



# WEEKLY NEWS RELEASE

1643 Williamsburg Square Lakeland, Florida 33803 (863) 709-9100

Duramed FUTURES Tour Weekly News Release  
May 22, 2006  
By: Lisa D. Mickey

\*\*The Weekly News Release is available on our web site at  
<http://www.duramedfuturestour.com/News/WR052206.pdf>.

1. Two Chinese Players Hope To Influence Others Back Home
2. Foundation 4 Success Winner
3. Tour Chat
4. Quote of the Week
5. Upcoming Tournament Previews
6. Duramed FUTURES Tour Official Money List
7. Top Duramed FUTURES Alumnae Finishes on the LPGA
8. 2006 Duramed FUTURES Tour Schedule

## **1. Two Chinese Players Hope To Influence Others Back Home**

When Hong Mei Yang of the People's Republic of China won the 2004 IOS FUTURES Golf Classic in El Paso, Texas, the belief was that China would be the next frontier for top players in women's golf. So far, that has not happened.

But according to Jerry Wong, director of golf instruction at Oak Valley Golf Academy in Beaumont, Calif., "They are coming."

"Right now, it might not look like so many Chinese players are here, but we are working with them in China and there will be some brand new players here in two to three years," said Wong, who helped bring Yang to the United States in 2003.

Now that Yang has returned home to Sichuan to start a family, two Chinese players currently competing on the Duramed FUTURES Tour hope to experience the same success that Yang had here in 2004. Rookies Kuan-Pei "Becky" Chen, 20, of Taipei, Taiwan, and Anna Yu, 40, of Hong Kong, have come to the United States from completely different paths and with two decades between them. But their dream is the same -- to ultimately compete at the highest level and raise awareness for their sport back home.

Yu was a member of Hong Kong's National Team in shooting for more than 20 years. She pointed her pistol at targets successfully in the Asian Games, the Commonwealth Games and at the Southeast Asian Games. She also was a successful amateur golfer, representing Hong Kong in the 2001-2004 Sirikit Cup. But eventually, Yu had to make a choice between the two.

"In shooting, I was up there, but in golf, I had a long way to go," she said. "When I trained my shooting muscles, my golf muscles didn't work and when I trained my golf muscles, my shooting muscles didn't work. I couldn't do both, so I gave myself five years to focus only in golf and see where it will go."

Chen began playing golf at age 8, and won two tournaments in 2002, including the China Women's Amateur Championship. She also won the 2003 Chinese Taipei University Golf Championship during her one year at Taipei Physical Education College. An avid table tennis player, she opted for golf because she could make a living in the game and turned professional in February 2005.

"Amateur talent is very small at home and if I play a tournament, it's not a big challenge," said Chen. "So I turned professional."

Yu has played in three tournaments and has not yet made a 36-hole cut, but she has trimmed strokes dramatically in each round since her first event in McAllen, Texas. Chen has made the cut in all four tournaments she has played this year and finished fourth in El Paso for her season-best performance. At the Tour's last event in Tucson, Ariz., she fired a six-under-par 64 in the second round.

"Becky has a lot of potential to get to the LPGA," said Wong, of his student who has been in America for about one year. "Right now, her biggest goal is to get used to the new culture. Before her mother got here to travel with her, she was just wandering around, a little lost."

As for Yu, Wong noted her solid amateur experience, but said Yu still needs more experience as a professional. And because of her work ethic, he doesn't see her having any problem making the transition.

"Anna has a lot of energy and she's willing to spend hours and hours out there practicing," said Wong. "Her desire to play well is greater than anybody's."

Perhaps some of that comes from her competitive nature in shooting, a target-oriented sport that also required her to manage pressure and her emotions to hit her mark. Yu is a teaching professional who is an LPGA member in Taiwan. She won the World Golf Teacher's Cup in Brazil in February 2005.

But Yu also has experienced success in another field. A fashion designer, she designed and manufactured women's apparel for 10 years in her factory and created the Anna Yu Collection, which included a line of evening dresses, business suits and even hand-knit crocheted items, which were sold abroad in Europe and in the U.S.

"I was very happy to see so many of my clothes worn by ladies in Paris, London and New York," said Yu. "But when I started playing golf at the end of 1997, and then seriously in 2000, I closed the factory. I will have this opportunity only once."

Yu's husband is in Hong Kong and her 18-year-old son is in college in London. And Yu, who says she still loves fashion, is "crazy about golf."

"I still go to the department stores to look at the fashions, the colors, and the fabrics to see what is selling, but I'm enjoying every minute of playing golf," she said.

Chen points to Taiwan compatriots Yu Ping Lin, Candie Kung, Teresa Lu and Amy Hung -- all members of the LPGA Tour -- as players she hopes to follow. Only Kung has won on the LPGA Tour (three times).

But just as Hong Mei Yang's 2004 win stateside drew much attention back home in China, Chen hopes her compatriots are interested in her progress this year on the Duramed FUTURES Tour. When asked if she feels any pressure in being one of only a few professionals from China playing in America, Chen smiled.

"They are watching, of course, and there is some pressure," she said. "I think it would be a surprise to everybody if I could win here, but it could help develop better golf for juniors [in China]. Maybe some others will come here and try to do the same thing."

That's what Yang did two years ago. Yu was in California working on her game when Yang became the first Chinese player -- male or female -- to win a professional tournament in the United States.

"A lot of people knew about it in Hong Kong and China because it was in the newspapers," said Yu. "Other girls thought, 'I can do that, too.' Now, many are chasing their dreams and making this their target."

Yu should know all about targets. But golf still is not an easy sport to play in China. In Hong Kong alone, there are 100 private golf courses and one public course. To play costs \$200 per round. For Yu to drive to her club, Mission Hills Country Club, it takes "40 minutes if the [Chinese] border is not busy," she said. Her club has 10 courses, including one designed by Annika Sorenstam. From a price standpoint, it is not a facility available to the masses.

A large factor in China's current lack of widespread golf participation has to do with government support. According to Yu, the government supports sports in Mainland China in which the government can see an end result -- such as Olympic sports or basketball in the NBA. In Hong Kong, sport has more of a recreational focus.

"China is still a little bit different than other Asian countries," said Yu. "Korea's golf history is longer and it's a well-known sport throughout the country. In China and Hong Kong, people still can't see what the benefit of playing golf is to them."

A worldly woman who writes about her experiences in America for a magazine back home in Hong Kong, Yu affirms that change is taking place even though it is slow. Hong Kong Bank and China Mobile, for example, are now offering sponsorship dollars for professional tournaments. Other large companies are sure to follow, especially as more Chinese players have success in high-visibility competition worldwide and bring tournaments back to Asia.

"There's still a big gap [in what China spends on golf], compared to Korea, Japan and Thailand, but it's catching up," she said. "I have lots of connections and I ask for help to support Hong Kong women's golf."

Both women hope they can someday move on to the LPGA Tour to compete at the highest level. Not only is it their respective dreams, but both also believe it could nurture the dreams of others.

"I want to prove myself and play on the LPGA," said Chen. "I want to join Candie [Kung] and Ping [Lin]."

"I must do my best and try to be a good model for others," added Yu. "If we do well, it helps give more power to develop golf for women back home. That is my dream. I want to share my experience."

## **2. Foundation 4 Success**

Charlotte Mayorkas of Las Vegas was named as the Duramed FUTURES Tour's Foundation 4 Success second series winner following the Tucson Duramed FUTURES Golf Classic. Mayorkas won a cash award of \$500 and a Duramed FUTURES Tour logo golf bag for the four-tournament series. The new program will name five series winners this season, determined as the leading money winner in each series.

## **3. Tour Chat**

Duramed FUTURES Tour alumna **LORENA OCHOA** of Mexico won her second tournament of the 2006 season with her victory at the Sybase Classic last weekend at Wykagyl Country Club in New Rochelle, N.Y. With her win, Ochoa returns to the top of the LPGA's

season money list with earnings of more than \$1.1 million after 10 events... Ochoa matched final-round scores of 66 (-5) with Duramed FUTURES Tour alumna **KYEONG BAE** of Korea, who tied for second. **ALLISON HANNA** of Portland, Ore., who played on the Duramed FUTURES Tour in 2004-2005, finished fourth at the Sybase Classic. It was a career-best finish for both Bae and Hanna, playing in their rookie seasons as exempt LPGA Tour professionals. Last year's 2005 FUTURES Tour Player of the Year, **SEON-HWA LEE** of Korea, finished tied for 11<sup>th</sup>. Lee currently leads the LPGA's 2006 top rookie race...

With the Duramed FUTURES Tour idle last week and this week, several Tour members traveled to Europe to compete in last week's Deutsche Bank Ladies' Swiss Open in Losone, Switzerland. Tour member **LISA HALL** of Stoke-on-Trent, England finished third at 277. Other Duramed FUTURES Tour members who posted solid finishes were: **ANNA RAWSON** of Adelaide, Australia, 285; **SAMANTHA HEAD** of Bedford, England, 286; **ANNA KNUTSSON** of Malmo, Sweden, 289; and **NIKKI GARRETT** of New South Wales, Australia, 293...

It's official. **IN-BEE PARK** of Las Vegas earned her high school diploma and graduated with her class at Bishop Gorman High School in Las Vegas last Sunday. Fellow 17-year-old **ANGELA PARK**, a senior at Torrance High School in Torrance, Calif., will skip her high school graduation ceremonies on June 21st, which will be held during the week of the Lima Memorial Hospital FUTURES Classic...

#### 4. Quote of the Week

"It's a bit like riding a bike. You don't forget."

-Lisa Hall of Stoke-on-Trent, England, a Duramed FUTURES Tour member of her third-round lead in last week's Deutsche Bank Ladies Swiss Open in Switzerland

#### 5. Upcoming Tournament Previews

**The Duramed FUTURES Tour is idle this week.**

##### **NEXT WEEK:**

Aurora Health Care Championship  
June 2-4  
Geneva National Golf Club  
Lake Geneva, Wis.

This is the Tour's inaugural tournament at Geneva National and is the first women's professional golf event in Wisconsin since 2003. All six tournament winners from the 2006 season will be in the field, hoping to win at this new venue. They are: top-ranked and two-time season winner Song-Hee Kim of Seoul, Korea; Meaghan Francella of Port Chester, N.Y.; Ashley Prange of Noblesville, Ind.; Hye Jung Choi of Seoul, Korea; Kristy McPherson of Conway, S.C., and Charlotte Mayorkas of Las Vegas. This is the eighth of 19 tournaments on the Tour's 2006 schedule.

Purse: \$85,000  
Winner: \$11,900  
Runner-up: \$8,500  
Pro-Ams: June 1

Par: 72  
Format: 54 holes  
Field: 144 players  
Golf Shop: (262) 245-7000

##### **IN TWO WEEKS:**

Team WLF.org Golf Classic  
June 9-11  
Kankakee Elks Country Club  
Saint Anne, Ill.

The second of a five-city Midwestern-states swing and the ninth event on the Duramed FUTURES Tour's 2006 schedule will return for a second year to Kankakee. A new champion will be crowned since last year's winner, Nicole Castrale, moved on to the 2006 LPGA Tour.

Purse: \$70,000  
 Winner: \$9,800  
 Runner-up: \$7,000  
 Pro-Am: June 8

Par: 72  
 Format: 54 holes  
 Field: 144 players  
 Golf Shop:(815) 937-9547

#### 6. Duramed FUTURES Tour Official Money List

(Thru \$75,000 Tucson Duramed FUTURES Golf Classic)

Rank	Player	Events	Wins	Earnings
1	Song-Hee Kim	6	2	\$29,419
2	*Charlotte Mayorkas	5	1	\$21,218
3	Ashley Prange	7	1	\$17,703
4	Allison Fouch	6		\$17,525
5	Sarah Huarte	7		\$17,500
6	Hye Jung Choi	7	1	\$17,232
7	Cristina Baena	7		\$16,548
8	Kristy McPherson	7	1	\$15,684
9	*Angela Park	4		\$13,985
10	Meaghan Francella	6	1	\$13,380
11	Stephanie George	7		\$10,045
12	Annie Young	7		\$9,402
13	*In-Bee Park	5		\$9,048
14	*Karen Dennison	5		\$8,785
15	Jin Young Pak	7		\$8,619
16	Seul Ki Kim	7		\$8,013
17	Marie-Josée Rouleau	6		\$7,850
18	Samantha Head	5		\$7,567
19	Sarah-Jane Kenyon	7		\$7,163
20	Danielle Downey	4		\$6,678
21	Lori Atsedes	7		\$6,602
22	Randi Meadows	7		\$6,489
23	Su A Kim	7		\$6,220
24	Rachel Bailey	7		\$6,197
25	Sarah Lynn Johnston	7		\$5,807
26	Kuan-Pei Chen	4		\$5,501
27	Kelly Lagedrost	4		\$5,341
28	Jeanne Cho	6		\$5,171
29	Lee-Anne Pace	5		\$5,039
30	Lisa Ferrero	7		\$5,023
31	Lisa Hall	6		\$4,910
32	Mollie Fankhauser	7		\$4,871
33	Bo Mi Suh	6		\$4,601
34	Danah Ford	6		\$4,568
35	Teresa Lu	1		\$4,510
36	Lisa Fernandes	5		\$4,344
37	Kristen Samp	7		\$4,335
38	Mo Martin	7		\$4,224
39	Stella Lee	7		\$4,131
40	Ha-Na Chae	7		\$3,844
41	Nikki Garrett	2		\$3,822
42	Sarah Martin	7		\$3,748
43	Mayumi Nakajima	6		\$3,741
44	Bridget Dwyer	7		\$3,708

45	Brandi Jackson	7	\$3,545
46	Sarah Graham	5	\$3,219
47	Salimah Mussani	4	\$3,216
48	Smriti Mehra	7	\$3,180
49	Kristin Dufour	7	\$3,093
50	Erin Kerr	3	\$3,044

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

\*\*To view the remainder of the money list please visit the Duramed FUTURES Tour web site at [www.duramedfuturestour.com](http://www.duramedfuturestour.com)

#### 7. Top Duramed FUTURES Alumnae Finishes on the LPGA

Finish	Player	Score	Money
1	Lorena Ochoa	208 (-5)	\$195,000
T2	Kyeong Bae	210 (-3)	\$103,431
4	Allison Hanna	211 (-2)	\$67,281
T9	Julieta Granada	214 (+1)	\$27,897
T9	Jill McGill	214 (+1)	\$27,897
T11	Beth Bauer	215 (+2)	\$23,040
T11	Laura Diaz	215 (+2)	\$23,040
T11	Seon Hwa Lee	215 (+2)	\$23,040

Check out other Duramed FUTURES Tour alumnae scores in last week's Sybase Classic at Wykagyl Country Club in New Rochelle, N.Y., at [LPGA.com](http://LPGA.com).

#### 8. 2006 Duramed FUTURES Tour Schedule

**March 10 - 12 Lakeland Duramed FUTURES Classic \$70,000**  
 Cleveland Heights Golf Course -- Lakeland, Fla.  
 To Benefit: The First Tee of Lakeland at YMCA Par 3  
 2006 Champion: Meaghan Francella of Port Chester, N.Y.

**March 17 - 19 Greater Tampa Duramed FUTURES Classic \$70,000**  
 Summerfield Crossings Golf Club -- Riverview, Fla.  
 To Benefit: Mary and Martha House  
 2006 Champion: Ashley Prange of Noblesville, Ind.

**April 7 - 9 Louisiana FUTURES Classic \$75,000**  
 The Wetlands -- Lafayette, La.  
 To Benefit: CASA of Acadiana, CADENCE of Acadiana & Goodwill Industries of Acadiana  
 2006 Champion: Song-Hee Kim of Seoul, Korea

**April 21 - 23 The Power of a Dream FUTURES Golf Classic \$75,000**  
 The Trails of Frisco Golf Club -- Frisco, Texas  
 To Benefit: Various Local Charities  
 2006 Champion: Hye Jung Choi of Seoul, Korea

**April 28 - 30 Jalapeno FUTURES Golf Classic \$70,000**  
 Palm View Municipal Golf Course -- McAllen, Texas  
 To Benefit: McAllen Hispanic Chamber of Commerce  
 2006 Champion: Kristy McPherson of Conway, S.C.

**May 5 - 7 IOS FUTURES Golf Classic \$75,000**  
 Underwood Golf Complex, Sunrise Course -- El Paso, Texas

To Benefit: Rotary Club of West El Paso Foundation  
2006 Champion: Song-Hee Kim of Seoul, Korea

<b>May 12 - 14</b>	<b>Tucson Duramed FUTURES Golf Classic</b>	<b>\$75,000</b>
<b>presented by: ABC Foundation</b>		
Dell Urich at Tucson Golf Complex -- Tucson, Ariz. To Benefit: Various Local Charities 2006 Champion: Charlotte Mayorkas of Las Vegas, Nev.		
<b>June 2 - 4</b>	<b>Aurora Health Care Championship</b>	<b>\$85,000</b>
Geneva National Golf Club -- Lake Geneva, Wis. To Benefit: Geneva National Foundation, Aurora Health Care		
<b>June 9 - 11</b>	<b>Team WLF.org Golf Classic</b>	<b>\$70,000</b>
Kankakee Elks Country Club -- Saint Anne, Ill. To Benefit: Harbor House & The Illinois Elks Crippled Children's Corp		
<b>June 15 - 18</b>	<b>Michelob ULTRA FUTURES Players Championship</b>	<b>\$100,000</b>
<b>presented by Ameren and Miles Chevrolet</b>		
Hickory Point Golf Course -- Decatur, Ill. To Benefit: Various Local Charities		
<b>June 23 - 25</b>	<b>Lima Memorial Hospital FUTURES Classic</b>	<b>\$70,000</b>
Lost Creek Country Club -- Lima, Ohio To Benefit: Lima Memorial Hospital Foundation		
<b>June 30 - July 2</b>	<b>Northwest Indiana FUTURES Golf Classic</b>	<b>\$75,000</b>
<b>presented by Horseshoe Casino Hammond</b>		
Lost Marsh Golf Course - Hammond, Ind. To Benefit: TBA		
<b>July 14 - 16</b>	<b>CIGNA Chip In For A Cure FUTURES Golf Classic</b>	<b>\$70,000</b>
Gillette Ridge Golf Club -- Bloomfield, Conn. To Benefit: Chip In For A Cure		
<b>July 21 - 23</b>	<b>Syracuse FUTURES Golf Classic</b>	<b>\$70,000</b>
The Links at Erie Village -- Syracuse, N. Y. To Benefit: The Loretto Foundation		
<b>August 4 - 6</b>	<b>Laconia Savings Bank Golf Classic</b>	<b>\$70,000</b>
Beaver Meadow Golf Course -- Concord, N. H. To Benefit: The Havenwood-Heritage Heights Trust Fund (Resident Support Fund)		
<b>August 11 - 13</b>	<b>Betty Puskar FUTURES Golf Classic</b>	<b>\$75,000</b>
The Pines Country Club -- Morgantown, W. Va. To Benefit: Betty Puskar Breast Care Center		
<b>August 18 - 20</b>	<b>Hunters Oak FUTURES Golf Classic</b>	<b>\$70,000</b>
Hunters Oak Golf Club -- Queenstown, Md. To Benefit: TBD		
<b>August 25 - 27</b>	<b>The Gettysburg Championship</b>	<b>\$75,000</b>
<b>presented by Klein Builders Inc., and Hanover Honda</b>		
The Links At Gettysburg - Gettysburg, Pa. To Benefit: United Way of Adams County		
<b>September 8 - 10</b>	<b>ILOVENY Championship</b>	<b>\$85,000</b>
<b>at Capital Hills Golf Course at Albany</b>		
Capital Hills at Albany -- Albany, N. Y.		

To Benefit: Albany Police & Fire Foundation

Contact: Lisa D. Mickey, director of communications, Duramed FUTURES Tour at (863) 709-9100 ext. 2 or [lisa@duramedfuturestour.com](mailto:lisa@duramedfuturestour.com).