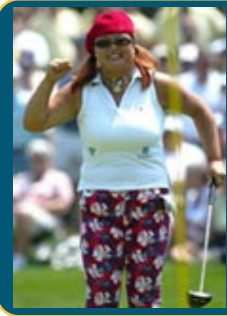


FUTURES Golf Tour News Release



FUTURES Tour
Alumnae -
Christina Kim

Photo By: Jamie Squire/Getty Images
Courtesy of the LPGA

Life On the Road: A Look at the 2005 FUTURES Tour Season September 6, 2005
By: Lisa D. Mickey

Spend 18 weeks on the road in 15 states with 144 young women professionals of the FUTURES Golf Tour and you can't help but learn a few things. These are the 20-somethings who eat, sleep and dream about this game. Their average age is 25. Their common goal is to advance to the LPGA Tour.

But en route to that goal, these young pros must successfully transition from collegiate and amateur golf into the professional ranks. On the FUTURES Tour, these players learn to travel, live on a budget, figure out when and how to schedule off-weeks and learn to string together three solid rounds to earn a decent paycheck. For international players, the season is all about learning a new language, new culture and food, as well as different grasses and climates.

Regardless of their origin, the process of becoming an LPGA Tour member could be considered a marathon, but with only 18 tournaments to earn one of five fully exempt LPGA Tour cards at season's end, the FUTURES Tour is probably better described as a sprint. Most often, success equates to which player comes out of the blocks the fastest to collect an entire season of top-10 finishes. Those players with the best and most top results are the ones who "graduate" to the LPGA Tour.

Rookie teenager Jin Young Pak of Korea was the first to win back in March, followed a week later by another rookie, Sarah-Jane Kenyon of Australia. But all eyes were watching Virada "Oui" Nirapathpongporn -- the former U.S. Women's Amateur champion and NCAA champion from Duke University. The former All-American from Bangkok, Thailand, by way of the David Leadbetter Golf

Academy in Bradenton, Fla., joined the FUTURES Tour after the 2004 NCAA Championship. But even NP3, as she often was listed on leaderboards, needed time to adjust. And in her second season, she won the Tour's third event in McAllen, Texas.

A newcomer to the schedule, McAllen brought a Texas-sized enthusiasm to the FUTURES Tour that started when the staff arrived early in the week and were handed "Border Buttermilks" by city greeters. (For the record, this beverage is called a Margarita in other places.) A border town with a sizeable Mexican-American population, McAllen rolled out the red carpet and turned the Tour on to machacado (breakfast) tacos and an enthusiasm that made it the only Tour stop that required the assistance of a large, strapping young "blocker" to help get the champion, Nirapathpongporn, to the 18th-green awards ceremony. Eager autograph seekers, many of whom had never seen live professional golf, held out Sharpies and snapped photos when the Thai star gamely bit into one of the ceremonial jalapeno peppers stuffed inside her crystal trophy. It was the beginning of a new tradition for the Jalapeno FUTURES Golf Classic in South Texas.

Of course, when you take adventurous 20-somethings to a border town, they are going to explore the other side of the border. The first clue was player Rachel Bates carrying a small, pink guitar in the El Paso airport, which she bought for \$7. Hey, what's a woman from Tennessee without a guitar? Bates confirmed that she missed her strings.

Players battled the wind in El Paso. They also marveled at the guys in Army fatigues who showed up early in the week to hit balls in their combat boots during lunch hour. Situated on the Ft. Bliss military

In November:

**FUTURES Golf Tour
Qualifying Tournament
November 8 - 11
Cleveland Heights Golf Course
Huntington Hills Golf & C. C.
Lakeland, Fla.**

**Format: 72 holes
Field: 312-player maximum
Contact Information: (863) 709-9100, Ext. 4**

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base, the course featured desert conditions on rock-hard soil with blinding sand, but Korean second-year player Kyeong Bae captured her first FUTURES Tour win here with her own grit and precision execution.

In May, it was spring in Kansas. The snakes were out and the wind was up. But Tour veteran Lori Atsedes of New York showed the patience in Lawrence, Kan., to win her sixth FUTURES Tour event in her career. Then it was on to the double-double portion of the year where Californian Nicole Castrale put together back-to-back wins in Merrillville, Ind., and Kankakee, Ill., only to be followed by pint-size Floridian Jenny Gleason, who added her own consecutive wins in Lima, Ohio and Decatur, Ill. Gleason's win in Decatur put the cap on a week in which this 21-year tournament host announced that its 2006 event would become the Tour's first major championship, featuring a \$100,000 purse and a 72-hole format.

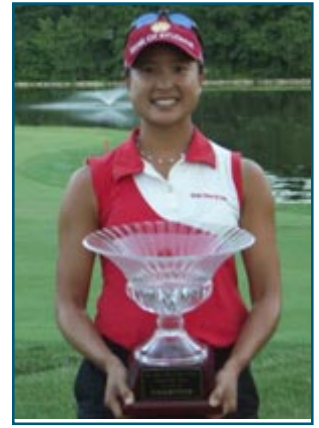
Colombian Cristina Baena notched her first professional win in Ann Arbor, Mich., on the same week that former FUTURES Tour player Ju "Birdie" Kim won the U.S. Women's Open Championship. Kim had won the Ann Arbor tournament in 2003, earned her 2004 LPGA card as a top-five money winner on the FUTURES Tour, and then cashed in on the biggest title in women's golf. FUTURES Tour players cheered for Baena's win in Ann Arbor, then ran to the TV set in the clubhouse to cheer for Kim, their former peer, as she won the Open. Baena, by the way, started something. The next week, her sister Marisa Baena, won her first title on the LPGA Tour.

In the second half of the season, the Tour's top tier began to move into place. Nirapathpongporn added a second win in Bloomfield, Conn., while Bae added her second season title in Concord, N.H. But Korea's Seon Hwa Lee, a 19-year-old second-year FUTURES Tour member who had won twice on the Korean LPGA Tour, finally closed out her first professional title in America at the Tour's tournament in Albany, N.Y. Lee quietly collected 13 top-10 finishes in 18 events, including her win in New York, two seconds and four third-place finishes. She easily grabbed the Tour's Player of the Year honor as the top money winner.

While the season's multiple winners contended throughout the year, several other players stepped up to win late as the calendar weeks ticked by. Tour veteran Kim Brozer of Canada, 35, held off the kids to win her first FUTURES Tour event in nine years. Then Michigander Cortney Reno held off hard-charging rookie Julieta Granada of Paraguay to win her first FUTURES Tour tournament in Beltsville, Md., on a course with more environmentally sensitive areas than Saabs in the Bloomfield, Conn., parking lot. Reno, a self-avowed Jimmy Buffet Parrothead, admitted that she was singing K.C. and the Sunshine Band's "Do A Little Dance" retro tune in her head when she copped her first win.

The final sandwich was rookie Sun Young Yoo's win in hilly Morgantown, W. Va., where the 18-year-old Korean showed uncanny poise and ability from tee to green. Truthfully, the likeable teen doesn't even realize how talented she is. Then there was veteran Stephanie George of Pennsylvania, who has battled a kidney ailment since

late 2004, who won for the first time since 2003 in Queenstown, Md., on a difficult links-style course that demanded accuracy. The non-exempt LPGA Tour member demonstrated the same courage on the golf course that she has used this season during waves of constant nausea and double vision caused by the medication for her ailment. And just when it looked as if Nirapathpongporn would cap off her FUTURES Tour tenure with a third win, Granada, yet another 18-year-old rookie and graduate of the David Leadbetter Golf Academy, birdied her last four holes to grab the season's final tournament title in York, Pa.



Virada Nirapathpongporn win in Conn.

Truly, 2005 was a season of young teen talent flexing its collective muscle, while a handful of veterans stepped up on the courses and in the conditions where patience overshadowed youthful fearlessness. The balance caused both sides to pay attention to each other all year.

"Don't think these kids don't know what they are doing," said veteran Amy Langhals of Kalida, Ohio, who announced her retirement from the Tour after nine seasons.

Indeed. They might spend a lot of time clutching Blackberries and cell phones as if they were their umbilical cords to the world. They might share downloads on their iPods with the same fervor of a stoked Dick Clark rocking in the New Year. And even those serious, parent-shepherded Korean players who appear to be all business on the golf course, sometimes cut loose with cameras and picture phones and giggle like girls when the day is done.

These also were the young professionals who passed a hat among themselves to take up a collection for a FUTURES Tour staff member when the Tour's truck was stolen from in front of the host hotel in Beltsville, Md. All of the staffer's clothes and personal items disappeared with the truck and the players wanted to do *something*.

(SEE Season 2, PAGE 3)

Top Alumnae Finishes on the LPGA

Finish	Player	Score	Money
2	Cristie Kerr	274 (-14)	\$117,373
T3	Heather Bowie	275 (-13)	\$ 75,507
T9	Sung Ah Yim	278 (-10)	\$ 25,683
T9	Moira Dunn	278 (-10)	\$ 25,683
T9	Audra Burks	278 (-10)	\$ 25,683
T9	Aree Song	278 (-10)	\$ 25,683
T9	Kim Williams	278 (-10)	\$ 25,683

**Check out where our FUTURES Tour alums placed at last week's State Farm Classic in Springfield, Ill., at lpga.com.

FUTURES Tour News & Notes

Solheim Cup Kicks Off

The 2005 Solheim Cup will hold its opening ceremonies Thursday with competition set for Friday, Saturday and Sunday at Crooked Stick Golf Club in Carmel, Ind. The biennial team match-play event will feature the top 12 women professionals from Europe and the United States. The American team currently leads the series 5-3, but the Europeans, who won the 2003 Cup in Sweden, hope to become the first team to win on American soil.

Friday's competition will open with morning foursome matches, followed by afternoon four-ball matches. Foursomes and four-ball matches will continue on Saturday, followed by 12 singles matches on Sunday. In this year's event, former FUTURES Tour members on the U.S. team include: Laura (Philo) Diaz, Rosie Jones, Meg Mallon, Cristie Kerr, Christina Kim, Michele Redman and the 2005 FUTURES Tour Qualifying Tournament co-medalist Paula Creamer, this year's LPGA Rookie of the Year. From the European side, former FUTURES Tour member Laura Davies is the only player who has competed in every Solheim Cup event since the competition's inaugural year in 1990.

Be sure to check out www.futurestour.com this week for daily-wrap stories from the 2005 Solheim Cup.

Former Player Newest FUTURES Tour Staff Member

Kirsten Haake, who competed on the FUTURES Golf Tour for five years from 1997 - 2001, joins the FUTURES Tour staff today as Manager of Administrative Services. She is responsible for the general office management of the Tour's headquarters, including player administration and finances.

The University of Kentucky graduate previously worked in marketing and sales in Lakeland, Fla. She lives with her husband, Chris, and eight-month old daughter, Laurel.

"We are pleased to have Kirsten join our staff," said Zayra F. Calderon, president and chief executive officer of the FUTURES Tour. "Having been a player on the Tour, Kirsten will bring a unique insight to the organization. She will also be able to understand and relate really well with our players."

Tour Chat

The second annual Killington Skins Game was held last week at Killington Golf Club in Killington, Vt. The event brought together members of the FUTURES Golf Tour for a one-day pro-am, then to compete in a Skins Game to raise funds to benefit the Jeff Hadley ALS Fund. Finishing first in the Skins Game were FUTURES Tour members **MEREDITH DUNCAN** of Shreveport, La., and **BRANDI JACKSON** of Greenville, S.C...The first stage of the LPGA Sectional Qualifying Tournament will be held Sept. 20-23 at Mission Hills Country Club in Rancho Mirage, Calif. The qualifying event will feature 201 players in a 72-hole format. After four rounds, the top 30 players and ties will advance to the LPGA's Final Qualifying

Tournament in December... FUTURES Tour alumna **REILLEY RANKIN** of Hilton Head Island, S.C., will be inducted into the Hilton Head High Athletics Hall of Fame this week. Rankin earned her LPGA Tour card by finishing among the top five money winners in 2003.

(Season 2, FROM PAGE 2)

[The truck was recovered two days later in another town but no personal items were found.] These were the players who consoled their peers through death and heartbreak. And these were the players who laughed at themselves and what they were able to grab in a hurry whenever a hotel fire alarm went off and pajama-wearing golf pros with golf bags on their shoulders and passports in their hands found themselves staring at each other out on the street. Oh sure, there were the antics -- as in Ann Arbor, when rookie Perry Swenson of North Carolina traded her skort and palm-tree motif golf outfit with Tara Bateman for a day. Bateman, of Phoenix, wore the skort and Swenson wore Bateman's long, baggy plaid shorts.

But the FUTURES Tour is where young professionals become savvy and secure in their understanding of what they can do with a golf club in their hands. It is where the veterans show the teens how to stay calm in the wind. It is where the teens remind the veterans that winners don't know fear. It is where former college players learn that over-par rounds don't make tournament cuts and players who don't make cuts, don't earn paychecks. It is where kids from Florida learn to hit that Texas knockdown shot into the wind. It is where every player learns to play quickly or suffer the penalty.

The FUTURES Tour also is where teens and 20-somethings teach Tour staff to actually *like* rap music or share downloads of Latin, African and British techno dance tunes. It is where Korean mothers shared their homemade food with sandwich-sick staffers and where players with care packages from home shared cookies from Australia or spicy beef jerky from Beijing.

An offer from one player to get a tattoo was turned down, but a week following the season's end, memories of those hip-hop songs thumping from the traveling trunks in the golf course parking lot still have a familiar ring. Whether that contemporary version of urban poetry was sung with an accent of a foreign or middle-aged tongue didn't really matter. It was the mixed bag of experiences from the 2005 FUTURES Tour season that swept through the hearts and minds of every member of this traveling caravan. The backdrop was eclectic and sometimes amusing to staffers nearly twice the age of the young talent, but the lesson for all was the same: Work hard, live fully and focus on each opportunity. Even if you come up short, there's always that next round, next event, or next season. And everybody knows their best shot is just ahead.

FUTURES Tour Statistics

FUTURES Tour Official Money List

Final Standings

Rank	Player	Events	Wins	Earnings	Rank	Player	Events	Wins	Earnings
1	Seon-Hwa Lee	18	1	\$59,567	41	Sasha Medina	17		\$11,346
2	Virada Nirapathpongporn		15	\$54,919	42	Chiharu Yamaguchi	17		\$11,267
3	Kyeong Bae	18	2	\$49,810	43	Kris Tamulis	8		\$11,256
4	Nicole Castrale	13	2	\$43,059	44	Jessica Lewis	17		\$11,175
5	Sun Young Yoo	18	1	\$42,007	45	Su A Kim	18		\$10,641
6	Jenny Gleason	17	2	\$34,138	46	Ashley Prange	18		\$9,671
7	Julieta Granada	9	1	\$29,153	47	Becky Lucidi	15		\$9,298
8	Lori Atsedes	18	1	\$28,800	48	Lisa Fernandes	15		\$9,154
9	Hye Jung Choi	18		\$26,917	49	Bo Mi Suh	12		\$8,898
10	Sarah-Jane Kenyon	18	1	\$23,351	50	Linda Ishii	6		\$8,486
11	Cristina Baena	16	1	\$22,784	51	Adrienne Gautreaux	18		\$8,365
12	Alena Sharp	16		\$22,615	52	Marianne Morris	15		\$8,333
13	Stephanie George	11	1	\$18,012	53	Libby Smith	17		\$8,109
14	Kristy McPherson	16		\$17,874	54	Julie Turner	17		\$7,194
15	Meaghan Francella	17		\$16,023	55	Jeanne Cho	16		\$7,161
16	Charlotte Mayorkas	10		\$15,717	56	Kristina Tucker	15		\$7,079
17	Allison Hanna	12		\$15,269	57	Aimee Cho	18		\$6,970
18	Jin Young Pak	18	1	\$14,966	58	Kristin Dufour	17		\$6,935
19	Jamie Stevenson	14		\$14,335	59	Kylie Pratt	18		\$6,714
20	Christine Boucher	16		\$13,703	60	May Wood	16		\$6,478
21	Kim Brozer	6	1	\$13,628	61	Katie Futch	14		\$6,464
22	Kelly Lagedrost	17		\$13,362	62	Tamara Johns	18		\$6,458
23	Dana Lacey	17		\$13,330	63	Angie Rizzo	4		\$6,349
24	Katie Connelly	17		\$13,275	64	Perry Swenson	10		\$6,319
25	Mollie Fankhauser	17		\$13,241	65	Becky Iverson	3		\$5,908
26	Brandi Jackson	16		\$13,137	66	Naree Song	9		\$5,584
27	Courtney Wood	15		\$12,978	67	Lisa Ferrero	11		\$5,301
28	Tara Bateman	18		\$12,681	68	Anna Knutsson	16		\$4,986
29	Anna Rawson	17		\$12,593	69	Jeanne-Marie Busuttill	11		\$4,884
30	Kellee Booth	17		\$12,533	70	Yoo La Kim	18		\$4,661
30	Sarah Huarte	13		\$12,533	71	Nicole Cutler	12		\$4,645
32	Meredith Ward	16		\$12,471	72	Kareen Qually	9		\$4,486
33	Danielle Downey	14		\$12,408	73	Li-Ying Ye	4		\$4,387
34	Ji Min Jeong	18		\$12,189	74	Michelle Simpson	4		\$4,292
35	Meredith Duncan	18		\$11,993	75	Kimberly Adams	12		\$4,256
36	Seul Ki Kim	15		\$11,638	76	Randi Meadows	8		\$4,167
37	Natalie Wong	15		\$11,523	77	Yvonne Cox	4		\$4,165
38	Sarah Lynn Johnston	17		\$11,517	78	Allison Fouch	16		\$4,029
39	Janell Howland	13		\$11,459	79	Kelly Cap	7		\$3,730
40	Cortney Reno	11	1	\$11,369	80	Sarah Graham	13		\$3,584

Rookie of the Year

Rank	Player	Events	Money
1	Sun Young Yoo	18	\$42,007
2	Julieta Granada	9	\$29,153
3	Hye Jung Choi	18	\$26,917
4	Sarah-Jane Kenyon	18	\$23,351
5	Charlotte Mayorkas	10	\$15,717
6	Jin Young Pak	18	\$14,966
7	Christine Boucher	16	\$13,703
8	Mollie Fankhauser	17	\$13,241

The Ostop Award

Rank	Player	Points
1	Nicole Castrale	9.2
1	Jenny Gleason	9.2
3	Allison Hanna	11.9
4	Kristy McPherson	12.6
5	Virada Nirapathpongporn	12.7
6	Lori Atsedes	13.2
7	Janell Howland	13.6
8	Katie Connelly	14.5

Scoring Average

Rank	Player	Rounds/ Average
1	V. Nirapathpongporn	44 70.614
2	Nicole Castrale	39 70.667
3	Seon-Hwa Lee	53 70.755
4	Kyeong Bae	53 71.038
5	Sun Young Yoo	53 71.415
6	Jenny Gleason	50 71.980
7	Hye Jung Choi	53 72.000
8	Alena Sharp	47 72.021

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	2005 Champion: Virada Nirapathpongporn
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	2005 Champion: *Kyeong Bae
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	2005 Champion Lori Atsedes
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	2005 Champion: *Nicole Castrale
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	2005 Champion: Nicole Castrale
June 10 - 12 Pro-am: June 9	Lima Memorial Hospital FUTURES Golf Classic	Lost Creek Country Club 2409 Lost Creek Boulevard Lima, OH 45804 (419) 228-8244	Lima Memorial Hospital Foundation	\$ 70,000	2005 Champion Jenny Gleason
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	2005 Champion: *Jenny Gleason
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	2005 Champion: Cristina Baena
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	2005 Champion: Virada Nirapathpongporn
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	2005 Champion: Seon-Hwa Lee
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	2005 Champion: Kyeong Bae
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	2005 Champion: Kim Brozer
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	2005 Champion: Cortney Reno
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	2005 Champion: Sun Young Yoo
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	2005 Champion: Stepahnie George
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	2005 Champion: Julieta Granada

* Won in a Playoff **Rain-shortened to 36 holes