle as she sank the 1 with position on the 2. She came up short on the 3 ball though and was forced to play a safe. With Kelly rebounding with a safety of her own, Sarah came back to the table to thin the 3 but instead nicked the 4 ball and Kelly received ball in hand and ran out to take a 2-0 lead.

The crowd cheered its' encouragement as Sarah came to the table for her break. A ball was made but she was left with a push out, sending the cue ball down table to rest near the rail. Kelly stayed focused, making a beautiful spot shot on the 1 ball with position for a safety on the 2. With the cue ball snookered up against the 3/9, Sarah was forced to kick one short rail, missing the 2 and giving Kelly ball in hand for the third time this match. Kelly, known for her speedy play, made quick work of game 3 as Sarah looked on.

Up 3-0, Kelly also enjoyed the break advantage and pocketed the 3 ball. Kelly looked up and smiled wryly as someone's cell phone went off as she was surveying her options at the table, since there wasn't an open shot on the 1. She executed a perfect safety, locking the cue ball up underneath the 2 with the 1 up table near the end rail. Sarah kicked two side rails and made a beautiful hit on the one, nearly hooking Kelly. But Kelly could see the 1, softly hitting it to the rail and settling the cue ball behind the 5. Sarah kicked one long rail at the 1 and did hit the ball, but left Kelly with an open shot and with her usual single-mindedness, finished off the rack, extending her lead 4-0.

Sarah, who pound for pound has one of the hardest breaks on tour, broke and made 2 balls and had a nice open layout to get on the board for this Semifinal match. Going for position play on the 2 from the 1, Sarah rattled the one ball and Kelly once again was at the table with an easy layout. As has been the case in the previous 4 games, Kelly ran out and only needed two more games to advance. Kelly enjoyed the break going into the subsequent game, making a ball but not having the most ideal layout. She picked her way around the rack though, and once she got back on line, reached the hill in what was ending up a rout of a match.

The crowd tried to give Sarah the energy and encouragement to get on the board, as they all yelled "Come on Sarah!" while she stepped up to table to break. She pocketed a ball and had an open shot on the 1, all she needed to do was sink one ball at a time. Slowly but surely she made her way through the rack and finally got a game on the board as the crowd erupted in applause, no goose egg for Sarah!

Kelly had the break and made a ball, with tight position on the 1 ball. Taking a moment to plot her course, Kelly began the task of finishing out this match, with an open layout to work through. Surprisingly, Kelly missed the 3 ball, rattling it and leaving it hanging for Sarah to try to get another game under her belt. Sarah was forced to go off the rail though since the cue ball had come to rest behind the 6 ball enough to block a direct shot. She made the 3 but shape to the four eluded her, and she was forced to play a safety sending the 4 up-table and leaving the cue ball on the rail. Kelly could see just enough of the 3 though to go for the spot shot and sank it dead center pocket. The cue ball came around for shape on the 6 in the side and Kelly calmly made the ball to get back in line for the 8 and 9, moving her into her fourth finals of the year, defeating Sarah 7-1.