



WOMEN'S GOLF REPORT



This issue of Women's Golf Report is highlighted by championship coverage of one sort or another.

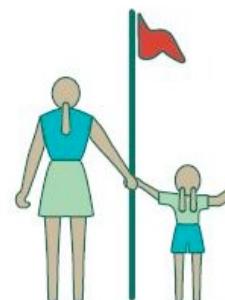
We were privileged to be on hand for the conclusion of the U.S. Women's Amateur Public Links Championship and the Women's Metropolitan Golf Association Match Play Championship.

We also have accounts of several other significant events as well.

The participants ranged in age from teenagers, not yet old enough for a driver's license, to veterans, who have been competing in tournaments for decades, to touring professionals.

All however, deserve respect for their willingness to step into the competitive arena.

Rick Woelfel
Editor/Publisher



WGGB
Women Golfers Give Back

Kyung Kim Wins U.S. Women's Amateur Public Links

By Rick Woelfel

NESHANIC STATION, N.J. – Kyung Kim arrived at Neshanic Valley Golf Course without great expectations. She left as a national champion.

The 18-year old Kim scored a 4-and-2 victory over 16-year old Ashlan Ramsey to win the 36th edition of the U.S. Women's Amateur Public Links Championship.

The tournament serves as a national championship for players who are not members of private clubs.

The scheduled 36-hole final concluded a grueling week of golf. To win the championship, Kim, from Chandler, Arizona, had to complete 36 holes of stroke-play qualifying, then five 18-hole matches to reach the finals.

"I just can't believe it," Kim said. "I mean, it was a long week, but to finally be done, and to win, it's pretty amazing. I never thought I would get this far."

Kim, who will be a freshman at Southern California this fall, recorded 10 birdies in the championship match. With the usual concessions that are part of match play, she finished the 34 holes in the equivalent of six under par.

"I just tried to play one shot at a time," she said, "keep it on the fairways and greens, and just make the putts. A lot of putts fell in today." Both players struggled on the slick greens early in the championship match.

The 16-year old Ramsey, a native of Milledgeville, Georgia, bogeyed the first three holes but was just one down because Kim was faltering with her putter as well.

Ramsey, who is headed into her senior year of high school, had a 1-up lead after a birdie at the par-4 eighth but at that point Kim went on a birdie barrage. She birdied the next four holes to take a 2-up lead after the 12th and never trailed again.

Ramsey won the 15th hole with a par to cut the deficit in half heading into the lunch break but

bogeyed the first two holes of the afternoon round.

Ramsey, who has made a verbal commitment to Clemson, had trouble dealing with the putting surfaces, which were as fast during the final as they had been all week. The course played to 6,163 yards on the final day with a par of 72.

"I felt like they were a little bit faster today than they were two days go," she said, but pretty similar compared to (Friday). The wind direction shifted today, so it was different than we had played it."

Kim closed out the match at the par-4 34th hole, when Ramsey missed the green with a nine-iron approach, and couldn't hole a chip that would have won the hole and extended the match.

Despite the long week of golf, Kim was in good spirits at the finish.

"Actually I'm not as tired as I thought I would be," she said. "I'm actually okay."

The Women's Amateur Public Links Championship was instituted by the United States Golf Association in 1977. While it theoretically is open to all public-course golfers the championship has been dominated by players college-aged and younger.

The oldest champion in the event's history, future LPGA Tour player Amy Fruwirth, was 23 when she won it in 1992.

Michelle Wie won the WAPL in 2003 at age 13, the youngest player in history, male or female, to win an adult USGA championship.



Kyung Kim

By Hunter Martin of USGA

Gacos Wins WMGA Match Play Title

By Rick Woelfel

Fran Gacos has accomplished a lot over the course of an impressive career in golf. Her performance at the WMGA Match Championship however may be her greatest feat of all.

Gacos, who didn't start playing golf until age 33, defeated Phoebe Timpson 3 and 1 to win the 109th edition of the championship at Trump National-Colt's Neck.

"This is huge," Gacos said. "This is very special, absolutely. This is big, this is the whole Met organization. It has a lot of great golfers; to come out on top is pretty cool."

The 36-hole championship match capped a long week of golf for both players, each of whom played the equivalent of six round of golf over four days, much of it in difficult heat and humidity.

Gacos, who plays out of Copper Hill Country Club, was seeded third in the 16-player match-play bracket after carding a 2-over par 76 in qualifying. She bested Lori Bindler, Kathy Carter and finally Donna Young in the first three rounds to reach the finals.

Timpson, who plays out of Meadow Brook, was exempt from qualifying as the defending champion, but had a difficult route to the final. Her first two wins, over Bridget Wilcox and Denise Martorana both went to the 19th hole before she dispatched Sharon Hoffman in the semifinals.

Gacos never trailed in the championship match after her opponent found a bunker and bogeyed the opening hole. She built her lead to 4 up through six holes with the aid of a pair of par-saving putts at the fourth and sixth.

Timpson cut into the deficit with a birdie at the short par-3 eighth but Gacos won the 12th and 13th with pars.

After Timpson took the par-5 14th with a two-putt birdie Gacos won the 15th and 18th to go to lunch 6 up. "The first 18 I told myself 'It's going to be a long day of golf,'" she said. "Phoebe is a wonderful player, she was the champion last year, I figured it was a day of gold I was going to go out there and just play the course."

"My goal was just to go out there and make pars. Gacos extended her lead when she won the 19th hole with a par but it didn't take long for Timpson to make a charge. She rolled in a birdie putt at the par-4 22nd hole before winning the next three holes with pars and stood just 3 down with 10 holes remaining. Her momentum was slowed however when lightning stopped play with the two players in the 27th fairway.

The delay for rain and lightning lasted 1 hour, 46 minutes.

"I wasn't tired," Timpson said. "I was pretty good. The rain probably changed my momentum. I was on fire, I was playing well."

When play resumed Gacos won the 28th and 29th holes with pars to extend her lead.

Timpson made a last stand by winning the 31st with a par and the 32nd by rolling in a 15-foot birdie putt but after the 33rd was halved with bogies Gacos closed out the match with back-to-back pars. With the usual match play concessions she finished the 35 holes in the equivalent of nine over par.

Timpson struggled with her putter at times during the final, particularly during the morning round. She was attempting to become the first Match Play champion to successfully defend since Sheila Torgan in 2006-07.

"I had my moments," she said. "I had my chances. I didn't capitalize on them."

But her name will forever be listed on the WMGA's roll of champions, which gives Timpson considerable satisfaction.

"I had the trophy for a year," she said, and loved every minute of having it so to be a part of it again this year is fantastic."

Gacos did her best to fight off the effects of fatigue in the late going, despite the weather conditions. "I tried to not think about it," she said. "I tried to really stay focused. I realized this was an opportunity and I didn't want to lose it because of mental mistakes. I was just trying to stay focused put together some good swings."

"Obviously fatigue sets in for everybody but I tried to stay hydrated and just pace myself."

Gacos had never gotten past the quarterfinal round in this championship in years past. Joining the roll call of champions was an immensely satisfying experience. "It's pretty cool," she said. "I'm very excited and very pleased about the way I played this week."

The Match Play Championship was first played in 1900. Since then, it was interrupted only for World War II.

Christine Silen defeated Faith Garcia 4 and 3 in the Sanford Cup final, a separate competition for players who failed to make the championship flight. The Sanford Cup dates back to 1932.

The golf course played to 5.833 yards for the championship, with a par of 74. It marked the first time the championship was played at Trump National-Colt's Neck, which opened in 2004 as Shadow Isle before being purchased by Donald Trump four years later.



Fran Gacos

Photo By Chris Gacos

Brian Bauer, the club's director of golf, noted that the Trump organization embraces the history of the Match Play, one of the nation's oldest regional golf championships for women.

"There's a lot of historical value to the event," he said, "in regards to amateur golf, which started out in a day when professional golf didn't exist."

"Amateur golf still today is very important to the game of golf because it's where growth happens in the game. People become professionals through amateur golf. We want to continue to perpetuate that." Bauer says the club was honored to host the 109th edition of the Match Play. "It is one of the longest-running amateur events," he said. "We were glad to bring it to Trump National-Colt's Neck and showcase the golf course in championship condition. We were proud to have it."

Algiero Wins Second Met Amateur Title

Laura Algiero pared the third playoff hole to defeat Ellen Oswald and claim the 11th annual MGA/WMGA Met Amateur title at the Stanwich Club in Greenwich, Connecticut.

Both players finished the regulation holes in 4-over par 78. It's the second Amateur in three years for Algiero, who plays out of the Whippoorwill Club. Oswald, who recently completed her career at St. John's, plays out of Westchester Country Club.

Tina Cheng, a Met PGA junior player and Susana Vik from the host club shared third place with matching 80s. Becky Montgelas (Wee Burn) carded an 81 over a golf course that measured 5,686 yards for the occasion

"It feels awesome," Algiero said. "I've played with Ellen before and I know how she hits the ball, but I'm always the shorter hitter and I just play my game."

"I don't let it bother me that I get out hit. It doesn't matter, because my short game is pretty good, and I capitalized today when I needed to."

Oswald, who teed off an hour and 20 minutes in front of Algiero, closed her round with a birdie at the 15th, then parred 16 and 17 before making bogey at the par-5 finisher.

She was sitting in the clubhouse as Algiero completed her own stretch run with four straight pars before making bogey at the 18th.

"I hit 13 greens in regulation and only had two three putts," Algiero said, "which I thought was excellent on these greens. And I birdied both par threes on the front nine, so that helped quite a bit."

Both players parred the first playoff hole, the par-4 first at Stanwich, then matched bogeys at the 18th before returning to the first where Algiero brought the day to an end with a two-putt par after Oswald flew the green with her approach.

Championship Flight Results

First Round

Phoebe Timpson def. Bridget Wilcox 19 holes; Denise Martorana def. Liza Garrubbo 7 and 5; Ellen Oswald def. Liliana Ruiz-Munoz 5 and 4; Sharon Hoffman def. Eileen Moriarty 1 up; Donna Young def. Laura Algiero 3 and 2; LeeAnn Lewis def. Cheryl Brayman 3 and 2; Fran Gacos def. Lori Bindler 5 and 4; Kathryn Carter def. Sandra Jackson 2 and 1.

Quarterfinals

Timpson def. Martorana 19 holes; Hoffman def. Oswald 1 up; Young def. Lewis 1 up; Gacos def. Young 1 up.

Semifinals

Timpson def. Hoffman 5 and 3; Gacos def. Young 6 and 4.

Championship

Gacos def. Timpson 3 and 1

Sanford Cup Final

Christine Silen def. Faith Garcia 4 and 3

Algiero, who won this championship in 2010 at Forest Hill Field Club, is just the second player to win it twice. Megan Grehan won it in 2005 and '07. This year's tournament marked the public unveiling of a new partnership between the Metropolitan Golf Association and the Women's Metropolitan Golf Association which involves not only the Met/WMGA Amateur but also the MGA Mixed Pinehurst event, which is scheduled for September.

Laura Algiero (Whippoorwill)	78
Ellen Oswald (Westchester)	78
Tina Cheng (Met PGA Junior)	80
Susana Vik (Stanwich)	80
Becky Montgelas (Wee Burn)	81
Camilla Vik (Stanwich)	82
Michelle Rosenhouse (Engineers)	82
Jacqueline Faldetta (Fellowship)	83
Susan DeKalb (Glenwood)	83
Ellen Deluca (Shorehaven)	84
Barbara Israel (Century)	84
Catherine McEvoy (Innis Arden)	84
Jessica Marksbury (Montauk Downs)	84
Denise Martorana (Southampton)	84
Liliana Ruiz-Munoz (Trump-WC)	85
Jill Robbins (Old Oaks)	86
Phoebe Timpson (Meadow Brook)	86
Anna Ausanio (Beekman)	86
Cricket Mullaney (Stanwich)	87
Gail Flanagan (Westchester)	87
LeeAnn Lewis (Southward Ho)	87
Debbie Jamgochian (Winged Foot)	87
Myra MacMillan (Oronoque)	87

The Metropolitan Golf Association and the Women's Metropolitan Golf Association contributed to this report.

Looking Back: Suggs Wins 1952 Women's Open

By Rick Woelfel

The United States Women's Open has become perhaps the most cherished championship in women's golf. Six decades ago it, like the organization that supported it, was barely a blip on the radar screen.

But at the 1952 U.S. Women's Open Louise Suggs gave one of the premier performances of her Hall-of-Fame career.

The setting was Bala Golf Club in Philadelphia and the Women's Open was being played for just the seventh time, from June 26-29.

The championship was conducted by the LPGA, which had been founded just two years earlier and was still working to establish its credibility.

There were just 13 professionals on hand, among them the likes of Suggs, Patty Berg, and Betsy Rawls. The remainder of the field was comprised of amateurs, among them Dorothy Porter and Helen Sigel Wilson.

Babe Didrikson Zaharias did not compete (she was recovering from cancer surgery) but attended the event as a spectator.

Suggs, who was just short of 29 at the time, was considered one of the pre-tournament favorites. She had won the 1949 Women's Open, separating herself from the field by 14 shots in the process. Before turning professional in 1948 she had won an assortment of major titles, including the 1946 Titleholders, the 1947 U.S. Women's Amateur, and the 1948 British Ladies Amateur. She also played on the U.S. Curtis Cup team in 1948.

The 34-year old Berg had turned professional in 1940. Her resume included nine major titles, including four Western Opens, four Titleholders, and the inaugural U.S. Women's Open in 1946.

Although it was Zaharias who generated most of the headlines for the fledgling LPGA, in equal parts because of her background as an Olympic champion, her length off the tee, and her flamboyant personality, their peers considered Suggs and Berg the two best players in the game.

The course at Bala was extraordinarily short, even by the standards of the day, playing to just 5,460 yards with a par of 69.

It was Berg who set the early pace with an opening 69 that put her one shot in front of Suggs and two clear of Betty Jameson.

Suggs, whose swing and on-course demeanor were often compared to Ben Hogan's, took over from there, with rounds of 69, 70, and 75 on a tight golf course that played to her strengths. "My forte was really keeping the ball on the golf course," Suggs said in a recent interview, "along with chipping and putting. That's all you could do in those days."

Suggs pointed out that the course conditions of that era required resourceful shotmaking.

"We had to figure out how to hit shots out of cuppy lies and that kind of stuff," she said.

"And a lot of times if you were near the green and needed to hit a pitch shot you couldn't do it. You had to bump and run it, no matter what." Suggs's 72-hole total of 284 left her seven shots clear of Marlene Hagge and Betty Jameson, who shared second place at 291. Beverly Hanson Sfingi

was fourth at 293. Berg finished ninth at 299. Of the 36 players who completed 72 holes, 23 were amateurs. Dorothy Porter earned low-amateur honors after finishing 10th at 300, while Wilson was 13th at 308.

As far as the professionals were concerned the most impressive element of the championship was the \$7,500 purse, the largest on tour that year by a considerable margin. Suggs's share of the pot was \$2,000.

She would return to the area the following year to win an LPGA stop at Whitemarsh Valley Country Club and Philadelphia would become one of her favorite stops on tour.

Suggs retired from full-time competition in 1962 but continued to play in occasional LPGA events for another two decades after that.

She concluded her career with 58 LPGA victories and 11 major championships (three of the 11 came while she was still an amateur).

Suggs was never one to seek the spotlight, even during her days as an active competitor, but that does not diminish her accomplishments.

She ranks with the greatest players in the history of her sport.

Suggs's win at Bala marked the end of an era; the United States Golf Association took over the administration of the Women's Open in 1953.

But it was Suggs and her fellow LPGA professionals got the championship off the ground. Their contributions to the future of their game should never be forgotten.

The Griscom Cup Matches: A Link to Tradition

By Rick Woelfel

A lot of golf events tout their links to tradition. The Griscom Cup matches “merely” exemplify tradition.

For over a century, the finest players from three oldest regional women’s golf associations in the nation; Philadelphia, New York, and Massachusetts, have come together to play the Women’s Intercity Matches.

That tradition was renewed again this year at Gulph Mills Golf Club in King of Prussia, PA. For the record, the Women’s Golf Association of Philadelphia emerged victorious for the third year in a row with 41.5 points, to 35.5 for the Women’s Golf Association of Massachusetts and 31 for the Women’s Metropolitan Golf Association.

Anyone with even a passing knowledge of the matches knows how much the participants care about winning but there is a lot more to the matches than the results.

The players, nine of them from each of the three organizations, have a chance to renew friendships and reflect on the history of golf in their respective locales.

Joanne Catlin was part of the Massachusetts lineup. Carlin, who plays out of Oak Hill Country Club in Fitchburg, Mass. has represented the WGAM in the Griscom Cup some 20 times and has a bag full of memories of her experiences.

“There’s the camaraderie,” she says. “You see a lot of the same people over and over again every year. Everyone is so welcoming and friendly, but it’s ‘Game Faces On’ when you play your matches.”

“It’s just great. It’s one of the best events we have all year, and you’re representing your state. Everyone wants to win the Cup for their state.” Carlin says her fondest memories of the matches have been made off the golf course. “I think it’s the friendships,” she said. “It’s the rides we go on when we go out of town. We have the funniest stories coming out of our trips. On this last one (to Philadelphia) we were stuck on the George Washington Bridge for three hours. They’re fond memories, they’re fun.”

2010 U.S. Curtis Cup captain Noreen Mohler was part of the victorious Philadelphia side. Mohler, who plays out of Northampton Country Club, recorded five straight birdies at one point during her singles matches.

Mohler last played in the Griscom Cup matches three decades ago, for her native Massachusetts. “It’s a spirit-filled event,” she says. “It’s a lot of camaraderie. We look forward to seeing each other. We look forward to beating one another, but we

have to like being together. There’s a social aspect to it and we’ve all known each other for so many years.”

“I actually love playing with the kids. One was probably 22 and the other one was 20. They make me play harder, they really do.”

Alicia Kapheim plays out of Hopewell Valley Country Club in Hopewell New Jersey. She savors each appearance she makes in the WMGA lineup. “I think our team is tough to get on,” she says, “because it’s based on points. It’s never a sure thing. I’m honored to be named to it. It’s a big deal to me because it’s not something I always get to play in. I wish more people in the area and the golf world knew about it.”

Perhaps the happiest person on the grounds was Alexandra Frazier, who had the distinction of playing on a winning Griscom Cup team at her home course.

“I’m so proud of the way our course played,” she said. “I’m proud for Gulph Mills and also proud for our Philadelphia team.”

Frazier has played in 18 Griscom Cups, including the last 13, but the allure of the matches never gets old.

“I think I get up for these matches more than anything else I do,” she says. “It’s fun because of the camaraderie and it’s nice to be part of a team.”

The first version of the Women’s Intercity Matches was contested in 1898 when the WGAP played two matches against a team from Morris County (N.J.) Golf Club).

The first full WMGA team faced Philadelphia in 1900, the same year the Griscom Cup was donated by Clement A. Griscom. Massachusetts joined the competition in 1902.

The WMGA leads the all-time series with 41 victories, to 40 for the WGAP and 26 for the WGAM. That record includes the first three matches which did not include a full WMGA team. On three occasions, Philadelphia and New York have wound up tied.



First Hole at GMGC

Lookaway Showing the Way

By Rick Woelfel

At a time when many private clubs are working extra hard to retain their members and remain solvent, Lookaway Golf Club may be a model for future success.

Located in Buckingham Pennsylvania, a few miles outside Philadelphia, Lookaway is structured so as to allow its members to enjoy golf on their own terms, and fit their passion for the game around the rest of their lives with a minimum of effort.

For members trying to fit in time on the course or the range around a job or other responsibilities, it's an ideal setting,

Connie Gillis and her husband joined the club around the time it opened in May of 2009. At the time she was an ardent tennis player, her husband a golfer. That changed soon enough.

"I took some lessons and I loved it," Gillis said. "It's the greatest sport." When Joanna Neely joined the club with her husband, she too was a tennis player. Her mindset changed when she decided to give golf a try.

"I thought (golf) was really long and really boring compared to tennis," she says, "but now I don't even go near a tennis court."

The casual atmosphere at Lookaway likely contributed to Neely's enthusiasm. There are just 229 members on the rolls at the private equity club so the golf course is seldom crowded.

There are no tee times, so members can play whenever it suits them or when their schedules allow. If that means teeing off at 7 a.m. or getting out for a few holes at twilight, so be it. It's not uncommon for Gillis and her husband to play a few holes together in the early evening.

On occasion, she'll want to work on her game by herself, in which case someone on the club staff will take her to an open hole.

"You can do things at the last minute," she says. "You don't have to have tee times and days and days in advance, which is absolutely wonderful." Martha Robinson, another Lookaway member, has a busy career as a registered nurse, personal trainer, and conditioning specialist.

But she makes time to play golf with her husband, or with other women at the club, often stepping on the first tee by dawn's early light.

"When you become passionate about something you figure it out," she says. "Whether it's being on the range and playing two or three holes just after work, or nine holes first thing in the morning. We

can come out here before 8 a.m., play nine holes, shower, and go to work."

Robinson says one of the joys of playing golf at Lookaway is getting to know the other members, many of whom she likely never would have met otherwise.

"We have some pretty interesting people in our membership," she says. "You can play with a heart surgeon; you're walking around with a heart surgeon chatting about golf. Where else can you do that?"

The golf course itself will wet anyone's appetite for the game. It was designed by Rees Jones, an architect renowned for his work on U.S. Open venues but who built a career by creating courses that challenge the expert but are still enjoyable for mid-to-high handicappers.

The layout features fours sets of tees. Two of them are rated and sloped for women, one playing to 5,189 yards and the other 6,039 yards with a par of 72. All four sets of markers are rated and sloped for men.

Playability aside members and guests aside are able to lose themselves in the beauty of their surroundings.

"Lookaway has become our backyard," Neely says. "I can enjoy all the scenery and whatever is going on in your life kind of stays back when you're here. It's such a peaceful environment."

"It's absolutely beautiful," Gillis says. "You're not looking into people's backyards and you don't hear any road noise. All you hear are birds and the animals. It's just beautiful."

The club is also exceedingly woman-friendly; there are no restrictions on when women can play and Neely notes that the female golfers at the club encourage one another. They also field a team in the Women's Golf Association of Philadelphia's Interclub Matches.

"I think women golfers are very supportive of one another," she says. "I've found the women here to be an enormously supportive group."

Robinson notes that it's incumbent upon the members to encourage new golfers, especially youngsters if the game is to thrive and survive.

"We're the adults," she says, "and we need to grow the game. If we don't grow the game it could die. There's all kind of sports out there, for girls and boys, they have a lot of things to choose from. If we don't make golf fun and accessible, then where is it going to go? It definitely has to come from us."



LPGA STARS HELP VAL SKINNER FOUNDATION APPROACH \$8 MILLION MARK FOR BREAST CANCER INITIATIVES

WEST CALDWELL, NJ – Paula Creamer, Karrie Webb, Lexi Thompson, Yani Tseng, Stacy Lewis and other top LPGA Tour players gathered at Mountain Ridge Country Club in New Jersey for the 13th annual LIFE (LPGA Pros in the Fight to Eradicate Breast Cancer) tournament hosted by Val Skinner. The event raised more than \$500,000, bringing the total raised to nearly \$8 million over the course of 13 years.

LPGA veteran and Golf Channel analyst Skinner founded LIFE in 2000 in honor of fellow LPGA player Heather Farr, who died of breast cancer in 1993 at 28. LIFE benefits Susan G. Komen for the Cure and The Cancer Institute of New Jersey (CINJ), a national cancer institute-designated comprehensive cancer center located in New Brunswick, N.J.

“Thanks to the support of LPGA players and LIFE partners, we’ve helped develop programs to assist young women,” said Skinner. “The Komen on the Go mobile educational tour reaches college students across the country while the BioCONNECT program developed through CINJ is ready to extend outside of New Jersey and South Carolina to be part of high school science curriculum nationwide.”

Feng Wins LPGA Championship

Shanshan Feng charged up the leaderboard on the final day to win the Wegmans LPGA Championship.

Feng fired a 5-under par 67 to finish 72 holes at Locust Hill Country Club in Rochester, New York at 6-under par 282. It was the first official LPGA win for Feng, who becomes the first player from mainland China to win an LPGA event.

Feng, who will turn 23 later this summer, also won a LET event in her homeland in March of this year before winning on the LPGA Tour in May.

Mika Miyazato, Stacy Lewis, Suzann Pettersen, and Eun-Hee Ji all finished two shots back at 4-under par 284. Karrie Webb and Ai Miyazato were both at 285.

Ji had the lead at the start of the final round, one stroke in front of Webb but Feng took advantage

As always, LIFE attracted a field of top LPGA players. “Many of us come back to play in Val’s event year-after-year. It’s amazing to be a part of something that has such great impact on women. LIFE is one of the most moving, emotional events I look forward to each year,” said Karrie Webb, who has played in 12 of the 13 LIFE Events.

Each year, Skinner recognizes and honors LIFE Heroes who have demonstrated courage in the face of breast cancer and/or purpose to fight the disease. 2012 Heroes were Be Bright Pink founder Lindsay Avner and singer/motivational speaker Nikia Hammonds-Blakely.

In 2005, Avner was the youngest patient nationally to opt to have a bilateral prophylactic mastectomy. Her organization focuses on prevention and early detection of breast and ovarian cancer in young women.

Hammonds-Blakely survived breast cancer at 16 and is now a singer, songwriter and motivational speaker.

Skinner also awarded the Heather Farr Hero of Courage award to Maureen Sullivan, a young woman currently undergoing breast cancer treatment.

“Maureen truly embodies the spirit of Heather and is a hero in every sense of the word,” added Skinner.

For more information on the Val Skinner Foundation go to: <http://www.valskinnerfoundation.org>.

of the conditions, the most hospitable all week, to post the low round of the tournament.

She went out in 3-under par 32, then recorded two more birdies coming in. She virtually clinched the tournament with an 8-foot birdie putt at the 17th.

“I would say first of all I’m really, really, happy that I won the tournament,” Feng said. “I still can’t believe it. I think after this week it’s going to give me a lot more confidence. I believe I can win again in the future. And hopefully it’s going to help golf in China because I want to be [tennis star] Li Na for golf in China. I want to be like a model that the other juniors can follow my steps and get on the LPGA.”

Feng is the seventh player to make the LPGA Championship her first LPGA win. The list includes Se Ri Pak (1998), Yani Tseng (2008) and Anna Nordqvist (2009).

Stacy Lewis Gives \$100,000 to Alma Mater

Former University of Arkansas and current LPGA standout Stacy Lewis became the first female member of the Razorback Foundation's Century Circle, with her recent gift to the golf program.

Lewis, a Woodlands, Texas, native, is the first former female student-athlete to donate \$100,000 or more to the program. Her gift is earmarked for expansion of the Razorback golf training facilities.

"We are grateful to Stacy Lewis for her generous gift which will directly benefit current and future Razorback student-athletes," Vice Chancellor and Director of Athletics Jeff Long said. "Despite her demanding schedule, Stacy continues to support the Razorbacks in a variety of ways including remaining active with our women's golf program. Stacy's personal story of overcoming adversity to achieve success continues to serve as an inspiration to others. We are extremely proud of Stacy and what she is doing on the LPGA Tour and in our community. She is a tremendous ambassador for the University of Arkansas and for the Razorback program."

Lewis is a three-time winner on the LPGA Tour including two victories this season and a major championship at the Kraft Nabisco last year. Lewis is currently ranked No. 2 in the world and is the highest ranked American player.

"I was fortunate enough to get to know Stacy at a time when golf took a back seat to her getting healthy after surgery," said Arkansas head coach Shauna Estes-Taylor. "It was during this time I really began to understand her commitment to her dream of becoming a professional athlete. As I worked with her that first year when she was so limited physically, I saw that Stacy was invested in not only her own success but the success and growth of our program. She had a great student-athlete experience at Arkansas and now her gift will enhance the experience of others who have the dream of being Razorbacks."

"We are so proud of all that Stacy has accomplished," said G. David Gearhart, the university's chancellor. "This generous gift reflects her own pride in her alma mater and her commitment to helping other U of A students pursue their dreams and goals. We are most appreciative of her gift."

Lewis was a member of the Razorback women's golf team from 2005-08. She redshirted her first season on campus after having surgery to address her scoliosis. Lewis recovered quickly earning four All-Southeastern Conference and National Golf Coaches Association All-America honors. Lewis was a two-time SEC Championship medalist and won the 2007 NCAA individual title shooting a course record 66 in the final round at LPGA International. While at Arkansas, Lewis helped the Razorbacks to four NCAA Regional selections and three NCAA Championship team appearances. Arkansas won three tournaments and Lewis picked up a school record 13 individual titles during her collegiate career. Lewis graduated from Arkansas in 2008 with a degree in finance.



Stacy Lewis
Photo by Tom Imperial

Lewis Rolls to a Win at ShopRite

By Rick Woelfel

Stacy Lewis turned the 24th edition of the ShopRite LPGA Classic into a victory stroll. Lewis led wire-to-wire in the course of her four-stroke win at the Stockton Seaview Hotel and Golf Club in Galloway, New Jersey. She finished the 54 holes at 12-under par 213, four strokes clear of Katherine Hull, to win for the second time this season and the third time in her career.

She won the Mobile LPGA Classic in April of this year and the Kraft Nabisco Championship in 2011.

In addition to being worth \$225,000 from a \$1.5 million purse the win made Lewis the top American in her sport, at least according to the June 19 edition of the Rolex World Rankings.

She is listed third in those rankings, behind only Yani Tseng.

Cristie Kerr had been the top-ranked American since November 23, 2009.

"It's unbelievable," she said, "I'm speechless. To go from a back surgery (as a teenager) where I couldn't even sit up by myself to now playing golf, and having fun with it, playing with the best players in the world, and being one of them? It doesn't get any better than that."

Lewis opened with a 65 on Friday that gave her a share of the lead along with Mika Miyazato.

A second 65 on Saturday gave her a six-shot lead after 36 holes.

On Sunday, Lewis played her first eight holes in four under par and had a nine-shot edge on the field. But a flubbed chip ninth led to a bogey at the ninth, another bad chip resulted in a double bogey at the 11th. After another bogey at 12 reduced her lead to five shots, Lewis released some frustration by slamming her putter against her golf bag.

She admitted she lost her concentration for a time.

"I think I kind of took a few chip shots for granted," she said. "I thought they were going to be easier than they were and they turned out to be pretty tough shots."

Lewis got back on track by rolling in a 35-foot birdie try at the 14th. Her lead was never less than five shots until Hull birdied the closing hole to finish alone in second place.

Lewis came into 2012 with the express goal of being the top American in the sport, but admitted she earned that distinction sooner than she expected.

"I honestly thought it would take most of the year," she said. "I've gotten off to a good start, two wins in my last three events and have been playing some good golf. [But] for it to happen this quick is pretty surprising."

This marked the 24th edition of the tournament. No champion has ever successfully defended.

Stacy Lewis	65-65-71	201
Katherine Hull	71-66-68	205
Mika Miyazato	65-73-68	206
Azahara Munoz	69-68-69	206
Lexi Thompson	69-71-67	207
Hee-Won Han	71-67-69	207
Anna Nordqvist	69-67-71	207
Alison Walshe	73-66-69	208
Paula Creamer	67-70-71	208
Eun-Hee Ji	71-70-68	209
Ai Miyazato	70-69-70	209
Jenny Shin	73-68-69	210
Sophie Gustafson	71-69-70	210
Na Yeon Choi	70-69-71	210
Karine Icher	71-68-71	210
Amy Yang	74-65-71	210
Yani Tseng	71-67-72	210
Laura Davies	75-68-68	211
Inbee Park	73-69-69	211
Suzann Pettersen	74-67-70	211
Jennifer Johnson	77-63-71	211
Mariajo Uribe	67-71-73	211

WMGA Wins Junior Intercity Matches

The Women's Metropolitan Golf Association captured the 72nd edition of the Junior Intercity Matches for the Enos Cup at Old Westbury Golf and Country Club.

New York finished with 27 points, to 10 for Massachusetts and 8 for Philadelphia.

The event matches teams from the WMGA, the Women's Golf Association of Philadelphia, and the Women's Golf Association of Massachusetts.

Five players on each team compete in three-ball singles matches utilizing Nassau-style scoring.

Four of the WMGA's five players won two matches each. Cindy Ha, Anina Ku, and Jacquelyn Mullens each took the maximum six points.

Samantha Sessa (WMGA) def. Amy Ding (WGAM) 3-0; Sessa def. Brynn Walker (WGAP) 2 ½-1.2; Walker def. Ding 3-0.

Anina Ku (WMGA) def. Hannah Ghelfi (WGAM) 3-0;; Ku def. Jamie Susanin (WGAP) 3-0; Ghelfi def. Susanin 3-0.

Cindy Ha (WMGA) def. Julia Falco (WGAM) 3-0; Ha def. Carla Basso (WGAP) 3-0; Basso def. Falco 3-0.

Jacquelyn Mullens (WMGA) def. Lisa Calcasola (WGAM) 3-0; Mullens def. Sarah Easton (WGAP) 3-0; Calcasolo and Easton halved 1 ½-1 ½.

Helen Dailey (WGAM) def. Catherine McEvoy (WMGA) 2 ½-1/2; Dailey def. Madison Gilmartin (WGAP) 3-0; McEvoy def. Gilmartin 3-0.