



THIS WEEK INSIDE THE ROPES...

OUR GIRLS ON TOUR

"Inside the Ropes" - No. 17

(19 July 2010)

LPGA of Japan

- **AHN COLLECTS SECOND TITLE FOR THE YEAR AT STANLEY**

(Susono, Shizuoka Prefecture, Japan)

Korea's **Sun-Ju Ahn** became the third dual winner of the season with victory at the Stanley Ladies Golf Tournament on Sunday. She completed rounds of 70, 71 and 69 to finish at 6-under par and survived a playoff to take the title from compatriot **Ji-Hee Lee**. The Japanese pair of **Yukari Baba** and **Rui Kitada** joined Korea's **Eun-A Lim** tied for third at 5-under.

Heading into the final round, there was congestion at the top of the leaderboard. Lim, at 7-under par, held a one shot lead over Japan's **Akiko Fukushima** with Korea's **Ah-Rheum Hwang** a shot further back. Kitada sat fourth at 4-under with Ahn and Baba in a group of five players on 3-under while Lim was five shots off the pace at 2-under par.

Ahn was the biggest mover during the opening nine holes, notching four birdies to move to 7-under par, now just one shot behind Lim who made 8 pars and a birdie to get it to 8-under. Lee also moved into contention with three birdies to move to 5-under. It was around the turn that saw Fukushima and Hwang fall from contention; Fukushima making an astonishing 7 bogeys in nine holes from the 6th to stumble to a 79 and tie for 20th while Hwang bogied 10, 12 and 14 to also fall out of the running.

Lim, leading by one, also joined the 'bogey train', staggering with bogeys at the 10th, 11th, 12th and 14th holes. Ahn also stumbled with bogeys at 10 and 12 but was the only one of the three to bounce back from the disappointment with birdies at the 13th and 14th holes. Up ahead, Lee had continued her 'bogey-free' round, adding a fourth birdie on the 15th to move to 6-under, just one behind Ahn. Kitada too had moved to 6-under with a birdie at the same hole.

So, with Lee in the clubhouse at 6-under par, it was up to Ahn to 'finish it off' or for Kitada to find a birdie to join her at 7-under. Unfortunately for both players, they both made bogey at the final hole. This left Ahn in a playoff with Lee while Kitada had to settle for third.

After both players made pars at the first extra hole, Ahn settled it with a birdie putt from 20-feet from the fringe to clinch victory. The win was her second of the season after she won the season opening Daikin Orchid Ladies. It is Ahn's first season in Japan and she now heads the Money List with ¥55,733,500 (approx. AUD\$740,277) in year to date prizemoney. It was the 100th victory of players from Korea on the LPGA of Japan, a fact not missed by Ahn, "***It was a tight contest, so I got more nervous than in the season opener. In my country, there has been talk of our 100th victory in Japan, so this win is special for me.***"

Unfortunately, both **Nikki Campbell** and **Susie Mathews** both missed the cut.

Duramed FUTURES Tour

- **JOH COMPLETES MAIDEN PROFESSIONAL WIN VIA PLAYOFF**

(Bloomfield, Connecticut)

California's **Tiffany Joh** has fulfilled the promise she showed in her amateur days with a come-from-behind victory at the ING New England Golf Classic in Connecticut. In the end, it took a tense four-hole playoff for Joh to complete the victory over **Gerina Mendoza** of New Mexico. **Libby Smith** was the third American on the podium, three shots behind Joh and Mendoza.

Mendoza began the final round at 13-under par, with what looked like an invincible 5-shot lead over Joh (8-under) tied with **Lehua Wise**. The final day would turn out to be a shootout between Joh and Mendoza. Mendoza began brightly with a birdie at the first hole, however this was not an indication of things to come. Joh immediately began to find her range notching three birdies in a row from the 2nd hole to move to 11-under, while Mendoza started to make a few errors bogeying the 4th and 6th holes.

By the time they made the turn, Mendoza's lead had been cut to two shots. This was short-lived as she made bogey at both the 10th and 12th holes for Joh to share the lead at the 10-under mark. Joh made bogey at the 13th but bounced back with a birdie on the 14th while Mendoza made her 5th bogey of the day, also on the 14th. So, with 4 holes to play, Joh was at 10-under and Mendoza was on 9-under. It took a birdie on the final hole for Mendoza to regain a share of the lead and force 'extra-time.'

The players played the 18th hole twice, each recording pars both times before moving to the par-3 17th hole. Again, they both made two-putt pars before heading back to the 18th. This time, Mendoza pushed her tee shot into the hazard on the right while Joh knocked her second shot to 3 ½ feet. The win was assured but Joh made the birdie putt for good measure. A 4-time All-American when playing for UCLA, Joh said of her victory, "*Honestly, just getting into the playoff was an accomplishment. This is just completely unexpected because I was five back, and because Gerina is such a great player.*"

Leanne Bowditch was the best of the ALPG players finishing in a tie for 25th at even par while **Bree Arthur** also made the cut, finishing in a tie for 40th at 3-over.

INTERNATIONAL SCOREBOARD

LPGA of Japan

Stanley Ladies Golf Tournament
16 – 18 July 2010
Tomei CC, Susono, Shizuoka Prefecture, Japan
6,542 yards Par 72
Purse: ¥90,000,000 (approx. AUD\$1,195,420)

					¥	AUD Equivalent	
•	Winner:	Sun-Ju Ahn (Kor)	-6	70,71,69	210*	16,200,000	215,175.00
	2 nd :	Ji-Hee Lee (Kor)	-6	67,75,68	210	8,100,000	107,588.00
	T3:	Yukari Baba (Jpn)	-5	72,69,70	211	5,400,000	71,725.10
	T3:	Rui Kitada (Jpn)	-5	69,71,71	211	5,400,000	71,725.10
	T3:	Eun-A Lim (Kor)	-5	71,66,74	211	5,400,000	71,725.10
	(* Won on 2 nd hole of playoff)						

ALPG Members:

Missed Cut (147):

MC	Nikki Campbell	+6	76,74	150
MC	Susie Mathews	+7	75,76	151

Duramed FUTURES Tour

ING New England Golf Classic
16 – 18 July 2010
Wintonbury Hills Golf Course, Bloomfield, Connecticut
6,087 yards Par 70
Purse: US\$100,000.00

					US\$	
•	Winner:	Tiffany Joh (USA)	-10	67,65,68	200*	14,000.00
	2 nd :	Gerina Mendoza (USA)	-10	62,65,73	200	10,000.00
	3 rd :	Libby Smith (USA)	-7	66,70,67	203	7,125.00
	(* Won on 4 th playoff hole)					

ALPG Members:

T25	Leanne Bowditch	E	67,72,71	210	821.00
T40	Bree Arthur	+3	70,71,72	213	696.00

Missed Cut (143):

MC	Stephanie Na	+5	72,73	145
MC	Rachel Bailey	+7	72,75	147