

THE LPGA: A TIMELINE

The Ladies Professional Golf Association (LPGA) stands as the longest-running independent women's professional sports organization, encompassing both the well-known superstars of the LPGA Tour and the LPGA Teaching and Club Professional (T&CP) membership. Entering its 55th year in 2005, the LPGA has grown to include a variety of programs intended to advance women's and youth golf.

However, to truly appreciate the tremendous growth the LPGA has experienced, it is necessary to look to the past. The LPGA traces its roots to the Women's Professional Golf Association (WPGA), which was founded and incorporated in 1944 by Hope Seignious, Betty Hicks and Ellen Griffin. The WPGA struggled until Wilson Sporting Goods lent financial support and backing in 1948. With the assistance of Marketing Director Fred Corcoran, the WPGA began pushing women's golf into the public eye and to the forefront of professional sports.

Although the association lasted only about five years, the WPGA served a very important purpose in that short period of time – proving the need for women's professional golf in the United States. The WPGA laid the groundwork for what would later become the leading women's professional sports organization in the world, fulfilling a vision that even the early pioneers could not have imagined.

The 1950s

The LPGA was established in 1950. The 13 founding members, including such legends as Babe Zaharias, Patty Berg and Louise Suggs, were dedicated to golf as a game and a career. The LPGA board members did it all: played competitive and professional golf; planned and organized tournaments; drafted the by-laws; and supervised membership. The financial reward was often nonexistent in the beginning. Their dedication to the sport and the LPGA was a "labor of love."

- The 13 LPGA founders are: Alice Bauer; Berg; Bettye Danoff; Helen Dettweiler; Marlene Bauer Hagge; Helen Hicks; Opal Hill; Betty Jameson; Sally Sessions; Marilyn Smith; Shirley Spork; Suggs; and Zaharias.
- Interest in women's golf escalated due to the style and personalities of successful players like Betsy Rawls, Marilyn Smith and Peggy Kirk (Bell).
- Fred Corcoran, Zaharias' business manager, was the tournament manager for the newly formed tour. Corcoran, who was also on the payroll of Wilson Sporting Goods Company at the time, suggested the name, Ladies Professional Golf Association.
- Berg was elected the first president of the LPGA (1950-52). Zaharias (1952-55), Suggs (1955-57) and Smith (1957-59) also served as presidents during the 1950s.
- In its first season, the LPGA included 14 events worth \$50,000 in total prize money.
- By 1952, the LPGA tournament schedule had grown to include 21 events.
- Jameson, an LPGA founder and future Tour Hall of Famer, donated the Vare Trophy to the LPGA Tour in 1952. The award, named in honor of amateur-great Glenna Collett Vare, was given to the player with the lowest scoring average at the end of each season. Berg's 75.00 scoring average earned her the first Vare Trophy. Berg won the honor twice more before the end of her stellar career.
- Mickey Wright, who joined the Tour in 1955, helped obtain much-needed media attention for women's golf through her outstanding athletic accomplishments.
- Betty Hicks served as the first Teaching Committee chairperson from 1958-59.
- The LPGA Teacher of the Year Award was established in 1958, with Dettweiler receiving the inaugural award.
- In 1959, with Smith serving as president, the LPGA membership voted to establish the Teaching membership. Shirley Spork, Barbara Rotvig, Betty Hicks and Smith are the division's founding members and served on the first Teaching Committee, playing pivotal roles in creating guidelines and strategies for the LPGA Teaching membership's future growth.
- The LPGA Tour made 26 tournament stops in 1959 and played for more than \$200,000 in prize money.

The 1960s

The LPGA Tour gained momentum as women athletes found acceptance and support from the public. Although prize money was still scarce, the LPGA worked in this decade to increase attendance and financial stability. With television coverage and sponsorships by golf industry manufacturers secured, the Tour established itself as a respected sports organization.

- Mickey Wright and Kathy Whitworth dominated the decade with 68 and 53 tournament victories, respectively. Wright's 68 wins is still the most by any player in a single decade in the association's 50-plus years. Whitworth and Wright went on to become the winningest professional women golfers of all time, with 88 and 82 titles, respectively.
- In 1960, under the guidance of Shirley Spork and Barbara Rotvig, the first LPGA National Golf School was conducted in Ann Arbor, Mich. Spork and Rotvig are credited with most of the organizational efforts and beginning the LPGA Teaching membership's legacy of "teaching teachers to teach." The first National Golf School staff included Ellen Griffin, Betty Hicks, Mary Ann Reynolds, Jackie Pung, Mary Lena Faulk, Marilyn Smith, Spork and Rotvig.
- Smith continued as president of the association in 1960 with Betsy Rawls (1961-62), Wright (1963-64), Shirley Englehorn (1965), Ruth Jessen (1966), Whitworth (1967-68) and Cynthia Sullivan (1969) also serving terms in the 1960s.
- In 1960, Spork was elected chairperson of the Teaching membership and served in that capacity through 1967. Jane Read (1968-70) took over for the remainder of the decade.
- In 1962, the LPGA Rookie of the Year Award was created, with Mary Mills as the first recipient. She earned more than \$8,000 in her first year on Tour and went on to win the U.S. Women's Open *conducted by the USGA* the following season.
- The final round of the 1963 U.S. Women's Open *conducted by the USGA* was the first LPGA event televised nationally.

- In 1966, the LPGA Player of the Year Award was added to the roster of year-end honors. Whitworth was the first to win the prestigious award, an honor she accepted in seven of its first eight seasons.
- The LPGA Tour Hall of Fame was established in 1967. The first inductees were LPGA members who already were members of the Hall of Fame of Women's Golf: Patty Berg, Betty Jameson, Louise Suggs and Babe Zaharias (1951); Rawls (1960); and Wright (1964).
- By the end of the decade, prize money had grown to nearly \$600,000, and a total of 29 events were on the schedule.

The 1970s

The 1970s were a time of change for the LPGA; the organization shifted from a primarily player-run organization to a more modern business. With the hiring of its first commissioner, the LPGA experienced unprecedented growth.

- JoAnne Carner joined the Tour in 1970 at the age of 30. She dominated the decade by winning 23 of her 43 career titles. "Big Momma," now an LPGA Tour and World Golf Halls of Fame member, is still competing as the oldest player on the LPGA Tour.
- In 1970, Penny Zavichas was appointed as chairperson of the LPGA Teaching membership, followed by Jane Read (1971-73) and Mary Dagraedt (1974-75).
- In 1973, the LPGA held its first qualifying tournaments: Jan. 2-4 at Doral Country Club in Miami and June 26-28 at Indian Hills Country Club in Atlanta.
- In 1974, Jan Stephenson joined the Tour, bringing a fresh young attitude and style. Stephenson, soon dubbed the "glamour girl" of the LPGA Tour, was named 1974 Rookie of the Year.
- Ray Volpe was hired in 1975 as the LPGA's first commissioner. During his tenure, purses increased to \$6.4 million.
- LPGA headquarters moved from Atlanta to New York City, and Volpe created a Board of Trustees and a player council.
- In 1975, Amy Alcott joined the LPGA Tour and captured her first title in only her third event as a rookie.
- In 1976, Judy Rankin became the first LPGA player to win more than \$100,000 in a single season.
- Sherry Allison was elected the first president of the LPGA Teaching membership in 1976, and Section Education Seminars were first offered to members.
- In 1977, Sandra Haynie and Carol Mann were inducted into the LPGA Tour Hall of Fame.
- The LPGA Teaching membership grew to 212 by 1977.
- Nancy Lopez burst onto the LPGA scene in 1978, setting records by winning five consecutive tournaments and a total of nine titles, overwhelmingly winning Rookie of the Year honors. She also was named LPGA Player of the Year and Vare Trophy recipient, making her the only player in LPGA history to have earned all three awards in the same season. The following season, she won eight tournaments and again captured both the Vare Trophy and Player of the Year honors.
- LPGA Tour presidents serving in the 1970s were Cynthia Sullivan (1970, 1972-73), Kathy Whitworth (1971), Mann (1974-75), Rankin (1976-77) and Beth Stone (1977-78).

The 1980s

College and high school sports programs for women grew more sophisticated as a result of Title IX legislation. The LPGA reaped the benefits; a multitude of talented young stars joined the Tour. An all-exempt Tour qualifying system was required to meet the growing number of young women who chose golf as their careers. Corporate America began to focus on the LPGA, as the Tour's prize money and media exposure continued to climb.

- Veteran Tour players were challenged by up-and-coming stars Beth Daniel, Betsy King, Juli Inkster and Patty Sheehan.
- In 1980, the LPGA Teaching membership established the LPGA Professional of the Year Award, which was given to Nancy Gammon in its inaugural year.
- In 1981, the LPGA established the first retirement system for a non-team sport. Initial funding, \$400,000, was provided by the LPGA.
- In 1981, Kathy Whitworth became the first LPGA player to cross the \$1 million mark in career earnings.
- The LPGA Teaching membership established the LPGA Coach of the Year Award in 1981, which was given to Mary Dagraedt of Miami-Dade Community College.
- Annette Thompson was elected president of the LPGA Teaching membership in 1981, followed by Nell Frewin Hayes (1986-88) and Kerry Graham (1988-89).
- John D. Laupheimer succeeded Ray Volpe as commissioner in 1982. Under his direction, purses escalated to nearly \$14 million. Laupheimer relocated LPGA Headquarters to Sugar Land, Texas.
- In 1982, the Nabisco Dinah Shore tournament became the first LPGA event to receive national television coverage for all four rounds.
- The first LPGA Teaching membership National Championship, held in 1983 at Lake Placid, Fla., was won by H.B. Duntz-MacArthur (Championship Division) and Peggy Kirk Bell (Senior Division).
- In 1984, the LPGA revised its qualifying process, going from three qualifying tournaments to one final qualifying tournament in the fall. The first LPGA Final Qualifying Tournament was held Oct. 16-20 at Sweetwater Country Club in Sugar Land, Texas.
- Pat Bradley enjoyed a phenomenal season in 1986 by winning five titles, including three of the four major championships, and completed the LPGA Career Grand Slam. She was named Rolex Player of the Year and received the Vare Trophy.
- Laupheimer resigned in 1988, and William A. Blue was chosen as his successor. Blue moved the headquarters to its present location in Daytona Beach, Fla.
- The LPGA Urban Youth Golf Program and the LPGA Girls Golf Club (now LPGA-USGA Girls Golf) were established in 1989 under the guidance of LPGA Teaching membership President Kerry Graham.
- In 1989, the LPGA established the annual Ellen Griffin Rolex Award, which recognizes an individual who has made a major contribution to teaching golf and demonstrated Ellen Griffin's spirit, love and dedication.
- By 1989, the LPGA Tour hosted 36 events, with an average purse of \$385,833 each.

- LPGA Tour presidents were Shelley Hamlin (1980-81), Debbie Massey (1982), Dot Germain (1983), Joyce Kazmierski (1984), Cathy Mant (1985), Dianne Dailey (1986), Mindy Moore (1987), Bonnie Lauer (1988) and Whitworth (1989).

The 1990s

The LPGA kicked off the decade with its 40th anniversary celebration. Since its beginnings in 1950, the LPGA Tour had successfully developed a pioneering and leadership role that created professional opportunities for women that never before existed, a trend that continues today. By the end of the decade, the LPGA enjoyed unprecedented growth and featured record purses and media and television coverage, entering the 21st century as one of the most respected and successful organizations in sports.

- After two years as commissioner, William Blue's responsibilities were turned over to Charles S. Mechem, Jr. in 1990.
- The Solheim Cup, the first Ryder Cup-type event for professional women golfers, was introduced in 1990 and has grown into the most prestigious international event in women's golf. The United States ended the decade with a 4-1 record over Europe, following the exciting 1998 Solheim Cup held at Muirfield Village Golf Club in Dublin, Ohio.
- Beth Daniel fashioned a remarkable season in 1990 by winning seven titles and becoming the first LPGA player to win more than \$800,000 in a single season.
- By 1990, the LPGA Teaching membership had grown to 500. Kerry Graham was re-elected president of the Teaching membership and continued in that capacity until 1993. She was followed by Dr. DeDe Owens (1994-97) and Kay McMahon (1998-99).
- Pat Bradley (1991), Patty Sheehan (1993) and Betsy King (1995) were inducted into the LPGA Tour Hall of Fame.
- The LPGA Foundation was established in 1991 to support junior programs, youth scholarships and a financial assistance fund for members of the golf industry.
- The first Women in Golf Summit was held in 1991, with additional summits held in 1993 and 1995. Topics affecting women golfers were discussed, and a number of clinics and seminars for businesswomen were conceived.
- In 1991, the LPGA Teaching membership held its first Team Classic, which was won by Diane Daugherty and Owens.
- In 1992, the LPGA Teaching membership changed its name to the LPGA Teaching and Club Professional (T&CP) membership. Cindy Davis was hired as the first executive director of the membership, and the LPGA T&CP membership hired its first full-time staff at LPGA Headquarters.
- The Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation was named the official national charity of the LPGA in 1992, becoming the first national charity to partner with a professional golf association.
- LPGA International, home of the LPGA, opened Champions, a Rees Jones-designed course, in 1994 in Daytona Beach, Fla. Legends, the second 18-hole course that was designed by Arthur Hills, opened in October 1998.
- Jim Ritts was appointed LPGA commissioner-elect in 1995 and officially began his tenure in January 1996.
- By 1996, the LPGA and its tournaments had raised more than \$78 million for charity.
- In her rookie season, Karrie Webb, the 21-year-old phenomenon from Australia, became the first rookie in golf history to surpass \$1 million in season earnings.
- In 1997, LPGA T&CP membership exceeded 1,000. That same year marked the debut of the LPGA National Education Program, now a requirement for all LPGA T&CP members prior to Class A testing.
- In 1998, the LPGA established the first-ever sponsored television series in women's golf. The State Farm LPGA Series (formerly known as the Mercury LPGA Series) included television coverage of seven 1998 LPGA tournaments on ESPN and ESPN2 and offered a bonus pool of \$250,000 to players; the series now features up to 10 events annually on ESPN2. Se Ri Pak won the inaugural bonus pool in 1998, while Webb (1999), Pat Hurst (2000), Annika Sorenstam (2001), Mi Hyun Kim (2002), Hee-Won Han (2003) and Lorena Ochoa (2004) have also earned top honors.
- Following the 1998 Standard Register PING tournament in Phoenix, Ariz., LPGA Tour Hall of Fame member King became the first LPGA player to earn more than \$6 million in career earnings.
- South Korean rookie sensation Se Ri Pak used the 1998 season to rewrite golf history. She burst onto the LPGA Tour, winning four tournaments, including two major championships, and broke records left and right. Pak became the youngest LPGA player to capture four victories and the first rookie since Juli Inkster to win two majors.
- In 1998, Sorenstam captured Rolex Player of the Year honors and became the first LPGA player to earn more than \$1 million in two separate seasons. She also captured her third Vare Trophy, this time with a record-low season scoring average of 69.99, becoming the first player in the award's 46-year history to record a scoring average below 70.00.
- In 1998, the World Golf Hall of Fame was created, with headquarters located in St. Augustine, Fla.
- The LPGA welcomed its sixth commissioner in 1999, Ty M. Votaw, who replaced Ritts as the LPGA's top executive.
- The LPGA named the SBC Futures Tour its official developmental tour in January 1999.
- Also in 1999, the LPGA's Tournament Division voted to change the requirements for entrance into the LPGA Tour Hall of Fame, which qualified Amy Alcott and Beth Daniel for entrance as the 15th and 16th members of the prestigious group. A Veteran's Category also was established. Now based on a points system, the LPGA Tour Hall of Fame welcomed its 17th member, Inkster, in September after she won the Safeway LPGA Golf Championship.
- Webb sizzled in 1999, winning six times and earning her first Rolex Player of the Year award and second Vare Trophy. Webb's 69.43 scoring average established an LPGA record, breaking the previous record of 69.99 set by Sorenstam in 1998. Webb also set an LPGA single-season earnings record with \$1,591,959 in earnings. (Those records have since been broken.)

- Inkster, who won five times in 1999, including two major championships (U.S. Women's Open *conducted by the USGA* and McDonald's LPGA Championship), became just the fourth LPGA player (along with Pat Bradley, Louise Suggs and Mickey Wright) to achieve the LPGA Career Grand Slam, which is winning all designated majors during a player's career. (Webb and Sorenstam have since joined that elite group.)
- With her 19-under-par performance in winning the Nabisco Dinah Shore in 1999, Dottie Pepper established an LPGA record for lowest score in relation to par for a major championship tournament.
- Sorenstam won two tournaments in 1999, making her the decade's winningest player with 18 victories. Webb and Pepper ranked second with 16 wins each.
- By 1999, the LPGA Tour hosted 43 events, totaling \$36.2 million in prize money.
- LPGA Tour presidents in the 1990s included Judy Dickinson (1990-92), Alice Miller (1993), Elaine Crosby (1994), Vicki Fergon (1995-96), Allison Finney (1997), Michelle Estill (1998) and Cindy (Schreyer) McCurdy (1999-2000).

2000 and beyond

The LPGA "rang in" the new millennium with its golden anniversary celebration.

- The 2000 LPGA Tour featured the world's best professional women golfers competing for more money per tournament than ever before; the LPGA Tour schedule featured 42 events and total prize money of more than \$38 million, with more than 250 hours of television coverage.
- The LPGA celebrated its 50th anniversary. The year-long celebration began with the LPGA Night of Champions at The Breakers in Palm Beach, Fla., where more than 700 guests attended the black-tie dinner that benefited The LPGA Foundation.
- Judy Rankin was the first player elected into the LPGA Tour and World Golf Halls of Fame under the new Veteran's Category in 2000.
- Karrie Webb and Annika Sorenstam completed the playing requirements for entrance into the LPGA Tour and World Golf Halls of Fame, leaving only the 10-year membership requirement remaining to be met. Sorenstam qualified in 2003, while Webb will qualify in 2005.
- The European Solheim Cup Team, captained by England's Dale Reid, defeated Pat Bradley's U.S. Team, 14-¹/₂-11-¹/₂ in the sixth staging of The Solheim Cup, Oct. 8-10, at Loch Lomond Golf Club in Luss, Scotland.
- At the end of September 2000, the LPGA named the Weetabix Women's British Open as its newest major championship beginning in 2001, replacing the du Maurier Classic.
- In October 2000, the LPGA T&CP membership hosted Celebrating Women in Golf: An LPGA 50th Anniversary Event at the World Golf Village in St. Augustine, Fla. The three-and-a-half day event, hosted and conducted by the LPGA T&CP membership, was a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for amateur women golfers of all levels to mingle and play golf with members of the LPGA, both Tour and teaching professionals, as well as enjoy a number of social and educational activities.
- Also in October 2000, the LPGA T&CP membership established the LPGA T&CP Hall of Fame. LPGA Founders Patty Berg, Marilynn Smith, Shirley Spork and Louise Suggs, as well as LPGA teaching legends Peggy Kirk Bell and Betty Hicks, were the first inductees.
- Webb, Sorenstam and Meg Mallon took advantage of the richest season in LPGA history in 2000, each eclipsing the \$1 million mark in single-season earnings. This marked the first time the LPGA had three \$1 million winners in a single season.

2001

- The LPGA Tour season featured 43 events for a record total prize money of more than \$43.5 million. For the first time in its history, the LPGA had an average purse in excess of \$1 million, including 20 official events with purses of at least \$1 million. The LPGA and its tournaments had more than 260 hours on television and donated more than \$10 million to charity in 2001.
- Annika Sorenstam re-wrote the LPGA record book in 2001, tying or setting 30 LPGA records. She became the first LPGA player to break 60 by carding a 13-under-par 59 during the second round of the Standard Register PING. Sorenstam went on to win eight times, establish an LPGA single-season scoring average record of 69.42 and become the first player in LPGA history to eclipse the \$2 million mark in single-season earnings. The Swede won the Rolex Player of the Year, Vare Trophy and money title with \$2,105,868 in earnings. Her eight wins included a string of four consecutive victories and marked the most wins in one season since LPGA Tour and World Golf Halls of Fame member Nancy Lopez won eight tournaments in 1979.
- With her win at the McDonald's LPGA Championship Presented by AIG in June, Karrie Webb became the fifth player in LPGA history to complete the LPGA Career Grand Slam, joining LPGA Tour and World Golf Halls of Fame members Louise Suggs, Mickey Wright, Pat Bradley and Juli Inkster. Webb became the youngest LPGA player ever to do so and the fastest player, man or woman, in the history of golf to accomplish the feat.
- Sorenstam and Webb teamed up with PGA Tour stars Tiger Woods and David Duval, respectively, for the Lincoln Financial Group Battle at Bighorn prime-time television event, the first time this format had been used for the event. The team of Sorenstam and Woods defeated the team of Webb and Duval on the 19th hole.
- As a result of the tragic events of Sept. 11, the LPGA cancelled the Safeway Classic, marking the first time an event had been cancelled in the association's history. The Sports Today CJ Nine Bridges Classic in Seoul, South Korea, was also cancelled as a result of the military action initiated by the United States and its allies.
- In concert with other major professional sports organizations, the LPGA made a donation to the Sept. 11 relief fund and supported the victims by wearing ribbons during tournament competition.
- Donna Caponi became the second player to be elected into the LPGA Tour and World Golf Halls of Fame under the Veteran's Category. She was officially inducted into the World Golf Hall of Fame on Nov. 11.
- Teaching legends Goldie Bateson, Ellen Griffin, Dr. DeDe Owens and Joanne Winter were voted into the LPGA T&CP Hall of Fame in December; the LPGA also named the Women's Senior Golf Tour (WSGT) as its official senior tour that same month.

2002

- In February, Marlene Hagge was voted into the LPGA Tour Hall of Fame under the Veteran's Category, becoming the 21st member of the exclusive group. She was officially inducted into the World Golf Hall of Fame on Nov. 15.

- From March 8-10, the PGA held its first-ever mandatory Player Summit in Phoenix, where the association's five-year strategic business plan, which focuses on Fans First initiatives, was unveiled to the players. Players and staff met at the three-day summit to outline the association's strategy for increasing tournament attendance by 15 percent and television viewership by 10 percent annually.
- With her win at the Weetabix Women's British Open, Karrie Webb became the first player in LPGA history to achieve the Super Career Grand Slam, which is winning all five major championships available to a player in her career.
- The U.S. Solheim Cup Team, behind Captain Patty Sheehan, rallied to regain The Solheim Cup at Interlachen Country Club in Edina, Minn., Sept. 20-22, defeating the visiting European Solheim Cup Team and Captain Dale Reid 15- $\frac{1}{2}$ —12 $\frac{1}{2}$.
- The first-ever PING Junior Solheim Cup was contested at Oak Ridge Country Club in Hopkins, Minn., Sept. 17-18, with the U.S. Junior Solheim Cup Team and Captain Sherri Steinhauer defeating the European Junior Solheim Cup Team and Captain Marta Figueras-Dotti, 17-7.
- Annika Sorenstam continued to re-write the LPGA record books in 2002, tying or setting 20 LPGA records. She became the first player since Mickey Wright in 1964 to win 11 tournaments in a single season and earned an LPGA-record \$2,863,904. She also became the first LPGA player to finish a season with a scoring average below 69.00 with her 68.697368 mark, which earned the Swede her fifth Vare Trophy for lowest scoring average. Sorenstam was a runaway winner of her fifth career Rolex Player of the Year award and became the first player in LPGA history to cross the \$11 million mark in career earnings.
- The LPGA had a record five players earn at least \$1 million during the season: Annika Sorenstam (\$2,863,904); Se Ri Pak (\$1,722,281); Juli Inkster (\$1,154,349); Mi Hyun Kim (\$1,049,993); and Karrie Webb (\$1,009,760).

2003

- On Thursday, May 22, Annika Sorenstam became the first woman in 58 years to compete on the PGA Tour when she teed it up at the Bank of America Colonial in Fort Worth, Texas. The Swede shot rounds of 71-75 and missed the cut, but won legions of fans in the process. Six other women followed in her footsteps in 2003 by playing in men's professional events—Suzy Whaley, Michelle Wie, Jan Stephenson, Laura Davies, Se Ri Pak and Sophie Gustafson.
- In early August, Sorenstam became just the sixth player to achieve the LPGA Career Grand Slam with her victory at the Weetabix Women's British Open. Sorenstam had won the McDonald's LPGA Championship Presented by AIG in June to set the stage for the historic achievement.
- The European Solheim Cup Team won the eighth staging of The Solheim Cup 17- $\frac{1}{2}$ —10- $\frac{1}{2}$ at Barsebäck Golf & Country Club in Malmo, Sweden, Sept. 12-14. Catrin Nilsmark, despite suffering from a debilitating back injury that forced her to walk with crutches, led the European Team to victory over U.S. Captain Patty Sheehan's team and left the U.S. Team with a 5-3 lead in the overall standings heading into 2005.
- The second staging of the PING Junior Solheim Cup took place at Bokskogens Golf Club Sept. 9-10 prior to The Solheim Cup, with Helen Alfredsson's European squad defeating Val Skinner's U.S. Team 12- $\frac{1}{2}$ —11- $\frac{1}{2}$.
- On Oct. 10, Sorenstam competed in her 15th event of her 10th season and officially qualified for entrance into the LPGA Tour and World Golf Halls of Fame. On Oct. 20, Sorenstam was officially inducted into the World Golf Hall of Fame.
- Sorenstam dominated the season again, winning six times en route to her sixth career Rolex Player of the Year award and became the first player to eclipse \$12 million and \$13 million in career earnings.
- Mexico's Lorena Ochoa missed just one cut and recorded eight top-10 finishes to decisively win the Louise Suggs Rolex Rookie of the Year and become the first Mexican-born player to take home the prize.
- With a 70.03 average, Se Ri Pak became the first Asian player to win the Vare Trophy, beating countrywoman Grace Park by .08 points. Sorenstam was not eligible for the award, as she did not complete the required 70 rounds.
- Beth Daniel won the BMO Financial Group Canadian Women's Open to become the oldest winner in LPGA history at the age of 46 years, 8 months and 29 days to break JoAnne Carner's record, which had stood for 18 years.
- Sorenstam (\$2,029,506) eclipsed the \$2 million mark in single-season earnings for the third consecutive season. She was joined in the million-dollar club by Se Ri Pak (\$1,611,928), Grace Park (\$1,417,702), Hee-Won Han (\$1,111,860) and Juli Inkster (\$1,028,205), tying the LPGA record for most millionaires in a single season.

2004

- May 20-22, the LPGA hosted the first-ever World Congress of Women's Golf in New York City. Nearly 150 women and men representing 19 countries and 33 golf associations from around the globe attended the three-day event, where it was announced that The Old Course at St. Andrews would host the 2007 Weetabix Women's British Open and a world rankings system for women's golf would be devised.
- Se Ri Pak completed the playing requirements for entrance into the LPGA Tour and World Golf Halls of Fame earning the requisite 27 points needed with her win at the Michelob ULTRA Open at Kingsmill, leaving only the 10-year membership requirement remaining to be met. Pak will qualify in 2007.
- Annika Sorenstam posted her second best year on Tour, winning eight tournaments including the McDonald's LPGA Championship Presented by Coca-Cola for her seventh-career major championship. Sorenstam also won her fourth-consecutive Mizuno Classic to tie Laura Davies (Standard Register PING, 1994-97) as the only player to win the same event four straight years.
- Sorenstam, also won her seventh Rolex Player of the Year Award to tie Kathy Whitworth for most all-time. She also became the first player to surpass \$14 million and \$15 million in career earnings.
- Sorenstam, who played 66 rounds over 18 events, set a new LPGA scoring average at 68.696969 to eclipse her 2002 record of 68.697368 of a stroke.
- Meg Mallon, 41, won three tournaments, but none more memorable than her win at the U.S. Women's Open conducted by the USGA. Mallon played the weekend at 10-under-par to beat Sorenstam by two strokes and garner her second U.S. Women's Open championship.

- Grace Park's best season as a professional netted two victories, including her first major, the Kraft Nabisco Championship. Park's 69.99 scoring average was good enough to secure her first Vare Trophy for lowest scoring average by .03 strokes over Mexico's Lorena Ochoa. Sorenstam was not eligible for the award, as she did not complete the required 70 rounds.
- Ochoa led the Tour with 18 top-10 finishes and set a number of LPGA scoring records. Ochoa sank 442 birdies to break Maria Hjorth's 1999 record of 408. Her 51 rounds in the 60s also broke Kelly Robbins' 1997 and Park's 2003 record of 46. Ochoa posted 75 rounds under par, breaking Lorie Kane's record of 71 set in 1999.
- Karen Stupples won two tournaments including the Weetabix Women's British Open in her home country to become the third English woman to win a major championship. Stupples opened the final round with an eagle-albatross to finish 19-under-par and tie the LPGA's 72-hole scoring record in a major championship.
- On the strength of eight top-10 finishes South Korea's Shi Hyun Ahn won the Louise Suggs Rolex Rookie of the Year Award by 164 points over Aree Song. Ahn is the fourth Korean in the last seven years to take the award.
- Sorenstam (\$2,544,707) passed the \$2 million mark in single-season earnings for the fourth consecutive season. She was joined by Park (\$1,525,471), Ochoa (\$1,450,824), Mallon (\$1,358,623) and Cristie Kerr (\$1,189,990), tying the LPGA record for most millionaires in a single season for the third consecutive year.

LPGA Tour Presidents

The following list identifies the LPGA Tour presidents since the LPGA's inception in 1950.

1950	Patty Berg	1977	Judy Rankin
1951	Patty Berg	1978	Beth Stone
1952	Patty Berg (Jan.-July)	1979	Beth Stone
	Babe Zaharias (Aug.-Dec.)	1980	Shelley Hamlin
1953	Babe Zaharias	1981	Shelley Hamlin
1954	Babe Zaharias	1982	Debbie Massey
1955	Babe Zaharias (Jan.-July)	1983	Dot Germain
	Louise Suggs (Aug.-Dec.)	1984	Joyce Kazmierski
1956	Louise Suggs	1985	Cathy Mant
1957	Louise Suggs (Jan.-July)	1986	Dianne Dailey
	Marilynn Smith (Aug.-Dec.)	1987	Mindy Moore
1958	Marilynn Smith	1988	Bonnie Lauer
1959	Marilynn Smith	1989	Kathy Whitworth
1960	Marilynn Smith	1990	Judy Dickinson
1961	Betsy Rawls	1991	Judy Dickinson
1962	Betsy Rawls	1992	Judy Dickinson
1963	Mickey Wright	1993	Alice Miller
1964	Mickey Wright	1994	Elaine Crosby
1965	Shirley Englehorn	1995	Vicki Fergon
1966	Ruth Jessen	1996	Vicki Fergon
1967	Kathy Whitworth	1997	Allison Finney
1968	Kathy Whitworth	1998	Michelle Estill
1969	Cynthia Sullivan	1999	Cindy (Schreyer) McCurdy
1970	Cynthia Sullivan	2000	Cindy (Schreyer) McCurdy
1971	Kathy Whitworth	2001	Gail Graham
1972	Cynthia Sullivan	2002	Gail Graham
1973	Cynthia Sullivan	2003	Donna Andrews
1974	Carol Mann	2004	Donna Andrews
1975	Carol Mann	2005	Heather Daly-Donofrio
1976	Judy Rankin		