

TOP 10 Moments at Farr Classic

BY DAVE HACKENBERG



PAK PLACE



1



Se Ri Pak is the queen of the Farr Classic, winning titles in 1998, 1999, 2001, 2002, and 2007. That ties an LPGA record for the most wins by a golfer in one tournament.

It is no longer the course record and it is no longer an LPGA Tour record, but the dominance demonstrated by Se Ri Pak in 1998 has to be the No. 1 highlight in Farr Classic history. As a tour rookie and with two major championships already under her belt, Pak opened the Farr with an even-par 71. A day later, she was 10 strokes better and followed that stunning 61 with a 63 and went on to rout the field by nine shots. The 61 and her 72-hole total of 261 were both LPGA records at the time. This won't be the last time you read her name because as a five-time champion Pak has been part of many memorable moments at Highland Meadows.

THE FLOOD



2



A bunker along the 11th green shows how much it rained at the 2006 Farr Classic.

After storms and heavy rains brought Ten Mile Creek out of its banks it seemed unlikely that the 2006 Farr could be completed and impossible that it would be a 72-hole event finished by Sunday evening, as scheduled. But the grounds crew, bolstered by personnel from other local courses, pumped fairways and rebuilt bunkers; volunteers built emergency bridges; golfers rode from hole to hole in carts over flooded permanent bridges, and players played from sunup to sundown to complete rounds. When all was said and done, the tournament would have ended exactly on schedule if not for one thing — a playoff. It involved calendar girl Natalie Gulbis, seeking her first-ever win, and ESPN stayed with it to the finish and recorded the highest cable ratings in LPGA history. Alas, Gulbis missed an eight-foot birdie putt to win on the second playoff hole and Mi Hyun Kim won on the third hole of sudden death in the Year of the Flood.

ACEY-DEUCY



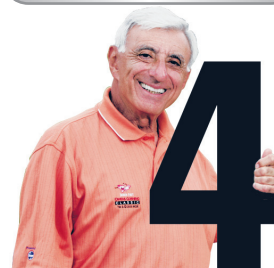
3

In 2007, the Farr evolved into a final-round battle between the now-grizzled veteran, Pak, and young gun Morgan Pressel, who mounted a three-shot lead, at least for a couple minutes, with a dramatic hole-in-one at No. 6 that produced a deafening roar at the little hole built over a valley and surrounded by trees. Pak, her playing partner, answered by ramming in a 22-foot, big-break birdie putt to minimize the damage and steal back some of the momentum. It was game on, and Pak had more game down the stretch for a three-shot win, her fifth at the Meadows.

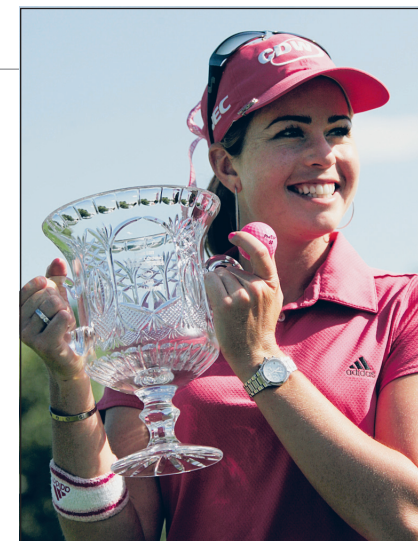


2007 runner-up Morgan Pressel, left, gets a hug from Se Ri Pak.

THINK PINK



4



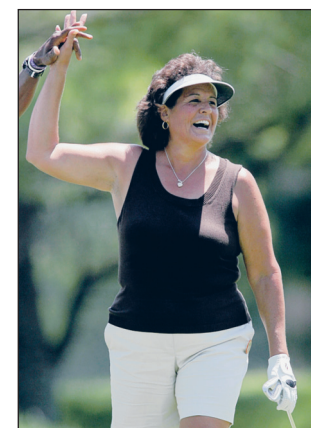
Paula Creamer shot a first round 60 to set a Highland Meadows record.

There have been few marriages in sports better than the Pink Panther, Paula Creamer, winning a tournament sponsored by Owens Corning and its Pink Panther mascot. It was "feel good" from start to finish in 2008, especially with the start being Creamer's rousing round of 60 that shattered the Meadows' competitive course record. By the end, though, Creamer had to show some guts to grind out a two-shot victory over runner-up Nicole Castrale, who closed with a 64.

LOVE STORY



5



Toledo fans are drawn to Nancy Lopez, a runner-up at the Farr Classic the first four times she played.

Nancy Lopez, arguably the most beloved player in LPGA history, hasn't played anything resembling a full schedule since 2002, but her semi-retirement, or whatever she terms it, will not prevent her from competing in the Farr Classic for the fourth straight year in 2009. This will be her 17th appearance in the field, and while Lopez, now 52, has never won she did finish runner-up the first four times she played — in 1984-85-88-89 — and third in '97. There is a love story involved here, and it's difficult to figure out to whom it means more, Lopez or the Toledo fans.

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THE CROWD



A missed putt was costly down the stretch for Carin Koch in 1999.

The result in 1999 was somewhat anti-climactic as Se Ri Pak made a birdie putt on the first hole of sudden death to win for the second straight year. But the playoff involved six golfers — Kelli Kuehne, Carin Koch, Sherri Steinhauer, Karrie Webb, and Mardi Lunn joined in — and that was and is the most populated playoff in the history of American golf. Koch made it all possible by botching the 18th hole with a two-shot lead in the final round.

MEG, FINALLY



Meg Mallon has played in the most Farr Classics and won in 2004.

Meg Mallon played in the very first Farr Classic as an amateur sponsor's exemption in 1984. And she will make her 24th appearance, more than any other golfer, in this year's 25th Farr. She has five top-10 finishes and 11 top-20s. Her win in 2004 was tremendously popular for two reasons. First, it was the 20th anniversary for the Farr and Mallon had seen about all of them. The second reason was what happened in 1996 when the Farr was still a 54-hole event. Mallon opened with a 6-under 65 and was one-third of the way to victory, but realized after discussing a situation with friends and fellow competitors later in the evening that she may have inadvertently violated a rule. She reported it to LPGA officials early the next morning and was disqualified. She evened the score in '04.

THE FAME GAME



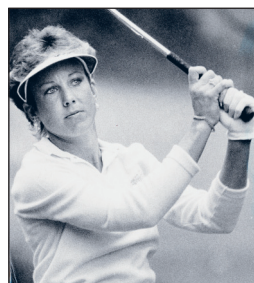
Patty Sheehan, an LPGA Hall of Fame member, won the Farr Classic in 1992.

The Farr Classic has been won seven times by current members of the LPGA's Hall of Fame. Of course, Se Ri Pak won five of those times. Let's not forget to salute Patty Sheehan's victory in 1992, as she closed with a round of 66 and then survived six players coming to the final hole with a chance to tie. And a tip of the cap, as well, to Annika Sorenstam, who beat Rachel Hetherington on the second hole of a sudden-death playoff in 2000.

THE FIRST



We can't compile the top 10 moments in Farr history without including the very first moment — fresh-faced, vivacious, inaugural champion Lauri Peterson. She fired a course-record 65 at the old Glengarry Country Club in the third round and then held off Nancy Lopez on Sunday to take the 1984 title. Lopez may have been the legend, but Peterson became a Toledo fan favorite almost overnight and posted top-5 finishes in three of the first five Farr Classics.



Lauri Peterson won the inaugural event at Glengarry Country Club in 1984.

THE KIDS



Volunteers are a big reason for the success of the Farr Classic.

Local McDonald's restaurant owners underwrote the first Farr Classic in 1984 and, indeed, it lost money. That was the only time. Starting with the '85 event, the Farr Classic has produced proceeds of \$6.2 million and has contributed that amount to more than 100 children's charities in northwest Ohio and southeast Michigan. Jamie Farr, tournament officials, sponsors, thousands of volunteers and more than 750,000 fans through the years can all take a bow.