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## LPGA State Farm Classic Kicks Off 35<sup>th</sup> Year Celebration in 2010

*One of the longest running stops on LPGA tour has much to celebrate*

Springfield, Ill – The year the nation celebrated its Bicentennial, the LPGA State Farm Classic, premiering in 1976 as the Jerry Lewis Muscular Dystrophy Classic, was played in Springfield, Ill., at The Rail Golf Course. The field consisted of 62 women competing for a \$100,000 purse. Sandra Palmer took the first title and the \$15,000 that came along with the championship.

In 2010, the State Farm Classic is kicking off its 35<sup>th</sup> year, celebrating its status as one of the longest running stops on tour, the continued partnership with title sponsor State Farm and contributions to local charities totaling more than \$3 million to date.

“We have come so far in the last 35 years and have a lot to be proud of,” Executive Director Kate Peters said. “The support we continue to receive from our sponsors, volunteers, fans and the players is the reason we are able to celebrate this milestone and we look forward to an exciting tournament in 2010.”

Originally known as the Jerry Lewis Muscular Dystrophy Golf Classic, the tournament was underwritten solely by the owners of The Rail Golf Course for its first two years. A community-based not-for-profit organization took over to produce the tournament in 1978 and in 1993, State Farm Insurance signed on as the title sponsor.

“The State Farm Classic and its contributions to local charities is a perfect fit for State Farm’s values of being there where our policy holders live, work and play,” said State Farm Marketing Assistant Vice President Mark Gibson. “We are proud to be a part of this tournament on such a monumental year.”

The reigning champion leading into the 2010 Tournament is two-time Tour winner In-Kyung Kim of South Korea. The title has been held over the years by a veritable “who’s who” of women’s golf including LPGA and World Golf Halls of Fame members Annika Sorenstam, Nancy Lopez and Betsy King as well as 12-time Tour winner Cristie Kerr. The State Farm Classic has consistently been a favorite tour stop for players over the decades.

“Wining the first championship for the Tournament gave me a lot of confidence in my career,” 1976 Tournament Champion Sandra Palmer said. “I appreciate Springfield and State Farm for all of their support. I particularly value all of the friendships I’ve made through the years. Congratulations on the 35<sup>th</sup> anniversary.”

## 35<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY/2222

“The LPGA State Farm Classic has given me such a wonderful memory in my life. The spectators are fantastic. They are very supportive of and passionate about the tournament. I can’t wait to go back,” 2009 Tournament Champion In-Kyung Kim said. “The sponsors, all the staff, the great course, greens keepers and many volunteers make one of the greatest LPGA tournaments and I truly appreciate it. I congratulate its 35<sup>th</sup> anniversary.”

“The support State Farm has shown the LPGA for the last 35 years is amazing. I’ve never missed an LPGA State Farm Classic and I never will,” said Christina Kim.

Look what else was happening 35 years ago....

- The nation celebrated its Bicentennial
- Barbara Walters became the first US woman to be a news anchor
- Tom Brokaw became news anchor of The Today Show
- The \$2.00 bill issued
- NASA unveiled the first space shuttle, the Enterprise
- Apple Computer Company was formed by Steve Jobs and Steve Wozniak
- *Viking I* landed on Mars.
- Matsushita introduces the VHS home video cassette recorder to compete with Sony's Beta max system.
- The compact florescent bulb was invented
- The First laser printer was introduced by IBM - the IBM 3800
- The Supreme Court voted to reinstate the death penalty
- Jerry Pate wins the U.S. Open
- Rocky
- A movie ticket cost \$2
- Jelly Belly Jelly Beans were introduced
- Colin Farrell, Reese Witherspoon, Jennifer Capriati, Melissa Joan Hart and Peyton Manning were born

The 2010 LPGA State Farm Classic will be held June 10-13 at Panther Creek Country Club in Springfield. For more information, please visit [www.lpgastatefarmclassic.com](http://www.lpgastatefarmclassic.com)

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