



# LA MESA

ROTARY CLUB OF WEST EL PASO



SERVICE Above Self

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## Having fun at the RI Convention

By Ric Ligner

I was told the RI International Convention would be amazing, but I had no idea how much fun it would be. Peggy and I arrived in Copenhagen on Saturday afternoon and settled into the Ibsens Hotel, a nice little place with rooms barely big enough to turn around in. The Danes love their beer so much they offer it to you right at the front desk. (Who was I to turn them down?)



Sunday morning we took the Rotary bus to the convention center where our first day of fun began. After going through the check in procedure and getting our convention packets, I stopped and bought the convention tie, polo shirt, t-shirt and banner – I love things like that.

The convention center is a huge place with many large rooms. Booths were set up all over with clubs from around the world showing the projects they are working on. There are also booths representing Rotarians

with interests such as yachting, golf, chess, aviation and travel.

The first event we attended was the Paul Harris Fellows Luncheon. I can't remember too much about the meal, but the fellowship with the Rotarians from around the world will stay with me forever. I have a new friend from Iceland with whom I spent most of the meal conversing about the differences between our homes.

Frank Devlin was the speaker, and as usual, he gave a very inspirational speech. I went to greet him afterwards and Peggy took a picture of us. Ever the salesman, he made sure I was holding his two books when the picture was taken.

We next attended the opening ceremony. It was held in a room with the stage in the center and seating all around. The stage rotated so the speakers faced everyone at some point and large screens circled the stage so you



never missed any of the action.

There were dancers and singers who started the show in a lively salute to Copenhagen and Malmo. They started in period costumes and worked their way up to modern outfits and dance.

After the usual introductions, RI President Carl-Wilhelm Stenhammar, gave a stirring speech about Rotary's international growth. He spoke about how Rotary must change as the world changes and not let itself get bogged-down in useless tradition. He compared Rotary to a fruit tree, where old growth must be pruned in order that new and better fruit may bear.

The evening ended with some of the stories of Hans Christian Anderson were presented with music and dance. It was very beautifully done with children sitting on stage listening as the stories came to life.

If you would like to follow along with what is going on at the convention, just drop by the RI website [www.rotary.org](http://www.rotary.org). They are posting pictures as well as the speeches from the different meetings.





## Mollie Fankhauser Captures First Professional Title in Illinois

SAINT ANNE, Ill., June 11, 2006 --

In a week that was as much about patience in the rain and cold, as it was about persistence to win a first professional title, Mollie Fankhauser was the last player standing at the end of today's final round of the \$70,000 Team WLF.org Golf Classic.

But before the second-year professional could lay claim to her first win as a pro, she had to survive a three-way, two-hole sudden-death playoff against Brandi Jackson of Greenville, S.C., and Stephanie George of Myerstown, Pa. The trio deadlocked at four-under-par 212 at Kankakee Elks Country Club and finally decided the tournament after two more trips to the 18th tee. Fankhauser ended the contest when she choked down an 8-iron for her 125-yard approach, and then drained a six-footer for birdie to win.

"This is reaffirming that everything I've worked hard on has finally come together," said

Fankhauser, 25, of Columbus, Ohio, who carded rounds of 72-70-70. "I've been waiting for putts to fall and when it came down to crunch time, I was able to make the putt."

But Fankhauser made more than just putts to secure the \$9,800 winner's check and her place as the seventh different winner in the Tour's first nine tournaments. She became one of seven different players competing in three different sudden-death playoffs this season -- a testament to the greater parity that now exists on the Duramed FUTURES Tour. And she added her third top-10 finish in nine events this season to align herself with the Tour's top talent.

"There's an enormous amount of depth out here with some incredible talent," said Fankhauser. "And anything can happen in a playoff. It's all about timing."

Timing and patience was the key. A two-time winner on Tour, George led during the entire final round until she bogeyed the 17th and Jackson birdied the same hole for a two-shot swing. George fell back to four-under

par when she flew the green and couldn't save par from 25 feet, while Jackson grabbed the lead when she drained a 2½-footer for birdie.

"I knew I had to birdie the 18th hole, no matter what," said George, 27, a non-exempt LPGA Tour member in 2005, who posted rounds of 67-72-73. "I bogeyed the 17th hole three days in a row and you just can't do that and win a golf tournament."

George had a chance to win the tournament outright on the last hole of regulation, but missed a six-foot birdie attempt. The miss sent her into the playoff.

Jackson led going into the final hole, but gave away her chance to win when she missed a par putt from 20 feet on the tricky, undulating 18th green. She matched Fankhauser with rounds of 72-70-70. Even hard-charging rookie Song-Hee Kim of Seoul, Korea, who had four straight birdies today on holes nine through 12, had a shot at getting into the playoff. But Kim's approach on the 18th bounded over the back of the green and the three-time season winner took bogey to miss by a shot. She finished fourth at 213 (-3).

Jackson, George and Fankhauser went on to repeat the par-five 18th hole until the winner was finally decided. All three players took par on the first trip, with Jackson's approach shot finding the right water hazard. On her fourth shot, Jackson striped her 124-yard approach to three feet to save par.

That sent the three back to the 18th tee one last time. This time, Jackson's approach landed 30 feet to the left of the hole for a two-putt par -- ending her bid

### TOUR MONEY LEADERS

Thru \$70,000 Team WLF.org Golf Classic

1	Song-Hee Kim	\$45,440
2	Charlotte Mayorkas	\$23,760
3	Allison Fouch	\$20,996
4	Meaghan Francella	\$18,722
5	Ashley Prange	\$18,651
6	Sarah Huarte	\$18,503
7	Cristina Baena	\$18,325
8	Hye Jung Choi	\$18,009
9	Kristy McPherson	\$17,919
10	Stephanie George	\$16,805

♦ for a 25th birthday celebration and her first professional win. George's 9-iron approach came up short, leaving a 25-footer for birdie. She left the birdie short.

But Mollie was on the money. When her six-foot birdie putt rattled into the bottom of the hole, the former U.S. Curtis Cup player sank to her knees in jubilation. It was as if the weight of expectations for the former All-American from Ohio State University and six-time collegiate winner finally were released.

"It's been a test of patience playing in 18 to 19 events each year and trying not to be hard on myself," admitted Fankhauser, whose win moved her from 24th to 11th on the season money list. "Professional golf is just a different animal. It's all or nothing, really. Today, I was just playing and not thinking about winning until the last four holes. And then suddenly, it was go-time."

Fankhauser's "go-time" actually started about three years ago. She had already amassed a number of collegiate and ama-

teur honors, including being the two-time individual winner of the Big Ten Conference Championships (2001, 2002), the 2001 Big Ten Conference Player of the Year and a regular face in such events as the U.S. Women's Amateur Championship (1999-2002) and the U.S. Women's Open (2002-2005).

But in spite of her past success, Fankhauser was willing to change her swing to take her next big future steps. She turned to swing coach Troy Wright of Plain City, Ohio (outside Columbus) and basically gave the coach a green light to transform her swing.

"She was already a great player who'd had an impressive career before we even started working together," said Wright. "But she wanted the changes, had faith in the changes and stayed committed to them to accomplish what she wanted to achieve as a professional. Finally, her ball striking is right on the money."

Fankhauser carded four bird-

ies and two bogeys in regulation of today's final round. She scrambled for par twice, hit 14 greens in regulation and hit 11 fairways. But most of all, she showed the patience that comes when amateurs turn to pros and pros remember that patience is the difference between catching the fish and letting it slip away. Fankhauser hooked the big one today.

She weathered the rain delay and postponement due to darkness in Saturday's second round like a veteran pro. She returned to the course at 7 a.m. today to finish the second round, and then stayed focused for 20 holes of competition on the 6,266-yard, tree-lined course carved out of the rolling hills of Kankakee County.

But most of all, Mollie Fankhauser remained committed to the changes in her game, her growing stature as a touring professional and at last, her new status as a proven champion. Finally, patience was queen for the day.

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#### MEETINGS

Monday: Holiday Inn - Sunland Park, 12 PM

#### EL PASO MAKEUPS

Tuesday: **East El Paso**, 12 PM

Airport Hilton

Wednesday: **Sunrise**, 7 AM

Sunland Park Holiday Inn

**Vista Hills**, 12 PM

Vista Hills Country Club

Thursday: **El Paso**, 12 PM

1<sup>st</sup> Presbyterian Fellowship Hall

**Anthony**, 12 PM

Dos Lagos Golf Club

**Franklin Mountains**, 5:45 PM

Sunrise Center Furr's Cafeteria

Friday: **Northeast**, 12 PM

Sunrise Center Furr's Cafeteria

#### JUAREZ MAKEUPS

Tuesday: Juarez Sur, 2:30 PM

Campestre Juarez

Wednesday: Cd. Juarez, 1:30 PM

Campestre Juarez

Juarez Chamizal, 2:00 PM

Rest. Barrigas Monumental

Juarez Americas, 3:00 PM

Campestre Juarez

Juarez Frontera, 7:30 PM

Rest. Viva Mexico

Thursday: Juarez Paso del Norte, 2:00 PM

Campestre Juarez

Juarez Empresarial, 2:30 PM

Rest. Barrigas Mon.

Friday: Juarez Industrial, 2:00 PM

Campestre Juarez

Juarez Ejecutivo, 2:00 PM

Mision de Los Lagos

Juarez Norte, 8:30 PM

Casino Juarez

Juarez Oriente, 9:00 PM

Hotel Holiday Inn