

FUTURES Tour
Alumnae--
Beth Bauer

Photo by: Donald Miralle/Getty Images
Courtesy of LPGA Tour

FUTURES Golf Tour News Release

APRIL 11, 2005

Sasha Medina Ready To Smooth Out Her Ride

Watching Sasha Medina play a round of golf is like watching a stunt plane responding to gravity. She comes ridiculously close to disaster, only to lift a nose, tilt a wing and spare herself from the fiery crash. On the golf course, all day she can be in the trees, buried in bunkers or teetering on tree roots and walk off the 18th green at two-under par with eight birdies.

That's Sasha Golf, complete with bogeys and doubles and 24 putts from the dark side of the moon. She specializes in raising heart rates and pulling off trash-queen saves just in the nick of time.

"I'm hard to watch and I drive my family crazy," said third-year pro Medina, 25 of Ponce, Puerto Rico. "I'm everywhere. I'm streaky. But I can make things happen even if I have to chip in from unbelievable places."

And she often does. The fast-talking, fast-walking Medina is an adrenalin junkie's dream. But while those nerve-jarring rounds have become her calling card on the FUTURES Golf Tour, Medina says she is now ready to level out — now ready for smoother sailing under less self-perpetuated turbulence on and off the course.

"I think Sasha totally fits what they say about touring pros," said good friend, Kim Adams of Tide Head, New Brunswick. "The first year on tour is all about getting your foot in the door. The second year is when you learn how to play consistently and learn how to win. The third year is when you break through."

Adams, Medina and Jan Dowling of Bradford, Ontario, all made 2003 their first full season on the FUTURES Tour. The three often travel and practice together. Laughter is a staple, especially as the geographically impaired Medina frequently strays on the highway and retraces her steps for lost objects on a regular basis.

"I'm always lost in the car and losing stuff," she admitted.

And of the three, she also is the one who feels the cold wind blowing on practice ranges more than her Canadian pals.

"The first year that we played in Lima [Ohio], it was freezing and Sasha, Olof [Jonsdottir of Iceland] and I were practicing at the range," said Adams. "She was on her cell phone talking to her boyfriend and I heard her tell him, 'I'm sitting here with a Canuck and a penguin. Why do you think I'm cold?' She's just really funny."

But behind the appearance of perpetual chaos and a reputation as a happy-go-lucky Latina who loves to sing and dance and long for her native mofongo — plantains stuffed with garlic and crab meat — is the pro who has played her way to the No. 8 spot on the 2005 Money List with a career-best tie for third at the Lakeland FUTURES Golf Classic. This is the same player who won four college titles while at New Mexico State University. This is the three-time All-Big West Conference First Team selection and the two-time individual conference champ. And this is the player who never ceases to amaze even her closest friends.

"She's got the talent, a great golf swing and the right attitude, and she doesn't miss many putts from inside of eight feet," said Dowling. "Maybe it's taken a few years, but she knows it's now time to get on with it."

(SEE Medina, PAGE 2)

This Week:

The FUTURES Tour is idle this week.

Next Week:

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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Medina was destined to play golf, just as she seemingly was destined to become something of a comedienne. Her mother went into labor with Sasha while she and her husband were playing a round of golf. During the delivery, Sasha's mom lost consciousness, prompting her father and her aunt to name the new baby girl.

"Let me just tell you that every single dog in Puerto Rico is named Sasha, so in school, kids would see me coming and say, 'Sasha, the dog!'" said Sasha the golfer.

But Medina's connection with golf continued when her father put a club in her hands at age 3, and it flourished during the many afternoons they spent hitting golf balls on baseball fields. The closest course to her home in Puerto Rico's second largest city was 40 minutes away, so Medina's targets were a little wider than most other players during those formative years.

Only Chi Chi Rodriguez had emerged from her island as a star golfer, so Medina took some lessons from the star's brother, Jesus Rodriguez, and spent hours and hours at home watching a Cybervision video tape of LPGA star Patty Sheehan. Between her dad and her teacher, she developed sound fundamentals, but when she watched the videotape, the youngster began to dream of new possibilities for herself as a touring professional.

"Nancy Lopez was an icon on the LPGA Tour, but Patty Sheehan was my role model when I was nine years old," said Medina. "I loved her classic golf swing and I wanted my swing to be like hers. Everybody said, 'Maybe you can grow up to be like Nancy Lopez,' but I just wanted to be me."

Medina focused and worked and earned a college scholarship. In college, the "feel player" became one of New Mexico State's top starters. After graduating, she turned professional in 2001 and played in two FUTURES Tour tournaments. But the death of her father that same year threw Medina into a tailspin. She put her golf clubs down and spent the rest of the year waiting tables in Vero Beach, Fla., barely touching a club.

"When my dad passed away, I was like, 'Oh my god, who am I?'" she said. "I didn't know if I wanted to keep playing golf for myself. My father always told me to follow my dream. So it became kind of a life quest. I knew that I needed to find out if it was really *my* dream."

After her nearly year-long sabbatical from golf, Medina struggled to regain form. But by the ninth tournament in 2003 — that event in Lima that had her shivering earlier in the week — the player had focused enough to post a fourth-place finish. It was the best of her young professional career at that time.

"I think Sasha has matured a lot with her father dying," said Adams. "And because of her personality, people don't always take her seriously. But she knows the game and that girl can play. She's not scared of shooting low numbers and it's not an uncommon place for her to be."

Still, Medina would give herself a "C" grade for her career, so far. But just as she needed an adjustment period in college, she believes she has had to allow time

for growth on the FUTURES Tour. She still struggles with erratic shots. She still aspires to "have a level head" and play the kind of golf that doesn't elicit applause from the gallery because of her daredevil bailouts.

"I need to learn to be consistent every week and not get crazy out there like I do," she said. "I'll probably never be as serious as people think I should act when I play. I do take it seriously, but maybe it's part of my culture to be like I am. At least I'm not as bad as Lee Trevino."

Medina is now working with teaching professional Sam Zimmerly in Albuquerque, N.M., who teaches LPGA Tour pro Dorothy Delasin. One of Zimmerly's biggest tasks is helping the young FUTURES Tour pro understand her swing and know how to fix it when she's playing tournament golf.

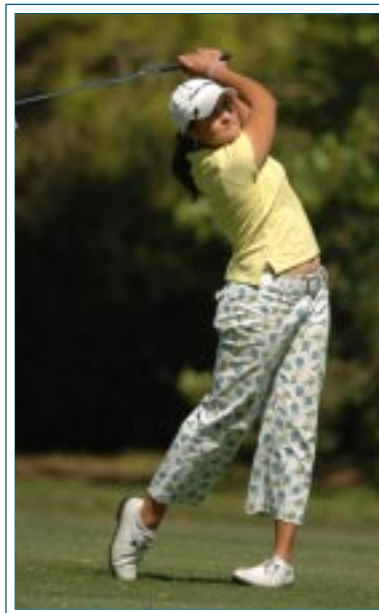
But more than mechanics is what lies deep in Medina's heart. She knows she has the goods to stay in the top 10 on the Tour's money list. She knows she has the desire to move into the top five and ultimately earn one of the five 2006 LPGA Tour cards at season's end.

And she knows that if she could pull off that final courageous act, Sasha Medina would emerge as the respected professional she hopes to be rather than the comic of the practice tee or the Palpitation Queen of Ponce.

Tour Chat

FUTURES Tour members **BRANDI JACKSON** of Greenville, S.C., and **DANAH FORD** of Indianapolis earned sponsor's exemptions into the LPGA's Franklin American Mortgage Championship, set for April 25 through May 1. Jackson and Ford competed in the first-ever Sponsor's Invitational on March 29, at Vanderbilt Legends Club in Franklin, Tenn. The two sponsor's exemptions for the LPGA tournament were awarded to the first- and second-place finishers in the Invitational. Jackson earned a spot in the field with an even-par 72, while Ford took the second spot with a one-over par 73...

MIRIAM NAGL of Germany, a member of the 2005 FUTURES Tour and a former LPGA Tour card winner in 2002, finished second last week at the Tenerife Ladies Open on the Ladies European Tour. Nagl fired rounds of 69-69-69-70 to finish at 11-under-par 277. Former FUTURES Tour member **KATIE BAKKEN** of Minnesota finished tied for eighth.



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 Fitcher	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 Busuttill	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

Top Alumnae Finishes on the LPGA

The LPGA was idle last week. This week watch the FUTURES Tour alumnae at the LPGA Takefuji Classic 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