

# HISTORY

## EXPERIENCE THE TRADITION

A newly completed golf course, no trees, no clubhouse, rocks for a parking lot! This was the sight presented to the LPGA over 30 years ago when the first meetings were held with Patty Berg and other members of the tour to negotiate the possibility of holding a tournament in Springfield, Illinois. Those meetings with the Rail's co-owners culminated in the first Jerry Lewis Muscular Dystrophy Classic held on Labor Day weekend in 1976. The co-owners of the Rail guaranteed the \$100,000 purse to the LPGA and underwrote the expenses and losses.

In 1978, a communitywide, not-for-profit organization was formed as the sponsoring entity and the tournament became known as the Rail Charity Golf Classic dedicated to raising money for charity. It was an uphill battle for survival but with a one-time gift from a local businessman in 1980, the tournament saw its first win/win event... expenses paid and money for charity. The Springfield tournament was on the move and tournament organizers began a nonstop effort for a title sponsor.

From 1980 through 1992, the Rail Charity Classic successfully continued without benefit of title sponsorship and made notable contributions to local and regional charities. Keeping pace with purse increases and annually attracting the LPGA's best to the Rail was the challenge to be met.

In 1993, State Farm Insurance joined the efforts of the 17- year-old event as title sponsor. Nancy Lopez was the Defending Champion of the newly named State Farm Rail Classic and television cameras became a part of the scene at the Rail. To date, the State Farm Classic has been televised on ESPN, ESPN2, the Golf Channel and NBC.

In 2007, the tournament moved to Panther Creek Country Club marking the first time the event was played somewhere other than the Rail. In 2010, the State Farm Classic will celebrate 35 years of showcasing professional women's golf in Central Illinois. The support of State Farm, numerous other sponsors, the community, and all the volunteers has enabled the tournament to succeed year after year and remain one of the longest running events on the LPGA tour. Over the 35 years, the Springfield Community has seen the legends of women's golf, 12 first-time winners, and exciting sudden-death playoffs.

Under the auspices of State Farm, the State Farm Classic purses have increased from \$500,000 in 1993 to the current 2010 purse of \$1.7 million dollars. Since 1980, nearly \$3.2 million dollars has been distributed to charitable organizations throughout the State of Illinois.

## PAST WINNERS

Year	Champion	Score	Number of Rounds
2009	In-Kyung Kim	271 (-17)	4
2008	Ji Young Oh*	270 (-18)	4
2007	Sherri Steinhauer	271 (-17)	4
2006	Annika Sorenstam	269(-19)	4
2005	Pat Hurst	271(-17)	4
2004	Cristie Kerr	264 (-24)	4
2003	Candie Kung	202 (-14)	3 <sup>1</sup>
2002	Patricia Meunier- Lebouc	270 (-18)	4
2001	Kate Golden	267 (-21)	4
2000	Laurel Kean	198 (-18)	3
1999	Mi Hyun Kim	204 (-12)	3
1998	Pearl Sinn	200 (-16)	3
1997	Cindy Figg-Currier*	200 (-16)	3
1996	Michelle McGann*	202 (-14)	3
1995	Mary Beth Zimmerman*	206 (-10)	3
1994	Barb Mucha	203 (-13)	3
1993	Helen Dobson*	203 (-13)	3
1992	Nancy Lopez	199 (-17)	3
1991	Pat Bradley	197 (-19)	3
1990	Beth Daniel	203 (-13)	3
1989	Beth Daniel	203 (-13)	3
1988	Betsy King	207 (-9)	3
1987	Rosie Jones	208 (-8)	3
1986	Betsy King*	205 (-11)	3
1985	Betsy King	205 (-11)	3
1984	Cindy Hill	207 (-9)	3
1983	Lauri Merten	210 (-6)	3
1982	JoAnne Carner	202 (-14)	3
1981	JoAnne Carner	205 (-11)	3

1980	Nancy Lopez	275 (-13)	4
1979	JoAnn Washam	275 (-13)	4
1978	Pat Bradley	276 (-12)	4
1977	Hollis Stacy	271 (-17)	4
1976	Sandra Palmer*	213 (-3)	3

\* Won in playoff

1 Due to rain

### **Tournament Record**

2008 61 (-11), Hee-Won Han, 3rd round, Panther Creek Country Club