

FUTURES Tour
Alumnae--

Laura Diaz

Photo by: Scott Halleran/Getty Images
Courtesy of LPGA Tour

FUTURES Golf Tour News Release

APRIL 4, 2005

Q & A With REILLEY RANKIN: Catching Up With A Card Winner

Who says dreams — along with a lot of hard work — don't come true?

Second-year LPGA Tour pro Reilley Rankin earned her LPGA exempt card in 2003, when she finished fifth on the FUTURES Tour Money List. After two full seasons (2002, 2003) on the FUTURES Golf Tour, the former NCAA All-American from the University of Georgia proved that comebacks are possible, even after a life-changing event.

Severely injured in a 1999 diving accident that left her with broken vertebrae and bruised vital organs, the 1998 NCAA Freshman of the Year came full circle following an extensive long-term rehabilitative effort, in which doctors once told her she would never again play golf. Rankin won twice on the 2003 FUTURES Golf Tour and posted six top-10 finishes to earn her automatic 2004 LPGA Tour card by finishing in the top five.

On the LPGA Tour in 2004, Rankin carded a career-low 65 during the Wendy's Championship for Children. She posted a season-best finish at the LPGA Takefujii Classic, where she tied for eighth, and then tied for 11th at the McDonald's LPGA Championship, earning \$162,987 during her rookie season. In four events this year, she has cracked the top-10 twice, with a fourth-place finish at the 2005 season-opening SBS Open at Turtle Bay and a tie for ninth place at the recent Kraft Nabisco Championship, one of the LPGA's four major championships.

Here is what Rankin told futurestour.com about her flourishing professional career in a conversation last week:

Q. What was the highlight of your rookie season in 2004?

Rankin: Hitting my tee shot on the first tee in the

first tournament out in Tucson. I was nervous. I had never played in an LPGA Tour event before that day and it was awesome. My mom and dad and a lot of my family were all there, so I was comfortable and ready for the tournament to start. I was where I wanted to be. It was the beginning and I felt that day that I could start working toward my goals. It's always nice to make it to a higher level in any job you have. I didn't freak out when they started announcing me on the first tee. I had heard that tee announcement in my head before it happened, so I was ready when the moment came.

Q. Did you experience any rookie-year nightmares last year?

Rankin: Well, when we were playing in Las Vegas, I went with some people to tour the Hoover Dam. I was riding with a caddie and he turned into the wrong parking lot. We didn't know it at the time, but when we came back, he had gotten a parking ticket and the gate to the lot was closed. We were locked in there for a couple of hours. I didn't get to practice that day. Another time, when we were playing in Japan, they had volunteers who wore red jackets driving player shuttles between some of the holes. I had finished a hole and noticed there were three shuttles parked behind the green. I couldn't communicate with anyone, but I thought they were there to take us to the next hole, so I got on the cart. It was the wrong cart on the wrong hole and I got DQ'd. I flew a long ways to get DQ'd in a limited-field event.

Q. Was there something that stands out about that first year that you'll always remember?

Rankin: Last year was the first time I had ever traveled out of the United States. In London, even though they speak English, it was tough to understand them. But the golf there was so cool. Going to Korea and Japan was even more of a culture shock. In Japan, I still can't believe they had raw squid and raw fish right there on the buffet beside the cereal and milk for breakfast. I like seafood, but not for breakfast.

Q. How many times were you asked about the diving accident and did you ever wish you could erase that part of your life?

(SEE Rankin, PAGE 2)

This Week:

The FUTURES Tour is idle this week.

In Two Weeks:

Jalapeno FUTURES Golf Classic
April 22-24
Palm View Municipal Golf Course
McAllen, Texas

Purse: \$70,000

Winner: 9,800

Runner-up: \$7,000

Contact Number: (956) 688-3444

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Rankin: I was asked about that quite a bit, but no, I never wished I could erase it. It reminds me of how fortunate I am now. I lived through it and when I tell people about it, I sort of have to go through it again. People seem interested in it, so it doesn't bother me. I created the whole thing by making that decision to jump off a rock that day. I don't think it's ever really going to end.

Q. You have come a long way. What amazes you the most about how far you've come?

Rankin: Just how much farther I can go. The more I learn, the more I want to learn. In this game, you can always shoot a better round. I'm not amazed about anything, though. I really love the competition and the level of play gives me an extra kick. It's better than I thought it would be. Growing up, there were players I looked up to, like Juli Inkster, Beth Daniel, Nancy Lopez and Dottie Pepper. When I was in college, I did a project on them and called them up and asked them a bunch of questions. Now, I'm friends with them. It's pretty cool. It's just a big process and all of a sudden, you're playing on the same level with people you have admired and respected for so long.

Q. So, when you play alongside these veteran pros, what are you thinking? What is your goal?

Rankin: Just to beat them. That never changes. If I'm playing [good friend] Courtney (Swaim Trimble), I want to beat her. If I'm playing Juli Inkster, I want to beat her. She's just another player. But against the more experienced players, there's always stuff to learn.

Q. Who are your best friends out on the LPGA Tour?

Rankin: Lorena Ochoa, Candy Hannemann, Vicki Goetze [Ackerman], Angela Jerman, Grace [Park]. Everybody's schedule is different, so you kind of do your own thing, but I've known them for a long time from college and junior golf. They're the same as they've always been.

Q. What is the best advice you've gotten on the LPGA Tour?

Rankin: Well, one of my goals has been to make the U.S. Solheim Cup team. Judy Rankin's husband, Yippy, could tell I was mentally wrapped up in it last year and he told me to just play and that [making the team] would take care of itself. I was consumed by it without realizing it. It was my goal too much. Sometimes, you have to put your goals away and do your work to get there. Somebody else told me about pacing myself and not trying to play every week. Now, the most I play is three weeks in a row. I get tired. You have to figure out how to peak at certain times.

Q. How much better are you as a player now than you were a year ago?

Rankin: A lot better because I've learned so much. It's like once you learn how to add, it's a lot easier to subtract, multiply and divide. The picture gets bigger and bigger. Some of the biggest lessons you learn are when you make a mistake. I've gotten better at problem solving off the golf course.

Q. How did the FUTURES Tour help prepare you for the LPGA Tour?

Rankin: Let's just say that I learned to multiply on the FUTURES Tour. It gives you a taste of being a touring professional and all of the travel really prepares you. The year I got my LPGA card, I remember that I had made plans to go to a friend's wedding during the [2003 FUTURES Tour] season. Everybody was so afraid I was going to mess up

because the money list was really close, but I had committed to go to the wedding and I wasn't going to break a promise. The pressure of trying to get my LPGA card [through the FUTURES Tour] was the most pressure I ever felt. I knew the money list was close, but I reminded myself that I can't control what anybody else does. I learned how to stay focused. The FUTURES Tour is a great steppingstone and it helps you find out what you want. For example, everybody on the LPGA Tour has gotten there because that's where they want to be and worked hard to get there. On the FUTURES Tour, there are some players who are still trying to decide if they want the traveling lifestyle of a professional golfer. The FUTURES Tour shows you this is what it's going to take and it gives you a clear picture of what it will be like on the LPGA Tour. That's part of the learning experience, taking little steps. It's also where you learn that patience is a big key to reaching the LPGA.



Q. Was there ever a time when you thought you would not achieve your dream of reaching the LPGA?

Rankin: I never thought it wasn't going to happen. That first year on the FUTURES Tour, I didn't finish in the top five for my card. Then, I went to LPGA Q. School and didn't make it to the final stage. I talked to Vicki Goetze on the phone for probably three hours after that. It was frustrating, but I eventually figured there was a reason why I had to go back to the FUTURES Tour. If I had gotten my LPGA card that first year, I might have approached the LPGA the wrong way. I learned that you don't get this overnight. So I made up my mind to make my time on the FUTURES Tour worth something and while I was there, I was content with where I was. I knew I didn't want to be there my whole life, but I decided to have a patient perspective.

Q. What do you handle better now as a second-year LPGA pro?

Rankin: I still don't like practice rounds. They're slow and I don't like being out there for six hours. I also don't like to over-analyze the course or how I want to play it. I like to get a feel for the greens and then go play. When I was on the FUTURES Tour, I liked to be the first player off early in the morning or play late in the afternoon. On the LPGA, I've had to figure out ways to play little games during my practice rounds. I'm still trying to get better about that, but I'm the kind of person who doesn't need too much information.

Q. What goals have you set for yourself this year?

Rankin: Of course I'd like to win and play well in the U.S. Women's Open, and make the U.S. Solheim Cup team this fall. I'd like to be in the top-30 on the money list. But most of all, I'd just like to put myself into position to play well because it's so much more fun that way. Now I know you don't have to hit it perfect to win a golf tournament. I feel different this year and there are a lot of signs that my game is ready. I won twice on the FUTURES Tour, so I know I can compete. It's kind of like this — once you go to somebody's house, you know how to get there.

(SEE Rankin, PAGE 3)

FUTURES Tour News & Notes

Inaugural Kankakee Event Names Title Sponsor

Quality Concepts has partnered with the Kankakee FUTURES tournament to become the title sponsor for the Quality Concepts Kankakee FUTURES Golf Classic in Saint Anne, Ill. The inaugural tournament will be held June 3-5, and will kick off the first of a three-year sponsorship agreement for the \$70,000 tournament.

Based in Kankakee County, Quality Concepts is under the umbrella of businesses, including Hidden Cove Family Fun Park, Jimmy Johns, Preferred Property Group, Pied Piper Pest Patrol, Pied Piper Construction, Concrete Resurfacing Network, Sunkist Stables, Twin Rivers Campground & Retreat, Pied Piper Environmental Services and the World Leadership Foundation, a non-profit organization that develops cutting-edge experiential programs for young people of all ages.

"Quality Concepts and our family of companies are proud to serve Kankakee County, and we're very excited to be the title sponsor of the Kankakee FUTURES Golf Tournament," said Greg Yates, the company's president and chief executive officer. "This is an unprecedented opportunity for our community."

"Having a strong business behind the event validates the event," added Zayra F. Calderon, president and chief executive officer of the FUTURES Golf Tour. "Mr Yates is making a statement to the Kankakee region, saying that he wants to bring them something wonderful."

The tournament will benefit local the Illinois Elks Crippled Children's Corporation & Harbor House.

For more information about the event in Kankakee, check out the tournament web site at www.theelks627.com.

Tour Chat

The FUTURES Tour's 2005 Player Advisory Committee has been selected. The members are **NISHA SADEKAR** of Toronto, Ontario, **CORTNEY RENO** of Grosse Ile, Mich., **ALLISON FOUCH** of Grand Rapids, Mich., **ASHLEY PRANGE** of Noblesville, Ind., and **CAROLINE GOASGUEN** of Montpellier, France. The committee's purpose is to provide feedback from Tour members to the Tour staff and to serve as the link between the two entities. The first PAC committee meeting will be held at the tournament in McAllen, Texas...

Hometown favorite **VIRADA NIRAPATHPONGPORN** of Bangkok, Thailand finished tied for seventh at four-under-par 284 last week at the Thailand Ladies Open. She finished two shots behind winner and LPGA Tour member Shani Waugh of Australia. The former NCAA champion carded rounds of 71-68-73-72. **HONG MEI YANG** of Sichuan, China, held a share of the lead with Waugh for the first two rounds, but tumbled into a tie for 14th at one-under 287, with rounds of 67-71-77-72. **JANELL HOWLAND** of Boise, Idaho tied for 19th at 288, with rounds of 72-75-72-69. Other FUTURES Tour members making the 36-hole tournament cut were: **LIBBY SMITH** of Essex Junction, Vt., and **MEREDITH DUNCAN** of Shreveport, La., both at 298; and **LISA CHANG** of Los Angeles, 301.

Rankin, FROM PAGE 2

Q. Other than the purses and TV, what is the biggest difference between the FUTURES Tour and LPGA Tour?

Rankin: Every week, we have 144 players who have earned their way to the LPGA Tour. The talent depth is greater on the LPGA, but it's the same game and the whole process of getting to the top is similar for both. The biggest difference

is the golf courses. At my first LPGA tournament in Tucson last year, I noticed they had crosswalks for spectators. I'd never walked across a crosswalk in the fairway. There also are more ropes and more volunteers and more fans watching while you're on the practice green. And there are people walking with you to report to the scoreboard. Everybody has a caddie, which is a big adjustment from carrying your own bag. A lot of little things add up to make a big difference and it changes the atmosphere. It's cool to be in the show. It think it's like going from playing on a good baseball field to playing in Fenway Park.

Q. What is your fondest memory of the FUTURES Tour?

Rankin: Getting my LPGA card in York [Pa.], and winning my first tournament in Merrillville (Ind.). I had worked hard in the off-season that year. To win in Merrillville...well, there was an added feeling after the accident. I won in college, but none of them felt the way that FUTURES event felt. It was a special week and to win in my first playoff was neat. It was emotional and I made friends for life in that town. Some of the people there still come to see me play and it's definitely a week I won't ever forget. It's funny, but I think my appreciation for things gets greater the more I play — like for tournament volunteers. People take their vacations to come volunteer at our tournaments. The last thing I'd want to do is sit on a hole for eight hours, but they really seem to enjoy it. They have a whole different perspective about what we're doing than we do. Whether it's on the LPGA Tour or the FUTURES Tour, volunteers make a lot of difference.

Q. If you could offer any words of wisdom to young pros now on the FUTURES Tour, what would it be?

Rankin: I'd tell them to gain as much from every experience every week that they can. What they are learning now will help in the future and when they get their LPGA Tour cards, they will be so much more prepared. I think you have to have respect for the FUTURES Tour and not take it for granted. It gives you a whole other chance to prove to yourself that you can get to the LPGA. I could probably write a book about what I learned. Maybe some players feel like they're not making a living out there, but I'd tell them, you just can't let your mind wander about what your goals are. You have to allow yourself to learn. And you don't have time to beat yourself up or compare yourself to other players. Sometimes players know they have what it takes to be on the LPGA Tour and they're frustrated that they're still on the FUTURES Tour. But it could be a blessing. You have to say, 'This is where I am' and give it your best effort. LPGA Q. School is one week that determines your future for a year, but when you miss [getting an LPGA Tour card], you have to dig down and tell yourself that you have a year to learn something before you can try again. You can't listen to expectations and for sure, the satisfaction of earning your card doesn't come from how badly somebody else wants you to get your card. All you can control is you and you have to see that your chance to get there [to the LPGA] is ahead of you. You can create a lot of doubt, but that's wasted energy. You just have to use your passion constructively. And you're never going to open up a Christmas present that says 'Here's your LPGA Tour card for next year.' It's a lot of work, but it's totally worth it.

FUTURES Tour Statistics

FUTURES Tour Official Money List

As of March 19, 2005

Rank	Player	Events	Wins	Earnings	Rank	Player	Events	Wins	Earnings
1	*Sarah-Jane Kenyon	2	1	\$9,857	51	Sarah Huarte	2		\$517
2	*Jin Young Pak	2	1	\$9,739	52	Yvonne Cox	2		\$511
3	*Seon-Hwa Lee	2		\$7,717	53	Katie Fatcher	2		\$497
4	*Lori Atsedes	2		\$7,405	54	Jessica Krasny	2		\$491
5	*Sun Young Yoo	2		\$6,909	55	Courtney Wood	2		\$488
6	*Becky Iverson	2		\$5,908	56	Su A Kim	2		\$475
7	*Aimee Cho	2		\$4,169	57	Lisa Chang	2		\$439
8	*Sasha Medina	2		\$4,039	58	Rachel Bates	2		\$412
9	*Hye Jung Choi	2		\$3,087	59	Jennifer Jordan	2		\$409
10	*Kyeong Bae	2		\$2,761	59	Jan Dowling	2		\$409
11	Chiharu Yamaguchi	2		\$2,755	61	Christi Cano	1		\$381
11	Ashley Prange	2		\$2,755	61	Beth Hermes	2		\$381
13	Kristy McPherson	2		\$2,385	63	Marianne Morris	2		\$374
14	Allison Hanna	2		\$2,173	64	Julie Turner	2		\$345
15	Jen Hanna	2		\$2,074	65	Sarah H. Johnston	2		\$315
16	Alena Sharp	2		\$2,066	66	Anna Knutsson	2		\$302
17	Mollie Fankhauser	2		\$2,004	66	Samantha Fox	2		\$302
17	Cristina Baena	1		\$2,004	66	Tamara Johns	2		\$302
17	Dana Lacey	2		\$2,004	69	Kim Lewellen	1		\$267
17	Naree Song	1		\$2,004	69	Jeanne Cho	2		\$267
21	Courtney Trimble	2		\$1,988	69	Stephanie George	1		\$267
22	Tara Bateman	2		\$1,946	72	Sue Horton	2		\$260
23	Erica Blasberg	2		\$1,876	72	Kylie Pratt	2		\$260
24	Nicole Castrale	2		\$1,722	72	Blair O'Neal	2		\$260
25	Anna Rawson	2		\$1,626	75	Katrina Leckovic	2		\$247
26	Kris Tamulis	2		\$1,605	76	Heather Stirling	2		\$224
27	Virada Nirapathpongorn		2	\$1,550	76	Kelly Cap	2		\$224
28	Jessica Lewis	2		\$1,491	78	Misia Lemanski	2		\$215
29	Meaghan Francella	2		\$1,439	78	Tiffany Faucette	2		\$215
30	Jenny Gleason	2		\$1,174	78	Sunny Oh	2		\$215
31	Danielle Downey	2		\$1,166	81	Brandi Jackson	2		\$185
31	Karen Dennison	2		\$1,166	82	Saki Uechi	2		\$182
33	May Wood	2		\$1,060	82	Katie Ruhe	2		\$182
34	Jeanne-Marie Busuttil	2		\$1,059	82	Heather Zielinski	2		\$182
35	Kathy Choi-Rogers	2		\$959	82	Kimberly Adams	2		\$182
36	Janell Howland	2		\$950	86	Jennifer Lucas	1		\$166
37	Bo Mi Suh	2		\$939	86	Krista Bartlett	2		\$166
38	Kelly Lagedrost	2		\$924	88	Anna Temple	2		\$149
39	Allison Fouch	2		\$843	88	Jana Peterkova	2		\$149
39	Kim Augusta	2		\$843	88	Seul Ki Kim	1		\$149
41	Ji Min Jeong	2		\$793	91	Natalie Tucker	2		\$140
42	Libby Smith	1		\$757					
42	Courtney Pomeranz	2		\$757					
44	Danah Ford	2		\$683					
45	Meredith Ward	2		\$671					
46	Meredith Duncan	2		\$660					
47	Marcela Leon	2		\$653					
48	Natalie Wong	2		\$639					
49	Kristin Dufour	2		\$612					
50	Kristina Tucker	2		\$575					

* a minimum of six tournaments is required to be eligible for the LPGA Exempt Card and Qualifying School Opportunity

Former FUTURES Phenomenal Finishes on the LPGA

The LPGA was idle last week and is idle this week. Next tournament is the LPGA Takefuji Classic April 14 - 16 in Las Vegas, Nev.

FUTURES Tour Tournament Schedule

Date	Tournament	Golf Course	Charity	Purse	Champion
March 11 - 13 Pro-am: March 9 & 10	Lakeland FUTURES Golf Classic	Cleveland Heights Golf Course 2900 Buckingham Avenue Lakeland, FL 33803 (863) 682-3277	The First Tee of Lakeland at YMCA Par 3	\$ 65,000	2005 Champion: Jin Young Pak
March 18 - 20 Pro-am: March 16 & 17	Tampa Bay FUTURES Golf Classic	East Lake Woodlands Golf & Country Club 1055 East Lake Woodlands Parkway Oldsmar, FL 34677 (727) 784-7270	Various Local Charities	\$ 65,000	2005 Champion: Sarah-Jane Kenyon
April 22 - 24 Pro-am: April 21	Jalapeno FUTURES Golf Classic	Palm View Municipal Golf Course P.O. Box 220 McAllen, TX 78505 (956) 688-3444	McAllen Hispanic Chamber of Commerce	\$ 70,000	Inaugural Event
April 29 - May 1 Pro-am: April 28	IOS FUTURES Golf Classic	Underwood Golf Complex, Sunrise Course 3200 Coe Avenue El Paso, TX 79904 (915) 562-7255	The Rotary Club of West El Paso Foundation	\$ 70,000	2004 Champion: Hong Mei Yang
May 6 - 8 Pro-am: May 5	Lawrence FUTURES Golf Classic	EagleBend Golf Course 1250 E. 902 Road Lawrence, KS 66047 (785) 748-0600	Various Local Charities	\$ 70,000	Inaugural Event
May 26 - 28 Pro-am: May 25	Northwest Indiana FUTURES Golf Classic presented by Horseshoe Casino Hammond	The New Innsbrook Country Club 6701 Taft Street Merrillville, IN 46410 (219) 980-9060	Lake Area United Way	\$ 70,000	2004 Champion: Naree Song
June 3 - 5 Pro-am: June 2	Quality Concepts Kankakee FUTURES Golf Classic	Kankakee Elks Country Club 2283 Bittersweet Drive Saint Anne, IL 60964 (815) 937-9547	Harbor House & The Illinois Elks Crippled Children's Corp	\$ 70,000	Inaugural Event
June 10 - 12 Pro-am: June 9	Lima Memorial Hospital	Lost Creek Country Club 2409 Lost Creek Boulevard Lima, OH 45804 (419) 228-8244	Lima Memorial Hospital Foundation	\$ 70,000	2004 Champion *Danielle Downey
June 17 - 19 Pro-am: June 15 & 16	Michelob ULTRA FUTURES Charity Golf Classic presented by Ameren and Miles Chevrolet	Hickory Point Golf Course 727 Weaver Road Forsyth, IL 62535 (217) 421-7444	Various Local Charities	\$ 70,000	2004 Champion: Aram Cho
June 24 - 26 Pro-am: June 23	Bank of Ann Arbor FUTURES Golf Classic	Lake Forest Golf Club 3110 W. Ellsworth Road Ann Arbor, MI 48103 (734) 994-8580	TBA	\$ 65,000	2004 Champion: Lindsey Wright
July 8 - 10 Pro-am: July 7	CIGNA Chip In For A Cure Connecticut FUTURES Golf Classic	Gillette Ridge Golf Club 1360 Hall Boulevard (RT 218) Bloomfield, CT 06002 (860) 726-1430	Chip In For A Cure	\$ 70,000	2004 Champion: Nicole Perrot
July 15 - 17 Pro-am: July 14	Albany FUTURES Pro Golf Classic	Capital Hills at Albany 65 O'Neil Road Albany, NY 12208 (518) 458-5689	Albany Police & Fire Foundation	\$ 70,000	2004 Champion: Nicole Perrot
July 22 - 24 Pro-am: July 21	Laconia Savings Bank FUTURES Golf Classic	Beaver Meadow Golf Course 1 Beaver Meadow Road Concord, NH 03301 (603) 228-8954	The Havenwood-Heritage Heights Trust Fund (Resident Support Fund)	\$ 65,000	2004 Champion: Erica Blasberg
July 29 - 31 Pro-am: July 28	M&T Bank Loretto FUTURES Golf Classic	The Links at Erie Village 5900 North Burdick Street Syracuse, NY 13507 (315) 656-4653	The Loretto Foundation	\$ 65,000	2004 Champion: Michelle Murphy
August 5 - 7 Pro-am: August 4	Children's Hospital FUTURES Golf Classic	Cross Creek Golf Club 12800 Bay Hill Drive Beltsville, MD 20705 (301) 595-8901	Children's National Medical Center Foundation	\$ 70,000	2004 Champion: *Courtney Wood
August 12 - 14 Pro-am: August 10 & 11	Betty Puskar FUTURES Golf Classic	The Pines Country Club 3062 Point Marion Road Morgantown, WV 26505 (304) 296-3462	Betty Puskar Breast Care Center	\$ 70,000	2004 Champion: Jimin Kang
August 19 - 21 Pro-am: August 18	Hunters Oak FUTURES Golf Classic	Hunters Oak Golf Club 500 Amberly Lane Queenstown, MD 21658 (410) 827-0800	TBA	\$ 65,000	2004 Champion: Smriti Mehra
August 26 - 28 Pro-am: August 24 & 25	YWCA FUTURES Classic	Regents' Glen Country Club 1000 Golf Club Drive York, PA 17403 (717) 505-4653	YWCA of York	\$ 75,000	2004 Champion: Malinda Johnson

*Rain-shortened to 36 holes