

COPPER ROCK CHAMPIONSHIP

MAGAZINE

ISSUE 1 | 2022

EPSON
TOUR
ROAD TO THE LPGA

LPGA

break- through **WIN**

ARDINA ACCELERATES TO
BREAKTHROUGH
WIN AT COPPER ROCK
CHAMPIONSHIP



**THIRTY-SEVEN
MINUTES**

AND 17 YEARS TO BRING THE
LPGA TOUR TO UTAH

**HOW COPPER ROCK'S
DILLYS CAME TO BE**



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As part of the LPGA Epson Tour, the Copper Rock Championship brings together 120 of the world's best up-and-coming female golfers as they work towards achieving their dreams of successful careers with the LPGA Tour. Likewise, this tournament also presents a unique economic opportunity for our neighboring communities.

By bringing together female athletes from around the globe in a professional sporting event, we are turning the eyes of the world onto this small, but burgeoning community that we call home. The tournament is televised on the Golf Channel as an hour-long special showcasing the stunning scenery for the area and the talented field of players. This production, aired at least three times, will be only the second Epson Tour event shown on national television.

The vision we had when we began planning the Copper Rock Golf Course nearly two decades ago was that of a world-class golf course suitable for professional tournaments, nestled among some of the most stunning scenery here in southern Utah. We envisioned inviting guests from near and far to visit this oasis in the desert, and we sought to support our friends and neighbors by providing jobs, housing and investment opportunities.

It was a vision only made possible by the dedication, hard work and cooperation of many individuals in southern Utah. The first step we took was to engage David Viveiros with Beehive State Sports, a long-time and avid promoter of professional sports in Utah. David was tenacious in his efforts to secure the rights to host the Epson Tour here in Utah—what an achievement since it's been more than 40 years since the Epson Tour was played in the Beehive State.

Believe me, opening a golf course one month before a global pandemic, like we did in February 2020, was not an ideal roll out. However, what



could have been the greatest stumbling block to our success, allowed us the valuable time needed to deepen our relationships with local business and civic leaders. These individuals grasped our vision of what was possible, and gave their support so we could make this tournament happen, here in this town, at this very moment.

The fifth stop on the 2022 "Road to the LPGA" took the Epson Tour to Copper Rock Golf Course for the Copper Rock Championship over a span of three days—120 players took to the field in pursuit of a total purse of \$200,000.

All players competed April 21-22 with the top half continuing for a third day on Saturday, April 23, to determine the ultimate champion. The winner's share for the event was \$30,000.

During Tour week, attendees witnessed the elevation and fulfillment of many of these female athletes' championship dreams. And, hopefully sooner rather than later, we will watch and participate in the elevation and fulfillment of one another's dreams, as we unite together to champion women in sports, in business and far beyond.

Kenneth Knudson

Owner, Copper Rock Golf Course



Main Event Area

- Clubhouse
- Tickets
- Parking
- Volunteers
- Food & Bev
- Restrooms

Range.

Hole 08.

Hole 01.

Hole 18.

Hole 17.

Hole 07.

Hole 16.

Hole 15.

Hole 14.

Hole 13.

Hole 12.

Hole 09.

Hole 11.

Hole 10.

Hole 02.

Hole 03.

Hole 04.

Hole 05.

Hole 06.

Site Overview CR GOLF CLUB

Planned for almost two decades, the Copper Rock Golf Club is a 2200-unit golf community with a championship designed golf course which opened February 2020. The future of Copper Rock GC will primarily be to enhance the Southern Utah golf experience by creating a professional golf tour platform that brings additional value to the local and national destination golfer.

Course Design: Copper Rock, LC | Course Length: 6800 yards



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COPPER ROCK GOLF COURSE

1567 W Copper Rock Parkway,
Hurricane, UT 84737
(435) 215-4845 | copperrock.com

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DARCY HORMAN
Director of Operations

DAVID VIVEIROS
Championship Director

PENNY JAMES-GARCIA
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22

Ardina Accelerates to
Break-Through
Win at Copper Rock
Championship



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Sky Mountain
Golf Course



Golf Hurricane



3 UNIQUE AND CHALLENGING COURSES SURROUNDED BY THE BEAUTY OF SOUTHERN UTAH

SKY MOUNTAIN GOLF COURSE

The Sky Mountain Golf Course is a public, 18-hole golf course located in Hurricane, Utah. This city-run course is a part of the Red Rock Golf Trail, and offers breathtaking views of southern Utah, including the Pine Valley Mountains and Zion National Park. Boasting a 6,450-yard/par-72 course with picturesque desert views, Sky Mountain Golf Course is ideal for all skill levels. Tournament groups and group reservations are available, but groups of 16 or more must book in advance (three months).

1030 N 2600 W
Hurricane, UT 84737
(435) 635-7888
Skymountaingolfcourse.com

SAND HOLLOW RESORT

Sand Hollow Resort located in Hurricane, Utah, features three courses: a par-72 championship course (Championship Course), a full-length, 3,600-yard, par-36 links course (Links Course), and southern Utah's only par-3 course (Wee Course), which is ideal for the whole family! Nestled in southern Utah, Sand Hollow Resort is

surrounded by a dramatic desert landscape that entices golfers to take in the views. Open to the public, this course is perfect for golfers who enjoy playing on the lake or dunes.

5662 W Clubhouse Drive,
Hurricane, UT 84737
(435) 656-4653
Sandhollowresort.com

COPPER ROCK GOLF COURSE

Copper Rock Golf Course was voted locally as the Best Golf Course in southern Utah. The adventurous 6,901-yard par-72 layout forges across dunes dotted with native sagebrush

framed against the rustic sandstone formations of the Hurricane Cliffs. The Copper Rock Golf Course boasts championship golf, high-end estates, and vacation rentals from the finest craftsmen. Copper Rock is southern Utah's greatest luxury golf course community development, and is home of the LPGA Epson Tour Copper Rock Championship.

1567 W Copper Rock
Parkway, Hurricane, UT 84737
(435) 215-4845
copperrock.com
copperrockchampionship.com



Alexa Pano TURNS PRO

DEBUTED AT COPPER ROCK CHAMPIONSHIP 2022

17-year-old Alexa Pano made her professional debut at the Copper Rock Championship in Hurricane, Utah, April 21-23.

Pano finished in a tie for 10th at Stage of the 2021 LPGA Qualifying Tournament to first earn Epson Tour membership. She did not meet the minimum age requirements to advance to the LPGA Q-Series.

Pano turns pro as the 64th-ranked amateur in the world. A three-time winner of the Doherty Women's Amateur championship, two-time winner of the Dustin Johnson World Junior presented by LA Golf and runner-up at the 2018 U.W. Girls Junior Championship, Pano is coming off a tie for 12th performance in her third appearance at the Augusta National Women's Amateur.

The top 10 players on the money list at the end of the season will earn LPGA cards. As of July 2022, Alexa Pano is in the top 10.



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EPSON

by the numbers

11

Number
of LPGA
MAJORS WON
by former
Tour players
since 2013.

NOTABLE ALUMNAE INCLUDE

Lorena Ochoa,
Inbee Park,
Gerina Piller,
Mo Martin,
Madelene Sagstrom
and Nelly Korda.

More than 600 TOUR ALUMNAE
have earned LPGA Tour membership.



Of the 10 players that
earned their LPGA
Tour card in 2018,
**EIGHT DIFFERENT
COUNTRIES WERE
REPRESENTED.**

440

LPGA TITLES WON BY
FORMER EPSON TOUR
PLAYERS.

Since 2013, former Tour members have won
eleven LPGA Tour majors, including
Inbee Park, Mo Martin, Brooke Henderson
and Pernilla Lindberg.

147

Players who have earned
LPGA Tour cards since
start of awarding cards
in 1999.

In 2022, the Epson
Tour will play for the
**HIGHEST AVERAGE
PURSE** and
**LARGEST TOTAL
PURSE**
in Tour history.

90%

of 2017 Epson Tour graduates who maintained
their LPGA Tour card for the 2018 season.

39 YEARS THE TOUR HAS
BEEN IN EXISTENCE.

Top-10 money earners at the end of each
season gain **LPGA TOUR MEMBERSHIP.**



In 2016, Madelene
Sagstrom recorded
12 Top-10 finishes
with three wins in 15
events earning over

\$167,064.



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EPSON
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ROAD TO THE LPGA




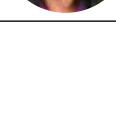


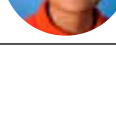



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2022

Tournaments Schedule

Date	Location	2022 Champion
MAR 4-6	Florida's Natural Charity Classic Country Club of Winter Haven Winter Haven, Florida <i>Purse: \$200,000</i>	<i>Kum-Kang Park</i> 
MAR 17-20	Carlisle Arizona Women's Golf Classic Longbow Golf Club Mesa, Arizona <i>Purse: \$250,000</i>	<i>Fatima Fernandez Cano</i> 
MAR 25-27	IOA Championship Presented by Morongo Casino Resort & Spa Morongo Golf Club at Tukwet Canyon Beaumont, California <i>Purse: \$200,000</i>	<i>Linnea Strom</i> 
MAR 31-3	Casino Del Sol Golf Classic Sewailo Golf Club Tucson, Arizona <i>Purse: \$200,000</i>	<i>Andrea Lee</i> 
APR 21-23	Copper Rock Championship presented by KSLSPORTS.COM Copper Rock Golf Course Hurricane, Utah <i>Purse: \$200,000</i>	<i>Dottie Ardina</i> 
APR 29-1	Garden City Charity Classic at Buffalo Dunes Buffalo Dunes Golf Course Garden City, Kansas <i>Purse: \$200,000</i>	<i>Gabriella Then</i> 
MAY 20-22	IOA Golf Classic presented by LPT Realty Alaqua Country Club Longwood, Florida <i>Purse: \$200,000</i>	<i>Grace Kim</i> 
MAY 27-29	Inova Mission Inn Resort and Club Championship Mission Inn Resort & Club Howey-In-The-Hills, Florida <i>Purse: \$200,000</i>	<i>Gina Kim</i> 
JUN 9-12	Carolina Golf Classic presented by Blue Cross NC Kinston Country Club Kinston, North Carolina <i>Purse: \$200,000</i>	<i>Lucy Li</i> 
JUN 16-18	Ann Arbor's Road to the LPGA powered by the A2 Sports Commission Travis Pointe Country Club Ann Arbor, Michigan <i>Purse: \$200,000</i>	<i>Kiira Riihijarvi</i> 

Date	Location	2022 Champion
JUN 24-26	Island Resort Championship Sweetgrass Golf Club Harris, Michigan <i>Purse: \$212,500</i>	<i>Ssu-Chia Cheng</i> 
JUL 8-10	Twin Bridges Championship Pinehaven Country Club Albany, New York <i>Purse: \$200,000</i>	<i>Lucy Li</i> 
JUL 29-31	FireKeepers Casino Hotel Championship Battle Creek Country Club Battle Creek, Michigan <i>Purse: \$200,000</i>	<i>Fernanda Lira</i> 2021 Defending Champion 
AUG 4-7	French Lick Charity Championship The Pete Dye Course at French Lick French Lick, Indiana <i>Purse: \$335,000</i>	Inaugural Event
AUG 12-14	Four Winds Invitational South Bend Country Club South Bend, Indiana <i>Purse: \$200,000</i>	<i>Lilia Vu</i> 2021 Defending Champion 
AUG 26-28	Circling Raven Championship Circling Raven Golf Club Worley, Idaho <i>Purse: \$200,000</i>	<i>Peiyun Chien</i> 2021 Defending Champion 
SEP 2-4	Wildhorse Ladies Classic Wildhorse Golf Course Pendleton, Oregon <i>Purse: \$200,000</i>	Inaugural Event
SEP 16-18	Guardian Championship Capitol Hill Golf Club Prattville, Alabama <i>Purse: \$200,000</i>	<i>Janie Jackson</i> 2021 Defending Champion 
SEP 23-25	Murphy USA El Dorado Shootout Mystic Creek Golf Club El Dorado, Arkansas <i>Purse: \$225,000</i>	<i>Kum-Kang Park</i> 2021 Defending Champion 
SEP 29-2	Tuscaloosa Toyota Classic Ol' Colony Golf Course Tuscaloosa, Alabama <i>Purse: \$200,000</i>	Inaugural Event
OCT 6-9	Epson Tour Championship LPGA International, Jones Course Daytona Beach, Florida <i>Purse: \$250,000</i>	<i>Prima Thammaraks</i> 2021 Defending Champion 



David Viveiros
Director, Copper Rock Championship

IN BARELY MORE THAN THE TIME IT TAKES TO PLAY TWO HOLES AT COPPER ROCK GOLF COURSE, DAVID VIVEIROS LANDED THE KIND OF MAJOR SPORTING EVENT HE HAD TRIED FOR 17 YEARS TO CREATE IN UTAH.

thirty-seven MINUTES

BY KURT KRAGTHORPE

In his thorough retelling of the Copper Rock Championship's origin story, while Viveiros marvels about the twists and turns of his career in the sports marketing business, that number is the centerpiece of it all. His experience of condensing 17 years of trials and turmoil into a 37-minute completion of a business deal says everything about Copper Rock Golf Course's ownership. The vision of staging Utah's first LPGA Tour-brand event in nearly 60 years has taken hold in Hurricane, with the development of what's already considered one of the Epson Tour's most

impressive tournaments.

And there's much more to come in a Southern Utah market of businesses and fans that have embraced the rising golfers who populate the Epson Tour. They're determined to use this event to propel women's sports with financial support. In Hurricane, there's a drive to bridge the income gap between the developmental tour and the LPGA Tour, and even help move women's pro golf closer to the men's game.

The strides being made at Copper Rock, with scheduled

purse increases throughout the course of a contract extension with the Epson Tour through 2028, "help you think a little bit bigger," said Mike Nichols, chief business officer of LPGA Qualifying Tours. "It's definitely one of those events that now is setting the next bar."

That's saying a lot, as a bookend to Viveiros' quest that seemingly was doomed to the repeating response he kept hearing: An event like this "won't work here" in Utah.

Well, it's working. Businesses recognize both the return on

investment and the opportunity to align their values of equality with their sponsorship dollars. Fans are having fun, whether they're walking the long loop of Copper Rock Golf Course or watching from stadium-style seats. The golfers are appreciative of everything they see surrounding the event, from the grandstands surrounding the 18th green, the No. 1 tee and the shared-green lake holes to the iconic Copper Rock feature atop the mountain.

The tournament documentary that aired on Golf Channel in June labeled the Copper Rock

The course was designed by a team organized under Gordon Zitting and the Copper Rock, LC.

"HERE'S THE MONEY, MAKE US GREAT."

Championship "one of the most anticipated stops" on the Epson Tour. That's validating. And just watch: By 2028, what seem like major developments right now may be recast as humble beginnings, once this tournament grows up.

Similarly, what appears to outsiders as an instant success actually is the product of a winding road that makes Viveiros wonder what took so long.

As of earlier this century, the product he was pitching was a college football bowl game in Salt Lake City. Sponsorship and other key elements were in place, only for Viveiros to run into local obstacles. That would be a foreshadowing of his effort to establish another pro golf tournament in Utah, the kind of event that sports marketing experts from outside

the state always thought was an obvious fit.

It finally happened. "October 7, 2019" is as indelible in Viveiros' story as "37 minutes." A friend in the golf industry suggested, or maybe insisted, that he drive immediately to Copper Rock. The call came when he was at 106th South in Sandy. Let's just say he's happy he headed farther south.

Copper Rock's founders and management, including the late Gordon Zitting, told him right away: "We want an LPGA event," promoting the course and the surrounding development that emphasizes families, women and children. A week later, in that historic, 37-minute meeting, Viveiros was told, "Here's the money, make us great."

That has happened, after the

COVID-19 pandemic altered the timetable, mostly in a good way. Imagine this: If the original schedule had remained intact, Copper Rock would have hosted the tournament almost exactly a year after Viveiros' initial drive to Hurricane. The Epson Tour's shortened 2020 schedule pushed Copper Rock's debut to April 2021, in a calendar spot that appears to be a fixture. That gave organizers more time to find sponsors, an ongoing process that is "exploding," Viveiros said.

In April, the Copper Rock Championship gave winner Dottie Ardina a \$30,000 check from the \$200,000 purse that's just below the Epson Tour's average for this year's 21 tournaments in 13 states.

By 2028, Copper Rock's Kenneth Knudson and other organizers hope to build the

"What we really like about sponsorship is we're investing in the future of women's golf."

purse to as much as \$500,000. That's ambitious, and Nichols is impressed. "Others see that," he said, describing Copper Rock administrators as "paradigm shifters."

They're joined in that effort by sponsors who know values when they see them. They're motivated to "really support women, especially in golf," said Amanda Covington, the Larry H. Miller Company's chief corporate affairs officer.

Golf events such as the Copper Rock Championship provide networking and educational opportunities, besides the chance to join the golfers in pro-am competition. That's somewhat "stressful," as Covington recalled her experience of playing in 2021 with Haley Sturgeon, an assistant pro at The Country Club in Salt Lake City. "I was so nervous, playing with someone who was so good," she said, "but the golfers make you feel so welcome."

This year, pro-am sponsor Soltis Investment Advisors staged its 19th annual Investment Committee Conference the morning of the first round of tournament play. The Copper Rock Championship "created the perfect experience and backdrop for our clients to receive instruction and education from industry experts," said Soltis managing partner Kim Anderson. "The women golfers were an inspiration for all of us."

Zions Bank, a founding partner of the Copper Rock Championship, has a "long history of supporting professional golf in Utah," said Rob Brough, executive vice president of marketing and communications. The bank is "actively engaged in issues and events of importance to the communities we serve, and the Copper Rock Championship is certainly significant in Southern Utah."

Brough has found Zions' involvement at Copper Rock to be very satisfying. He's as proud of this association "as we are of any golf event we have supported in the past 25 years," he said. "It's inspiring to see the exceptional talent. These golfers need our support, as they demonstrate to other young golfers and young women that they, too, can achieve their goals."

Scenes of winners like Ardina receiving an oversized check on the 18th green are juxtaposed against the reality of pro golf, especially on the way to the LPGA or PGA Tour. Traveling is "very expensive," Kelly Whaley said in the documentary. "It's not all glamour."

Epson's sponsorship of the tour includes a partial subsidy of entry fees, while challenging Nichols to find other sponsors who would make similar commitments. Golfers were paying \$500 to enter each tournament (totaling about \$10,000 per

year), and Epson immediately reduced that fee by \$50.

Epson also will give \$10,000 to each of the 10 players who graduate to the LPGA Tour in 2023, helping with travel expenses. For the others, purse increases are designed to create "some level of sustainability to their careers," Nichols said.

That's challenging, although it's getting better. Former BYU golfer Kendra Dalton is considered a successful Epson Tour member, yet she has barely \$60,000 in career earnings as of midway through her fourth season, minus expenses. Nichols tells the story of how the tour's leading money-winner earned about \$47,000 for the entire 2013 season. In 2022, the French Lick Resort Charity Championship in Indiana offers a \$50,000 first prize from a

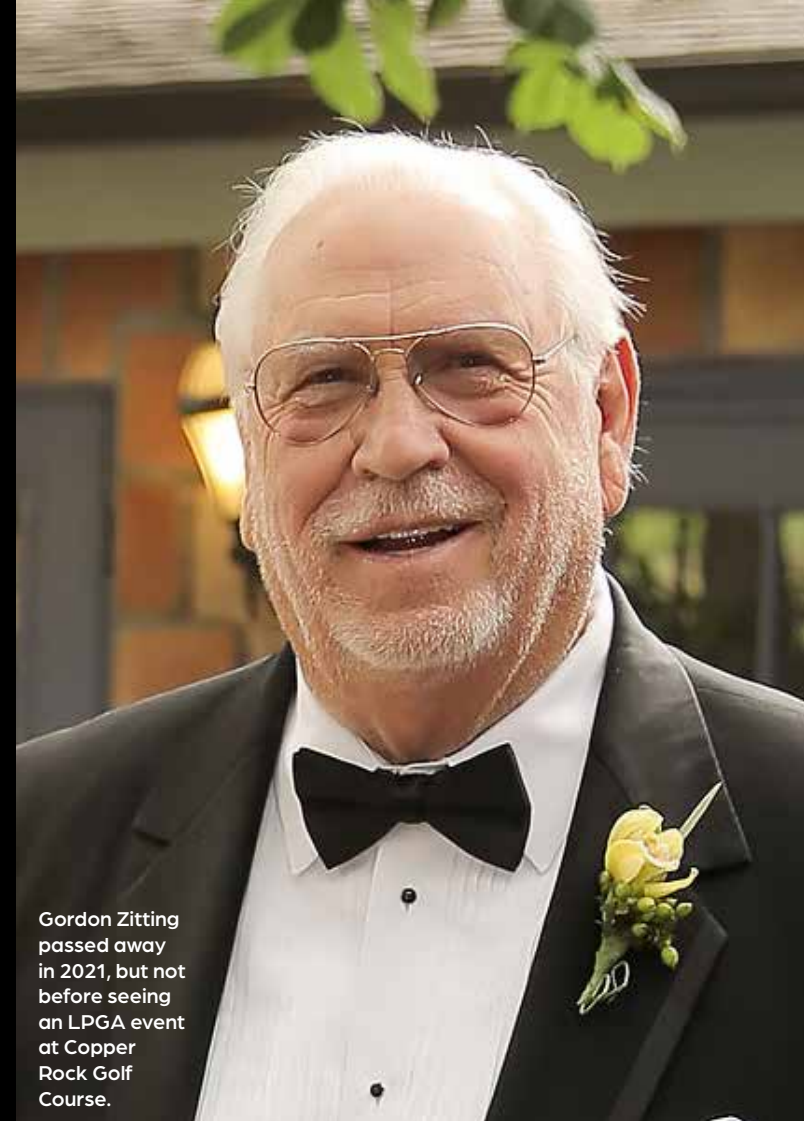
\$335,000 purse.

Epson's sponsorship is "really taking women's golf in a great direction," said Bailey Tardy, who won the 2021 Copper Rock Championship.

"What we really like about sponsorship is we're investing in the future of women's golf," Keith Kratzberg, CEO of Epson America, told The New York Times.

In 2022, the lower tier of LPGA Tour events has about a \$1.5 million purse, a big jump from the Epson Tour's \$210,000 average, yet far from the PGA Tour level. LPGA Tour payouts have grown considerably, with its multimedia rights package tied in with PGA Tour from 2022-30.

The recent U.S. Women's Open



Gordon Zitting passed away in 2021, but not before seeing an LPGA event at Copper Rock Golf Course.

Anushka Rajeev (age 11) wearing her Copper Rock Championship shirt at the Utah State Jr. Amateur tournament. Photo courtesy of Fairway Media/Garrit Johnson



TAKING UTAH TO THE WORLD ONE COMPANY AT A TIME



"You can't be what you can't see."

awarded a \$10 million purse, with \$1.8 million to the winner. Those are staggering numbers in the context of women's golf history. Mike Whan, CEO of the United States Golf Association and the former leader of the LPGA Tour, said the purse increase stemmed from "reaching out to companies that wanted to do the right thing."

LPGA Tour purses total \$90 million in 2022, about a 25 percent increase from three years ago. That figure is dwarfed by the PGA Tour's \$427 million payout. But in a world where 94% of sponsorship dollars go to men's sports, Nichols said, companies are recognizing "we've got to do more within the women's sports space," aligning their financial support to institutional values.

And, Nichols said, "As the LPGA goes, so goes the Epson

Tour."

The developmental tour has found a home in Copper Rock's striking scene around the 18th green. "It's fantastic," Nichols said. "It feels like an LPGA Tour event. That (atmosphere) is obviously what their goal is." That's just a snapshot. The bigger picture could be seen in Park City in June, when Anushka Rajeev of Sandy played in the title match of the Girls 11-12 division of the Utah State Jr. Amateur. Anushka and her father/caddie wore Copper Rock Championship volunteer golf shirts, as one more sign of the tournament's impact.

"You can't be what you can't see," Nichols said, noting how the Epson Tour can provide young women with "role models for whatever they choose to do in their careers."



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Oh, the places you'll go

BY BRYNN WALKER,
LPGA EPSON TOUR PLAYER

Snow caps and canyons, red rocks and bushy grounds – those were some of the sights I gazed at as the captain announced, “We will be touching down in St. George, Utah in just a few minutes. Flight attendants prepare for landing.”

I looked at the land we were descending towards in complete amazement. Just a few hours before, I had seen cow pastures surrounding the Dallas-Fort Worth Airport. Now all I saw was endless red mountains and deep valleys. Without even realizing it, I murmured to myself, “Oh the places you’ll go.” It was something I hadn’t thought through, but it naturally fit for this experience.

After a quick landing, I got up to grab my backpack and exit into this Wild West frontier. The passenger behind me said, “What day did you go?” Slightly confused, I asked what he was referring to. He pointed at my hat and said, “The Masters, what day did you go?” Before long we were deep into conversation about golf and what brought each of us to this tourist destination. Neither of us were here for the excursions offered at Zion National Park. He was in Utah for work and I was, too, even though it often doesn’t feel like it. My new friend was quick to point that out. Once I shared with him that I was here for a professional golf tournament, he responded, “Wow the places I bet you get to go.”

In response, I smirked and thought, “Oh the places you’ll go.” It brought me back to my high school graduation nearly six years ago. After turning my tassel and receiving my diploma, my family and I went home to celebrate. As per tradition, each family member wrote a letter of advice to me that was to be read that night. Each one had their own unique perspec-

tive that reflected their personality. For today, I am going to focus on the words my oldest sister, Devon, shared with me.

In June 2016, Devon had earned her master’s degree in teaching and was getting ready to begin her career in education. In true teacher fashion, she paired a book with her letter to me. The book? “Oh, the Places You’ll Go!” by Dr. Seuss. At that moment, my eyes were fixed on the next few years at the University of North Carolina. I wasn’t thinking much past that. The rest of my family, Devon in particular, had more in mind. I read Dr. Seuss’s wise words that night and hadn’t touched the book since. However, after my murmur from seat 2A flying over mountains that looked like a Dr. Seuss town, it seemed like a time to open that book again.

When I got to my hotel room, I downloaded “Oh, the Places You’ll Go!” I always thought of Dr. Seuss as goofy, his work filled with alliterations and rhymes that reflect a child’s mind. The joke was on me. Of all the inspiring works I’ve read this one might be at the top.

Who would have thought that of all the books I’ve bought, Dr. Seuss would be the one I most sought?

Hidden behind Seuss’s child-like rhymes are lessons in life that we all need to find.

With rhythm and wit, he covers it all, from the initial ascent to our biggest first fall.

I’d say it myself, but Seuss says it much better, even exceeding my sister’s own letter.

So here are my highlights from a book of great insight.

*“You’ll be on your way up!
You’ll be seeing great sights!*

*You’ll join the high-fliers who
soar to high heights.”*

*“I’m sorry to say so but, sadly,
it’s true, that Bang-Ups and
Hang-Ups can happen to you...”*

*“You will come to a place
where the streets are not
marked. Some windows are
lighted. But mostly they’re
darked.”*

*“A place you could sprain both
your elbow and chin!*

*“Do you dare to stay out? Do
you dare to go in?”*

*“How much can you lose?
How much can you win?” ...*

*“With banner flip-flapping,
once more you’ll ride high!” ...*

*“Oh the places you’ll go! There
is fun to be done!*

*“There are points to be scored.
There are games to be won.
And the magical things you can
do with that ball will make you
the winningest winner of all.*

*“Fame! You’ll be famous as
famous can be, with the whole
wide world watching you win
on TV.*

*“Except when they don’t. Be-
cause, sometimes, they won’t.*

*“I’m afraid that sometimes
you’ll play lonely games too.
Games you can’t win ‘cause
you’ll play against you.*

*“All Alone! Whether you like it
or not. Alone will be something
you’ll be quite a lot.”*

Looking at the mountains of Utah and thinking about the years since my sister’s gift, an addendum to Seuss’s words came to mind.

Oh the places I’ve gone, and the people I’ve met

The lessons I’ve learned, and the ones coming yet,

I’ve soared high in the sky with my greatest achievements,

Then plopped to the ground with some painful bereavement.

I marched through dark tunnels, no light in plain sight,

And met two young women in similar plight.

Where must we go, three golfers named Brynn?

Myself, me, and I, taking life on the chin.

On a journey together, and alone with just me,

I’ve looked deep at myself, and the others that be

Around me on Tour, on the road, and at home,

Lonely at times, but never alone.

Maybe that is the person I needed to see,

Climbing more mountains, myself, I and me.

It would be a shame not to mention the reasons,

For all of these travels through all of these seasons.

It’s chasing a ball, for mile upon mile,

The love of the game, mostly bringing a smile.

So, thank you for listening, and now you all know,

What it’s like when I say, Oh, the places we go!

—
*Originally published on
LPGA.com*



break-through WIN

**ARDINA ACCELERATES TO BREAKTHROUGH
WIN AT COPPER ROCK CHAMPIONSHIP**

It could very well go down as one of the greatest final-round performances in Epson Tour history.

Dottie Ardina, five strokes back of the lead held by Emma Broze entering Saturday, fired a bogey-free, 7-under 65 at Copper Rock Golf Course in Hurricane, Utah, to win the Copper Rock Championship by two strokes at 5-under par.

“I wanted to have fun out there and my goal was 5-under to have a chance. But 7-under is even better,” said Ardina, who hit all 14 fairways. “There was never that moment because [my playing partner] Anita [Uwadia] was making a lot of birdies, too, so I kind of lost track on the back nine. We were both making birdies to stay close with each other. And I did not want to check the leaderboards.”

Ardina turned professional in April 2013. Over the years on the Epson Tour, especially in 2018, she has endured numerous close calls. That season alone, Ardina finished runner-up at the Symetra Classic, Self Regional Healthcare Foundation Women’s Health Classic and the PHC Classic. She also ended in a tie for second on two other occasions at the Donald Ross Classic and the IOA Golf Classic. For those reasons, this win means that

much more to Ardina. The two fist pumps following her 12-foot birdie putt on No. 18 to seal victory captured all her emotion.

“I kept saying to myself, ‘Calm down, calm down, put a good stroke on it and you’ll make the putt.’ I did not look at a leaderboard until No. 18,” said Ardina. “I kept my focus on the line for the putt and as soon as it hit the spot I wanted it, that’s when I did the fist pumps because I knew it was going in.”

“I’ve played good golf the last few years and knew I was due. I wasn’t expecting it this week because of the weather, but took advantage of how nice it was today.”

Marta Sanz Barrio (67) and Laetitia Beck (68) each finished at 3-under par to share second place, while Jaravee Boonchant (68), Anita Uwadia (68) and Amelia Garvey (71) ended 2-under to tie for fourth. Five players tied for seventh including 36-hole leader Broze, who shot a 3-over 75 in the final round.

*Written by Epson Communications
originally published epsontour.com*



DottieARDINA

BIRTHDATE:
December 2, 1993; currently 28 years,
4 months, and 21 days

HOMETOWN:
Laguna, Philippines

RESIDES:
Seminole, Florida

**QUALIFIED FOR THE
LPGA AND EPSON
TOURS:**
Finished T32 on the 2013 LPGA Final
Qualifying Tournament to first earn
membership on the LPGA and Epson
Tours

**TURNED
PROFESSIONAL/
ROOKIE YEAR:**
2013/2014

VICTORIES:
Epson Tour: First career victory
LPGA Tour: N/A

PREVIOUS WINS:
2020 ALPG Ballarat Icons Pro-Am

MONEY:
With the win, Ardina earns \$30,000;
she has earned \$36,805 this season
and \$243,986 in her Epson Tour career.



RACE FOR THE CARD:
With the win and \$30,000 winner's
check, Ardina jumps 27 spots to No. 4
in the 2022 Race For the Card.

**PREVIOUS LPGA TOUR
AND EPSON TOUR
FINISHES:**
LPGA Tour: T12 at the 2021 KPMG
Women's PGA Championship

EPSON TOUR:
2nd in the 2018 Self Regional Health-
care Foundation Women's Health
Classic, 2018 Symetra Classic and
2018 PHC Classic; T2 at the 2018 Don-
ald Ross Classic and
2018 IOA Classic

2022 IN A NUTSHELL
Made four cuts in four starts with a win
and two additional top-25 finishes

of note...

1

Turned
professional
in April 2013

2

Second in
scoring aver-
age (70.098) on
the Epson Tour
in 2018 with 11
top-25 results

3

Finished at No. 2
in the 2018 Race
For the Card to
earn LPGA Tour
membership for
the 2019 season
as an Epson
Tour graduate

4

Two-time win-
ner on the ICTSI
Philippines Golf
Tour, three-time
winner of the
Callaway Junior
World Golf
Championship
and five-time
winner of the
U.S. Kids Golf
Championship

5

Made nine cuts
in 14 starts on
the LPGA Tour
in 2021 with a
career-best
finish T12 at the
KPMG Women's
PGA Champion-
ship



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Remembering SHIRLEY SPORK

THE WORLD OF GOLF HAS LOST A TRUE ICON AND PIONEER OF THE GAME—SHIRLEY SPORK.

Precious few are true pioneers in their passion, but Shirley Spork was twice a trailblazer in the sport she loved—golf. In 1950, she was one of 13 founders of the LPGA. A decade later, Spork almost singlehandedly created the LPGA Teaching & Club Pro Division.

Spork, who died in Palm Springs, California, on April 12 at the age of 94, was born at the peak of the Roaring 20s, raised during

the depths of the Great Depression and matured as a golfer during the turmoil of World War II. She was a daughter of The Greatest Generation and she did it proud.

As important as Spork was in founding the LPGA, she was even more impactful as a coach and as a coach of coaches. She literally wrote the book on how to teach the game and was especially innovative in tailoring

instruction methods to the specific needs of women, remaining a coach into her 90s.

“Becoming a founding member of both the LPGA Tour and the LPGA Teaching Division were highlights along the road,” Spork said in her book “From Tee to Green.”

“My journey reminds me of a sticker we had in our motor-home ... ‘Been There – Done

That,’” Spork wrote. “So true! I certainly have been blessed to see and do a lot in my life. A great big thank you to all who support this great game we call golf.”

Words by Ron Sirak, recipient of the PGA of America Lifetime Achievement in Journalism Award and the LPGA Media Excellence Award.

Full article on LPGA.com



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Bailey Tardy, Georgia, USA
2021 Copper Rock Champion



BY ELAINNA CIARAMELLA

Every professional golf tour involves a professional-amateur “pro-am” tournament where golf pros team up with or compete against amateurs before the big tournament, and the 2022 LPGA Epson Tour Copper Rock Championship is no exception. During Copper Rock’s Championship in April, amateur golfers played side by side with players on the Tour, creating memories that will last a lifetime.

In the golf world, pro-am is aspirational for many individuals who love the game, and for good reason. In Hurricane—located in southern Utah—during tournament week, regular everyday golfers participated in the Copper Rock Championship Pro-Am where they were paired with the young women players on the LPGA Epson Tour, the qualifying tour for the LPGA.

Large-scale golf tournaments like the LPGA Epson Tour raise money for official charities, and have a tremendous economic impact for the communities where these events are held, but that’s barely scratching the surface. Only sponsors can play in the pro-am because they are recognized and esteemed for what they are: the backbone of professional golf tournaments.

PRO-AM SERVES AN ARRAY OF PURPOSES

Since golf tournaments rely on sponsorship dollars, pro-ams serve a variety of important purposes. By supporting the event, sponsors typically receive state and nationwide media coverage. It also gives sponsors the chance to gift spots to valued clients and business partners, giving them the

one-of-a-kind “experience” of playing with a pro golfer for a few exciting hours.

For the ams, the Copper Rock Championship Pro-Am is the opportunity to play with some of the best golfers in the world, and that’s really what the experience is all about. The ams get to talk with the pros, marvel in the ladies’ skills, rub shoulders with them, and, if requested, receive some pro tips as they play. Not only do the ams revel in the VIP experience, it’s common for ams to start following the young pro he or she played with, and as her career takes off down the road, the am will enthusiastically say, “Hey, I played with her!”

For the pros, the pro-am is an extra chance to review the course and add notes to their yardage books, to have fun before the big event, connect with fans and supporters, and show their appreciation to the sponsors for making the tournament possible.

REVELING IN THE PRO-AM ‘EXPERIENCE’

On Wednesday, April 20, beginning at 7:30 a.m., the morning session of the Soltis Pro-Am

took place at Copper Rock Golf Course where amateurs were paired with pros randomly. The teams were divided into groups of four, which included three amateurs and one pro.

Wednesday’s sponsors included: Soltis Financial, the City of Hurricane, World Trade Center Utah, Cache Valley Bank, Canyon Media Group, Special FX Lighting, IHC/SelectHealth, LHM, Clyde Companies, KSLSPORTS.COM, JP Morgan Chase, Zions Bank, and Copper Rock.

Dr. John Sorenson played at 7:30 a.m. with pro golfer Min Seo Kwak, on April 20 on behalf of Zions Bank. Of his pro-am experience, Dr. Sorenson said, “The nice thing is I got made fun of every drive that she out drove me, but she was really nice about it.”

Justin Poppe was on Dr. Sorenson’s team. He said, “It’s a good experience to see the consistency of how she hits. She’s very personable and we had a blast; it was a fun foursome.”

Brandon Kendrick was the third man on the team. Of playing with Kwak, Kendrick

said, “She was super friendly. It was fun to get to know about her, where she’s from, and her family. She has a silky smooth swing, as consistent as can be.”

Tyler Finlinson from Soltis rode with golf pro Michaela Finn. He said Finn was really friendly to be around and her golf game was very good. He said Finn talked a lot about the tour and what the ladies have to do to go through it, as well as the amount of time and effort and discipline it requires for them to be at the Copper Rock Championship, and participate in golf tournaments.

Did Finn offer any tips to Finlinson? She did, but not until asked, he said. “I think sometimes people don’t want somebody to start correcting them, but she was very good at suggesting how to get here and there certainly on different shots, and then in terms of saying, ‘Hey, you don’t want to try and get into trying a bunch of corrective things while you’re out playing, you want to do that when you’re out on the range,’” Finlinson said.

Robert Halladay was an amateur who played in the morning

Schooled by THE PROS

COPPER ROCK PRO-AM SPONSORSHIP



Tess Harkworthy,
Wisconsin, USA
Achieves first ever
Copper Rock Championship
Hole-in-one



Hailey Sturgeon,
Utah, USA



Emma Broze
France



Daniela Iacobelli
Michigan, USA

"I think understanding that you know even the pros hit some terrible shots but you just don't always see it on TV or social media."

and afternoon pro-am sessions. In the afternoon, Halladay played on behalf of Canyon Media Group, and his team was paired with Celine Borge. Halladay said the ladies had amazing games and they hit so straight. "They make all of their putts, it's a miracle. I've never seen anybody play so good," said Halladay.

PRO-AM FROM THE PROS' PERSPECTIVE

In 2021, Bailey Tardy won the LPGA Epson Tour Copper Rock Championship, and she returned for the 2022 Tour at Copper Rock. Tardy said she takes each pro-am day as a practice round. "If there's a spot I see their [the amateurs] ball roll down, or how their ball reacts to something on the green, it just lets me see more than just my shot on the green, so I take mental notes on a lot of things," she said.

If it's something Tardy doesn't

think she's going to remember, she'll write it down in her yardage book, such as the wind direction on Par 3, so she can remember what it was when she plays each round. "I treat the pro-am as another practice round with fun people to play with."

Brittany Fan is a pro from Hawaii who is now living in Arizona. She enjoys the pro-am, especially getting to meet new people and play with them. "That's where it's the most fun," says Fan. "We get to play one ball, so it's almost like you're doing a practice run for the first round. One ball one chance, so you're still focused when you're over the ball, but then you get that nice little break in between shots which to me is relaxing and enjoyable."

Fan says she'll give golfing advice to the ams if they ask for it or if they want it. She also offers to connect with the

ams on social media or she gives them her cell number. She says if they ever need help with anything to shoot her a text or call, and she'll try as best as she can to help.

What golfing advice does Fan have for everyday golfers? First, she says, understand this is a sport where we are striving for perfection for something that will not give it. "I think understanding that you know even the pros hit some terrible shots but you just don't always see it on TV or social media.

She said understanding that golf is not a game of "perfect" will help amateurs' approach. "A lot of people walk into a sport and they're like you know, 'I practiced for an hour yesterday, I should be hitting everything perfect.' No, that's not how it works, golf is 80 percent miss hits, it's just that our [the pros] miss hits are tighter.

"I see a lot of amateur golfers, whether it's through YouTube videos or with a coach, and they're always tweaking things. Yes, you can tweak things on the practice range but when you get on the course, just keep it very simple, you should have only one swing thought or no swing thought, and just have fun," said Fan.

Gabby Lemieux is a pro who was raised in Idaho. Lemieux says, "I like to just go out and have fun with the pro-am people because I feel like that's what they're there for. They're the ones that put on the event and they're the ones that are sponsoring us, and getting us to play at professional events. So, I try to go out there and have as much fun as I can, that way they'll sponsor again."

SPONSORSHIP MEANS GIVING BACK

There are a multitude of benefits when it comes to spon-

soring the LPGA Epson Tour Copper Rock Championship. Not only does sponsorship encourage a brand's visibility, it adds immense value by nurturing talent, meaning sponsors are critical allies to the young women professional golfers in their quest to advance to the LPGA, but the benefits don't end there.

Copper Cock sponsors have the opportunity to purchase VIP tickets, which 33 percent of the proceeds go to the Switchpoint Community Resource Center, a non-profit organization in southern Utah that provides food and shelter to individuals and families in need, and also serves as an essential stepping stone to members in the community who are in their darkest hour facing homelessness. At the 2022 Meet the Pros Party, Copper Rock announced that the Epson Tour extended its contract until 2028, offering more sponsorship opportunities!

2022 COPPER ROCK CHAMPIONSHIP EVENT SCHEDULE

MONDAY, APRIL 18

Women's Leadership Institute (WLI) Pro-Am

TUESDAY, APRIL 19

Corporate Classic: Hurricane City, Meet The Pro's Party

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 20

Soltis Pro-Am, WLI Business Luncheon

THURSDAY, APRIL 21

First Round-Copper Rock Championship
Tournament play started at 7:30 a.m. and ended at 8 p.m.

FRIDAY, APRIL 22

Second Round-Copper Rock Championship
Tournament play started at 7:30 a.m. and ended at 8 p.m.

SATURDAY, 23

Final Round-Copper Rock Championship
Tournament play started at 7:30 a.m. and the awards ceremony took place, at 5 p.m.



Dottie Ardina
Philippines



RECAP OF COPPER ROCK CHAMPIONSHIP

BY KURT KRAGTHORPE

Judging by the 18th-green setting that Copper Rock Championship organizers and fans created, the second annual event looked like a genuine, big-time professional golf tournament.

Sounded like one too.

As she stood in the 18th fairway of Copper Rock Golf Course, holding a 7-iron and a one-stroke lead, Ardina was thinking, "OK, I want to hit this really good and really close, so I can hear some roars."

The Philippines' native added, "And I did."



Anita Uwadia
United Kingdom

The hitting and hearing preceded a 10-foot birdie putt. Ardina pretty much clinched a win that was a long time in the making, considering she finished second five times during the 2018 Epson Tour season.

Ardina's 65 with seven birdies and no bogeys on a pleasant April afternoon in Hurricane gave her a 5-under-par total for three days, a two-stroke victory over Marta Sanz Barrio and Laetitia Beck, a \$30,000 check and a place in Utah's history of women's pro golf.

Ardina's shot making is just one of the major takeaways from the 2022 Copper Rock Championship. Anyone who has witnessed a pro golf tournament

in the state would be impressed with fans' support of this event and the sponsorships and volunteer effort that make it work. "It took a village to pull off this amazing tournament," said Hurricane City Mayor Nanette Billings.

This is the 60-year anniversary of the LPGA Tour's first appearance in Utah, with Mickey Wright winning at Willow Creek Country Club in 1962. Like Ardina, Wright came from five shots back in the final round, earning a one-stroke win over another legend, Kathy Whitworth. The touring pros would play in Ogden and Provo the next two seasons, then the LPGA Tour brand returned to Utah via the Copper Rock Championship, now presented by KSLSPORTS.com.

This thing has some staying power. After last year's debut, Copper Rock owner Kenneth Knudson announced the event would continue through 2023.

This time, he added five years to that commitment.

Mike Nichols, the Epson Tour's chief business officer, said that while he's filling in dates for 2023 and '24, "There's currently only one event on my draft of the 2028 schedule, and it's this one right here."

Copper Rock already might be the Epson Tour's No. 1 stop. The 18th-green scene with the Champions Club and stadium seating on three sides rivals an average LPGA Tour event's setup. The southern Utah golf community has responded very well, generating \$50,000 for the tournament charity, the Women's Leadership Institute. Ardina, 28, who has gone back

and forth between the Epson and LPGA Tours, thrived in front of Copper Rock's biggest audiences. Another upgrade for 2022 was platform seating behind the shared green of Nos. 7 and 16 (Nos. 18 and 9 for regular play). Ardina thrilled those fans with a 6-iron shot to within a few inches of the cup on No. 7, a few hours before earning the cheers on No. 18.

Amelia Garvey temporarily tied Ardina with a birdie on No. 16, but she bogeyed the last two holes to fall to a tie for fourth. Garvey closed with a 71 and second-round leader Emma Broze posted a 75 on a day when 15 golfers shot in the 60s, taking advantage of calmer conditions.

This year's attendance topped 5,000. That's more than double the inaugural event's gallery. Same story with the volunteer force of 355. With better weather for the Friday round, tournament director David Viveiros is targeting total attendance of 7,500 next year.

Yet if organizers could have one ideal day out of three, it would always be Saturday. That's what they got this year, in a direct contrast to last April's weather pattern. So the Hurricane Valley Chamber of Commerce will be hoping the tournament documentary, scheduled for Golf Channel programming in June, will emphasize the ending.

Kendra Dalton and Haley Sturgeon, the contestants with Utah ties, wouldn't have recognized the place on Saturday. After fighting with the wind, cold and rain for two rounds, they missed the 36-hole cut and a chance to play Copper Rock in mid-60s comfort.

Marta Sanz Barrio, Spain
2nd place tie with Laetitia Beck



Dalton's 77-78 showing extended a slow start in her fourth Epson Tour season. Sturgeon, an assistant pro at The Country Club in Salt Lake City, appeared at Copper Rock for the second year via a sponsor exemption. Having shot 81-76, she left feeling encouraged and appreciative of the opportunity, while wishing she could have done more with her limited tour exposure for 2022. "I have the game," she said. "It's mental, and then it's just accepting the elements. And, I think, belief in yourself is a big part of it."

For more evidence of the event's impact in the Utah golf community, the sight of blue windbreakers worn by the Beaver High girls golf team is a good

snapshot to savor. BHS coach Marilee Eyre is a longtime friend of Mayor Billings, who suggested that the team volunteer for the first Copper Rock Championship. Billings also housed all of the players and coaches, who had such a good experience that the team made the 90-mile trip again.

The BHS golfers helped with caddying, scoring and standard bearing, and they learned a lot from being around the tour players. When the team reconvened at Canyon Breeze GC in Beaver, each golfer was asked to cite an enduring lesson.

ANNIE MCNEIL:
"I liked how the players took their time on every shot because

every shot matters."

TAWNI EYRE
(*Min Seo Kwak's caddie*):
Watching her toss blades of grass in the air to discover "how hard and what direction the wind is blowing."
Malia Washburn: "I enjoyed watching the girls' routines and how they warmed up on the driving range."

MIA HARRIS:
"I saw my girl clean her ball before every putt. I didn't know golfers did that."

HEIDI HARRIS:
"My girl always fixed two or three divots on every green, whether she made a divot or not. I want to do that to help

They were rewarded by Saturday's sunshine, in addition to taking home some lasting memories.



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Jaravee Boonchant
Thailand



Luci Li
California, USA
Hole-in-one on #6

other golfers.”

REGAN MARSHALL:

“I liked how appreciative my girl Beth Wu was. She told everyone she saw, thank you for helping.”

TAISLEY MARSHALL:

“I learned to adjust and not complain and to focus on my game from watching my girl. And when she chipped, she kept her head down until her club was way out in front of her. And she was a really good chipper.”

JAYLIE HOLDAWAY:

“I want to take my glove off to putt after watching most of the LPGA girls do that.”

Like other volunteers, the Beaver girls endured the tough conditions of the first two rounds,

but “they didn’t complain at all,” Marilee Eyre said.

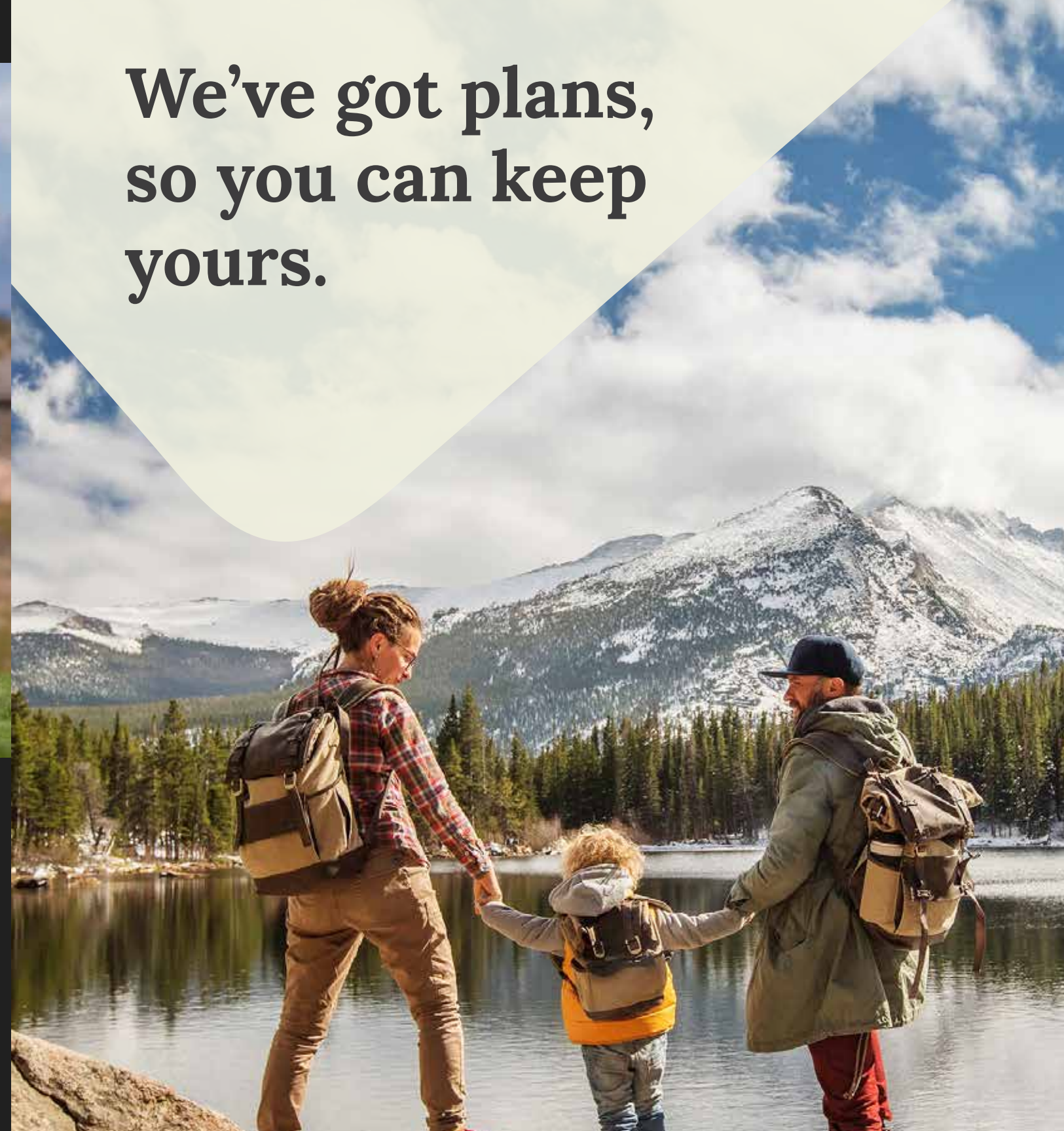
They were rewarded by Saturday’s sunshine, in addition to taking home some lasting memories.

The average BHS golfer is the same age as 17-year-old Alexa Pano, a former amateur star from Florida who earned \$812 for 56th place in her pro debut. She finished second the following week in the Garden City (Kansas) Charity Classic, collecting \$19,234.

Much like the Copper Rock Championship itself, Pano showed the potential of big things to come in only her second try.

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How Copper Rock's Dillys Came to Be

BY ELAINNA CIARAMELLA

Anyone who volunteered at the 2022 LPGA Epson Tour Copper Rock Championship likely overheard, "Dilly dilly!" enthusiastically chanted by a group of wide-eyed volunteers in unison, especially those who are members of the "Nine Wine n Dine Club" at SunRiver Communities, an active senior living community in St. George. According to Mark "Fatboy" Loveless, the club's creator, for members, "Dilly dilly" has two meanings: first, who cares [about your score], and second, for the love of southern Utah.

Mark Loveless,
Director of all Retired
People and Fun in
Southern Utah



Dilly dilly is otherwise a nonsensical expression for "Cheers!" made popular in 2017-2018 by a medieval-themed Bud Light ad campaign. In recent years, dilly dilly has proven itself as a rare, yet adored ad slogan for sport fanatics, much like, "Got milk?" with some people using dilly dilly as a festive cheer like "woo-hoo!" especially as they're drinking and watching sports.

The Nine Wine n Dine Club is known for chanting, "Dilly dilly!" during its golf meetups because at their club, no one cares about their score, it's all about enjoying each other's company and having a good time.

MEANING BEHIND 'NINE WINE N DINE'

According to Loveless, the club's name, "Nine Wine n Dine," translates to a nine-hole round of golf, cocktails, and dinner. What's more, Nine Wine n Dine's club motto is, "We count the strokes, but the score doesn't matter, he explained.

When Loveless moved to SunRiver, he asked what do you do for fun regarding golf and the usual answer was, "Men's league, ladies' league, and couples league, all requiring a handicap and golf rules." Loveless wanted something less serious that everyone could enjoy, so he decided to create Nine Wine n Dine golfing

that would be fun, social, and non-competitive.

The club was first started up in October 2020, and according to Loveless, the members stop playing in June due to the summer heat and they resume in October, once the temperatures have died down. "Our club is unique to the point that we play a scramble format and there is no pressure for any single player," said Loveless. "You can use whichever tee box you would like, and you can tee it up in the fairway if you choose."

The club has many players with physical issues and these aspects are very appealing to them, explained Loveless.

Additionally, they are not just a couples league, they have both couples and individuals. "We are very diligent in changing the grouping every month; this enforces the theme of meeting new people and trying not to create cliques."

After golf, the club members meet in the community center ballroom where they "whine" about their golf game, share some adult beverages (wine), let loose, and socialize. They announce the best score and that team gets a loud chant, "Dilly dilly!" which basically means "who cares."

Without announcing the scores, they hand out the prize for the



most honest group [highest scores]. Then, they throw all the cards in a basket and draw for first, second, and third place as they say, “The score doesn’t matter!”

“What makes us most proud of this group, is we have so many people say this is the only time they golf in a group because there is no pressure, and no one is judgmental. To date, we have had seven people where this was their first time on a golf course, and they are hooked on golf now.”

NINE WINE N DINE APPROACHES COPPER ROCK GOLF COURSE

One day, the Nine Wine n Dine Club invited Copper Rock Golf Course to talk with their group and recruit volunteers. SunRiver residents, says Loveless, are an energetic bunch of fun-loving, very active retired people who really do want to give back.

Copper Rock heard the chant, “Dilly dilly” and asked if the

Nine Wine n Dine Club could bring it to Copper Rock, thus the beginning of the “Dillys,” said Loveless. “Plus, who doesn’t want to watch a bunch of great young ladies playing fantastic golf?”

Loveless said that everyone he spoke to wanted to come back and volunteer next year. In fact, he said that many SunRiver people and Nine Wine n Diners who were there wanted to know how to volunteer next year.

Loveless described Copper Rock as a fabulous community and one of the best golf courses out there. “What Copper Rock did for this tournament was above and beyond,” he said. “From the impressive stands to the VIP section, just everything was first class, and for the volunteers, the organization was incredible.”

Loveless said that if you volunteered, the food was great, as was seeing the young ladies up close, getting to watch them.

“Then, the friends you see and the new ones you meet, it was just a great experience. I find myself looking at the Epson Tour to see how these ladies are doing. I suspect the volunteer field will fill up very quickly next year as word has gotten out about how much fun this was.”

VIP CHAMPIONS CLUB BENEFITING SWITCHPOINT

In honor of the Nine Wine n Dine Club’s love of the game, love of southern Utah, and their true volunteer spirit, Copper Rock created the “Dilly Dilly Club VIP Ticket,” available for anyone to purchase. The Dilly Dilly Club VIP Ticket includes a weekly ground ticket, exclusive access to the 18th Green seating area, buffet lunch (11:30-3:30), snacks, and beverages.

Proceeds from the Dilly Dilly Club VIP Tickets benefit Switchpoint Community Center located in St. George, Utah. Switchpoint’s services include emergency shelter, affordable

housing services, a community soup kitchen, and much more.

“Beyond food and shelter, Switchpoint Community Resource Center is a stepping stone to independence for individuals experiencing homelessness. A switch point is a mechanism on a train track that, with a little bit of a turn, sends the train in a completely different direction. Switchpoint offers tools to get life back on track for those who need it most,” according to Switchpoint’s website.

Copper Rock is extremely appreciative of all the volunteers who came to show their support over the three-day event for the young women golfers on the 2022 LPGA Epson Tour Copper Rock Championship, and for all of those who were able to help Switchpoint better serve our community members during their greatest time of need.

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CONGRATS

Fifteen Copper Rock Championship participants took coveted spots in the 2022 Women's US Open

The 77th Women's US Open held in North Carolina is the oldest of the LPGA Tour's five major championships. Gaining access to play in the Open is a major accomplishment. Of the 156 playing spots, 78 are fully exempt. This year, a record 1,874 young women competed around the world for those 78 spots. There were 23 qualifier events held around the United States and 3 international qualifier events. Each qualifier event was a 36 hole contest.

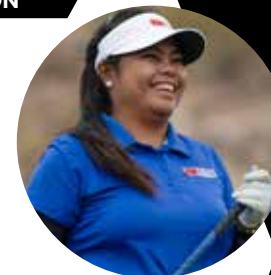
All of that background makes it ever so impressive to announce that 15 of those 78 spots were earned by young women who competed in our 2022 Copper Rock Championship. Do some of the best players in the world come to the Copper Rock Championship...apparently so!

Take a closer look at the 15 women from the Copper Rock Championship who qualified for the US Open.

COPPER ROCK 2022 CHAMPION

DOTTIE ARDINA

AGE: 28
COUNTRY: Philippines
COLLEGE: None
WORLDWIDE PROFESSIONAL WINS: 2
ROAD TO PINE NEEDLES: Qualified at Fort Myers, Fla., site on May 4



Ardina, the 2011 U.S. Girls' Junior runner-up, will make her second U.S. Women's Open appearance. Ardina owns two professional wins: the 2022 Copper Rock Championship on the Epson Tour and the 2020 Ballarat Icons Pro-Am on the Women's PGA of Australasia. Ardina twice represented the Philippines in the Women's World Amateur Team Championship, including 2006 at the age of 12 when she became the event's youngest-ever competitor.

U.S. WOMEN'S OPEN PLAYING RECORD

YEAR	SITE	SCORES	TO PAR	FINISH
2022	Pine Needles Lodge & Golf Club	78-69	+5	MC
2019	Country Club of Charleston	71-70-76-76--293	+9	T-62

DANIELA DARQUEA

AGE: 26
COUNTRY: Ecuador
COLLEGE: University of Miami (Fla.)
WORLDWIDE PROFESSIONAL VICTORIES: 1
ROAD TO PINE NEEDLES: Qualified at Columbus, Ohio, site on May 4



Darquea qualified for her fourth U.S. Women's Open after shooting 2-under-par 142 (75-67) at Ohio State's Scarlet Course to grab the third and final spot. In 2015 at Lancaster (Pa.) Country Club, Darquea, then a standout at the University of Miami (Fla.), became the first player from Ecuador to play in a U.S. Women's Open. She represented her country in the 2015 Pan American Games and 2016 Women's World Amateur Team Championship.

U.S. WOMEN'S OPEN PLAYING RECORD

YEAR	SITE	SCORES	TO PAR	FINISH
2022	Pine Needles Lodge & Golf Club	74-76	+8	MC
2021	The Olympic Club (Lake Course)	78-79	+15	MC

ALYAA ABDULGHANY

AGE: 23
COUNTRY: Malaysia
COLLEGE: University of Southern California
WORLDWIDE PROFESSIONAL VICTORIES: 0
ROAD TO PINE NEEDLES: Qualified at the Pauma Valley, Calif., site on May 9



Abdul will make her U.S. Women's Open debut after sharing medalist honors at Pauma Valley (Calif.) Country Club with amateur Catherine Park. The two posted a 36-hole total of 4-under-par 138, with Abdul registering a pair of 69s. Abdulghany advanced to the semifinals of the 2020 U.S. Women's Amateur, losing to eventual champion Rose Zhang. That year, she won the Women's Australian Master of the Amateurs at Victoria Golf Club and tied for fourth in the Canadian Women's Amateur.

U.S. WOMEN'S OPEN PLAYING RECORD

YEAR	SITE	SCORES	TO PAR	FINISH
2022	Pine Needles Lodge & Golf Club	81-74	+13	MC

SOFIA GARCIA

AGE: 23
COUNTRY: Paraguay
COLLEGE: Texas Tech
WORLDWIDE PROFESSIONAL VICTORIES: 0
ROAD TO PINE NEEDLES: Qualified at St. Louis, Mo., site on May 4



The native of Paraguay will make her U.S. Women's Open debut after shooting 2-under-par 142 (70-72) at Fox Run Golf Club. Garcia turned professional last summer after a standout career at Texas Tech, where she posted a career stroke average of 72.2, a school record. In 2019, she was a second-team All-American by the Women's Golf Coaches Association. She represented Paraguay in the 2016 Women's World Amateur Team Championship, and captured consecutive South America Women's Amateur titles in 2015 and 2016.

U.S. WOMEN'S OPEN PLAYING RECORD

YEAR	SITE	SCORES	TO PAR	FINISH
2022	Pine Needles Lodge & Golf Club	72-73-77-74 - 296	+12	T-60

INGRID GUTIERREZ

AGE: 26
COUNTRY: Mexico
COLLEGE: New Mexico
WORLDWIDE PROFESSIONAL
VICTORIES: 0

ROAD TO PINE NEEDLES:
Qualified at the Aurora, Ill., site on
May 9/Calif., site on May 9



Gutierrez Nunez will make her third U.S. Women's Open start after earning the lone qualifying spot at Stonebridge Country Club, shooting a 2-under-par total of 142 (70-72). She currently competes on the Epson Tour (formerly Symetra Tour). Her best finish on that circuit is a tie for fourth in the 2021 Island Resort Championship.

U.S. WOMEN'S OPEN PLAYING RECORD

YEAR	SITE	SCORES	TO PAR	FINISH
2022	Pine Needles Lodge & Golf Club	73-77	+8	MC
2021	The Olympic Club (Lake Course)	78-77	+13	MC

KAREN KIM

AGE: 23
COUNTRY: United States
COLLEGE: None
WORLDWIDE PROFESSIONAL
VICTORIES: 0

ROAD TO PINE NEEDLES:
Qualified at Hockley, Texas, site
on May 3



*Sponsor Exemption for copper rock championship

Kim qualified for her first U.S. Women's Open by surviving a 4-for-3 playoff at The Clubs at Houston Oaks. She posted a 36-hole total of 3-under-par 139 (70-69). She has bounced between the Epson Tour (formerly Symetra Tour) and the Women's All-Pro Tour.

U.S. WOMEN'S OPEN PLAYING RECORD

YEAR	SITE	SCORES	TO PAR	FINISH
2022	Pine Needles Lodge & Golf Club	77-75	+10	MC

JILLIAN HOLLIS

AGE: 25
COUNTRY: United States
COLLEGE: University of Georgia
WORLDWIDE PROFESSIONAL
WINS: 2

ROAD TO PINE NEEDLES:
Qualified at Aurora, Ill., site on
May 9



The first alternate from the Aurora, Ill., site, Hollis is set to make her second U.S. Women's Open start. She qualified for the 2018 championship at Shoal Creek. Hollis owns a pair of victories, both coming on the Symetra Tour (now Epson Tour) in 2019: the IOA Championship presented by the Morongo Casino Resort & Spa, and The Forsyth Classic. She was a three-time All-American at the University of Georgia.

U.S. WOMEN'S OPEN PLAYING RECORD

YEAR	SITE	SCORES	TO PAR	FINISH
2022	Pine Needles Lodge & Golf Club	74-78	+10	MC
2018	Shoal Creek	76-70-78 -83--307	+ 19	62nd

GRACE KIM

AGE: 21
COUNTRY: Australia
COLLEGE: None
WORLDWIDE PROFESSIONAL
WINS: 4

ROAD TO PINE NEEDLES:
Qualified at Morristown, N.J., site
on May 10



The 21-year-old Australian is set to make her U.S. Women's Open debut after earning one of the four available spots at Morris County Golf Club. She edged LPGA Tour player Por-nanong Phatlum in a one-hole playoff for the final spot. Both players shot 2-over-par 146. Kim turned professional last year. She owns four victories, including consecutive wins in the TPS Sydney (one as an amateur) on the ALPG Tour. She also owns two wins on the Women's All Pro Tour. Kim represented Australia in the 2018 Women's World Amateur Team Championship.

U.S. WOMEN'S OPEN PLAYING RECORD

YEAR	SITE	SCORES	TO PAR	FINISH
2022	Pine Needles Lodge	73-72-75- 77-297	+13	T-63



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LUCY LI

AGE: 19
COUNTRY: United States
COLLEGE: None
WORLDWIDE PROFESSIONAL
VICTORIES: 0
ROAD TO PINE NEEDLES:
Qualified at El Macero, Calif.,
site on May 9



Li became the youngest qualifier in U.S. Women's Open history in 2014, will play in her fourth U.S. Women's Open – and second as a professional – after garnering medalist honors at El Macero Country Club, shooting a blistering 63 in the second of two rounds to post 7-under-par 137. Li shot a pair of 78s in 2014 to miss the cut. Li was the youngest match-play qualifier in U.S. Women's Amateur Public Links history at 10 years, 8 months, 16 days in 2013, surpassing Michelle Wie's record by 7 days.

U.S. WOMEN'S OPEN PLAYING RECORD

YEAR	SITE	SCORES	TO PAR	FINISH
2021	The Olympic Club (Lake Course)	3-71-71-73-288	+4	T-16
2018	Shoal Creek	72-74-77-76-299	+11	T-55

ALEXA PANO

AGE: 17
COUNTRY: United States
COLLEGE: None
WORLDWIDE PROFESSIONAL
VICTORIES: 0
ROAD TO PINE NEEDLES:
Qualified at the Stuart, Fla., site
on May 9



Pano will make her second U.S. Women's Open start -- and first as a professional -- after surviving a 2-for-1 playoff for the last spot at Wailoughby Golf Club in Stuart, Fla. Pano edged Lindy Duncan on the second playoff hole for the spot after the two posted 36-hole totals of even-par 142. Pano turned pro in April after surviving the first two stages of the LPGA Tour's Q Series last fall. She was unable to compete in the finals because she won't turn 18 until later this year. Pano instead chose to accept Epson Tour membership.

U.S. WOMEN'S OPEN PLAYING RECORD

YEAR	SITE	SCORES	TO PAR	FINISH
2022	Pine Needles Lodge & Golf Club	76-74	+8	MC
2019	Country Club of Charleston	75-74	+7	MC

GABBY LEMIEUX

AGE: 25
COUNTRY: United States
COLLEGE: Texas Tech
WORLDWIDE PROFESSIONAL
VICTORIES: 0
ROAD TO PINE NEEDLES:
Qualified at the Chaska, Minn.,
site on May 9



Lemieux, a past three-time Idaho Women's Amateur champion, will make her U.S. Women's Open debut after garnering the lone spot at Chaska (Minn.) Town Course. Lemieux posted a 36-hole total of 1-under-par 143 (71-72). In the Epson Tour (formerly Symetra Tour), she registered a pair of top-10 finishes in 2021, including third in the Circling Raven Championship. The native of Caldwell, Idaho is part of the Shoshone-Paiute Native American tribe. In college, Lemieux (nee Barker) befriended fellow Native American Notah Begay III and he helped mentor her as she transitioned into professional golf.

U.S. WOMEN'S OPEN PLAYING RECORD

YEAR	SITE	SCORES	TO PAR	FINISH
2022	Pine Needles Lodge & Golf Club	82-81	+21	MC

GABRIELA RUFFELS

AGE: 22
COUNTRY: Australia
COLLEGE: University of Southern California
WORLDWIDE PROFESSIONAL
WINS: 1
ROAD TO PINE NEEDLES:
Qualified at Madera, Calif., site on May 10



Ruffels will make her third U.S. Women's Open start and first as a professional. She earned her spot in Pine Needles as the medalist at Dragonfly Golf Club, shooting 7-under-par 139 (71-68) on the par-73 layout. Ruffels turned pro in early 2021, giving up her final semester of eligibility at the University of Southern California. Her father, Ray, was a world-class tennis player, winning the Australian Open doubles title in 1977, and her mother, Anna-Maria, won an AIAW national singles title for USC. Gabriela was a top tennis player in Australia before turning to golf.

U.S. WOMEN'S OPEN PLAYING RECORD

YEAR	SITE	SCORES	TO PAR	FINISH
2022	Pine Needles Lodge & Golf Club	74-75	+7	MC
2020	Champions Golf Club	71-72-76-70-289	+5	T-13



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KATHLEEN SCAVO

AGE: 24
COUNTRY: United States
COLLEGE: Oregon
WORLDWIDE PROFESSIONAL VICTORIES: 2
ROAD TO PINE NEEDLES: Qualified at El Macero, Calif., site on May 9



Scavo will make her third U.S. Women's Open start after surviving a 2-for-1 playoff for the final spot at El Macero (Calif.) Country Club. Scavo posted a 36-hole total of 3-over-par 147 (75-72). Scavo qualified for her first U.S. Women's Open in 2014 at age 16, but missed the cut at Pinehurst. Since turning professional in 2019, she has posted a pair of victories on the satellite Cactus Tour, both in 2019. At the University of Oregon, Scavo was a first-team Pacific-12 All-Academic selection in 2019, the same year she tied for 23rd at the NCAA Championships.

U.S. WOMEN'S OPEN PLAYING RECORD

YEAR	SITE	SCORES	TO PAR	FINISH
2022	Pine Needles Lodge & Golf Club	73-77	+8	MC
2021	The Olympic Club (Lake Course)	80-79	+17	MC

BRITNEY YADA

AGE: 30
COUNTRY: United States
COLLEGE: Portland State
WORLDWIDE PROFESSIONAL VICTORIES: 0
ROAD TO PINE NEEDLES: Qualified at Scottsdale, Ariz., site, on April 26



The Symetra Tour golfer will make her third U.S. Women's Open start after being added to the field as a first alternate from the Scottsdale, Ariz., site. Yada missed the cut in 2018 at Shoal Creek and 2021 at The Olympic Club. She currently plays on the Epson Tour (formerly Symetra Tour). As an amateur, Yada won the 2011 Big Sky Conference title as a sophomore at Portland State. The Hawaii native also was the Waiakea High MVP from 2007-09.

U.S. WOMEN'S OPEN PLAYING RECORD

YEAR	SITE	SCORES	TO PAR
2021	The Olympic Club (Lake Course)	78-77	+13
2018	Shoal Creek	76-84	+16

BETHANY WU

AGE: 25
COUNTRY: United States
COLLEGE: UCLA
WORLDWIDE PROFESSIONAL WINS: 0
ROAD TO PINE NEEDLES: Qualified at the Southern Pines, N.C., site on May 3



Wu will make her U.S. Women's Open debut after earning medalist honors at Mid Pines Inn & Resort on May 3, shooting 4-under-par 140 (69-71). Wu represented the USA in the 2016 Curtis Cup Match. She reached the semifinals of the 2015 U.S. Women's Amateur a year after being the stroke-play medalist in the same championship. Last year, she missed qualifying for the LPGA Tour by just under \$4,500, finishing 11th on the Epson Tour (formerly Symetra Tour) money list.

U.S. WOMEN'S OPEN PLAYING RECORD

YEAR	SITE	SCORES	TO PAR	FINISH
2022	Pine Needles Lodge & Golf Club	71-75	+4	MC

RACE FOR THE CARD THE ROAD TO THE LPGA

LPGA membership is awarded to the top 10 players on the Epson Tour's money list at season's end. List as of July 26, 2022 on epsontour.com.

Name	Official money	Events Played
Lucy Li	\$107,241	10
Linnea Strom	\$70,572	10
Grace Kim	\$53,495	10
Alexa Pano	\$51,687	9
Kum- Kang Park	\$50,768	11
Gina Kim	\$44,773	6
Kiira Riihijärvi	\$40,956	11
Dottie Ardina	\$40,622	7
Andrea Lee	\$39,890	4
Sophie Hausmann	\$39,752	10

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COPPER ROCK CHAMPIONSHIP VOLUNTEERS,

For Love of the GAME

BY ELAINNA CIARAMELLA

Last April, the 2022 LPGA Epon Tour came to Hurricane City, Utah, and was hosted by Copper Rock Golf Course, which was voted the #1 golf course in southern Utah. The Tour was a huge success thanks to the enthusiasm and unwavering support of the volunteers who made it all possible.

The volunteer base for the Copper Rock Championship increased from 115 last year to 352 in 2022. With such an overwhelming turnout, Copper Rock lightened the workload

for the volunteers, allowing friends and partners to work together and provide enhanced services to the players and guests, according to Penny R. James-Garcia, volunteer and events coordinator for Copper Rock.

“I anticipate building a volunteer team of 425 for the 2023 event,” said James-Garcia.

For this year’s LPGA Epon Tour, Copper Rock offered 17 different volunteer positions, including: caddies, cart scoring, corporate hospitality, course

shuttle, driving range shuttle, ecology, food and beverage, guest services, housing, leaderboard, marshal, medical, real-time scoring, scoring tent, spotters, and youth services. For the 2023 Copper Rock Championship, James-Garcia anticipates adding at least two new volunteer categories.

VOLUNTEERS CAME FROM ALL OVER

According to James-Garcia, Copper Rock had a number of volunteers come from SunRiver Communities, a 55+ active

adult lifestyle community located in St. George, or more specifically, the “Nine Wine n Dine” club created by Mark “Fatboy” Loveless at SunRiver. However, there was no single neighborhood that dominated the volunteer base for this year’s Copper Rock Championship, said James-Garcia.

Southern Utah (Beaver to St. George) residents represented 76 percent of the volunteer team; northern Utah (everything north of Beaver) residents represented 20 percent of the





Copper Rock Volunteers and photo bombed by Championship Director, David Viveiros

volunteer team, and the remaining 4 percent of volunteers hailed from Nevada. Of all of the 2022 Copper Rock Championship volunteers, 52 percent were men, and 48 percent were women.

According to James-Garcia, most came from word of mouth encouragement from last year's volunteers.

"Our volunteer team members took fliers to local golf leagues and pickleball courts. Then, rotary and other service-oriented groups told their friends and family how much fun they had working the event last year," said James-Garcia. Copper Rock also did a marketing email to Utah Golf Association (UGA) members, and received a number of volunteers from among that organization.

VOLUNTEERS WERE EAGER TO BE INCLUDED IN THE COPPER ROCK CHAMPIONSHIP

Volunteers gave Copper Rock several different reasons as to "why" they were excited to sign up for the LPGA Epson Tour Copper Rock Championship, and there was a common thread: the No. 1 reason that came up over and over was the volunteers' "love of the sport of golf."

Other reasons expressed by volunteers:

- They were elated to see a professional golf tournament in southern Utah and wanted to be a part of making it a long-term success.
- They enjoy supporting women's golf.

PERKS OF THE JOB

Each volunteer who works all three days of the Tournament will receive:

- Two polo shirts, which are the uniform for the event
- A hat or visor
- Lunch each day of the event
- Snacks and beverages throughout the shift
- A volunteer kick-off dinner
- A volunteer shirt pickup event
- Exclusive entrance to the Pro Practice Round at Copper Rock
- Access to all general admission areas before and after the shift
- A volunteer after party at the 18th Green following the trophy presentation
- A free round of golf at Copper Rock Golf Course



Youth golfers from around the state, Volunteering for the Championship

• They embrace the opportunity to work a professional golf tournament without having to travel out-of-state.

For those interested in volunteering for the 2023 Copper Rock Championship, here's what to expect. Volunteers are generally required to work all three days of the event (some exceptions may be granted). Work shifts are typically five hours each day, and vary between morning and afternoon shifts.

Volunteer opportunities vary in scope and Copper Rock is happy to match volunteers with their interests and abilities; Copper Rock will also do its best to accommodate friends and partners interested in working together or on similar shifts.

VOLUNTEERING HAS ITS 'PERKS'

The volunteer opportunity afforded by Copper Rock is a great way to spend three days inside the ropes of a professional golf tournament, explained James-Garcia. She said you'll see some of the most talented women golfers in the world as

they compete on a stunningly beautiful course.

Volunteers pay a \$75 registration fee; however, the benefits package volunteers receive is valued at \$375, explained James-Garcia.

James-Garcia could tell many stories of Copper Rock's volunteer team members, the friendships made, the teamwork experience, and player interaction. Volunteers also experience the satisfaction of knowing they helped present a professional golf tournament that not only impacted these amazing young athletes, but also represented southern Utah to the world in top form, she said.

TALES FROM THE VOLUNTEERS

Marilee Eyre is the Beaver High School girls golf coach. Eyre said she was excited to help start the girls golf program and volunteering at Copper Rock was definitely the highlight of her girls' year. "Last year, we lost state to a private school in Salt Lake City, but the girls said, 'That's okay because we still got to go to Copper Rock

and that was the best experience we had.'"

This year, five of her girls were caddies. "This is such a good experience for my girls, and we're just delighted to be able to come."

They stay at Hurricane City mayor Nanette Billings' home. The mayor hosts the entire team, Eyre and her husband, and the assistant coach. Last year, the mayor cooked dinner for the girls Thursday and Friday night and Eyre was so pleased and grateful. "I asked her this year if I could cook for her and she said, 'Oh no, I've got it all taken care of.'"

Karen Francis is one of the many volunteers who kindly opened her home to a player, and in this case, it was to Emma Broze from Nervieux, France. According to Francis, Emma went to Oklahoma State for college and she has remained in Stillwater, Oklahoma, as she pursues her dream to get to the LPGA.

"She [Emma] was appreciative of our accommodations, allowing her to rest and revitalize

after each grueling day. She especially appreciated a 90 minute therapeutic massage I arranged for her the afternoon before the start of the Tournament and after the Pro-Am Tournament," said Francis.

"We praised and celebrated her second day when she shot 68 (with severe winds) and leading the field. We welcomed her back with a few balloons, a sign 'EMMA ROCKS,' and hot soup and pasta for dinner. And then back to preparing for the final round."

Francis explained that golf is her passion and she was excited to have such a wonderful event in her area. "I know the ladies are on limited budgets and thought I could defer housing expenses for one competitor. It was a way to give back to the game."

In addition to hosting a player, Francis volunteered as a spotter one day and as a marshal another day. "It was a way to participate in a great event promoting women's golf in our state. Volunteers were needed and many of my friends wanted to support the event. I had

Beaver High School
Girls Golf Team



“I
LOVE
GOLF!”

Wyly
Thompson

friends in their 80s excited to help all three days.”

Wyly and Denise Thompson hosted Hira Naveed, a native of Australia who is living in California to attend college. Wyly also volunteered as a marshal where he was assigned to a green with “Quiet” signs. Also, he observed as a spotter to see where the ball went, if off-line.

“I love golf!” said Wyly Thompson. “Being part of a tournament for aspiring golfers is exciting. These ladies are trying their best to make it to the “Big League” LPGA. Their skill level shows they have

dedicated many years to play at this level. Their golf swings are a symphony of athleticism! As a volunteer, we can support our community and the Epson Tour. We hope to see these ladies advance to the LPGA.

“The positives or benefits of volunteering is learning how important our role is in supporting the game of golf, supporting our community, being an active senior citizen and relating our experiences to others who may be interested in volunteering. We also learn how to prepare for the next tournament.”

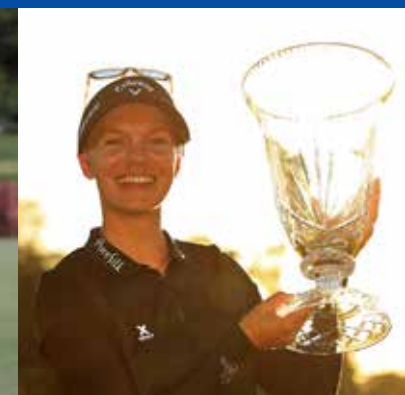
The 2022 Copper Rock Championship hosted young women from 32 countries, and corporate guests from around the United States were seen on Golf Channel, explained James-Garcia.

“There are not too many times in our lives that we have the chance to make that kind of an impact and have a great time while doing so. I sum up the Copper Rock Championship volunteer experience by saying, I have never had so much fun while working so hard. Our volunteers do work hard, but it is an incredibly gratifying experience for those who do!”



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Keith Kratzberg, CEO, Epson America



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LESSONS FROM THE LONGEST WAIT IN GOLF

BY BRYNN WALKER, LPGA EPSON TOUR PLAYER

In my short time as a professional golfer, I've discovered that waiting is a big part of the job. We wait at airports. We wait on airplanes. We wait during long drives to different sites. We wait to find out our tee times. We wait in hotels until those tee times roll round. We wait on the range until a spot opens up. We wait on the first tee until the clock strikes the exact second to allow us to start our round. We wait on the fairway until the group in front of us clears the green. Once on the green, we wait for our playing partners to putt.

You could say professional golf is a waiting game - a game in which patience is one of the most valuable virtues. During the first event of the year, my patience was tested.

I've experienced all of the different clock-ticking moments I've listed above. However, during the Florida Natural Charity Classic, I was presented with a new tester that would have me twiddling my thumbs for hours while my index finger repetitively hit the refresh button on the leaderboard. My eyes weren't fixed on the top. They were glaring right in the middle - at the cut line. When I finished my round, the cut line was one stroke above my two-round total.

However, I was a part of the morning wave. That meant that the players moving onto the weekend would not be confirmed until the final putt dropped in the afternoon. I signed my scorecard just after 11 a.m. The last group of the day didn't hear their ball circling the cup on the eighteenth hole until 6 p.m. That's seven hours of anticipation. With the winds picking up in the afternoon, I was pretty certain that scores would increase, and the definitive cutline would fall. I was never too concerned.

As the hours passed, my faith in the whipping wind got weary. With each click of the refresh button, the players moving onto the weekend were those that got around 36 holes in just 147 shots. Unfortunately, it took me 148.

After the first hour of checking the leaderboard, I was draining both the battery on my phone and my mind. I knew nothing would be confirmed until the evening, and there were far better ways to pass the time.

The first thing that came to my mind was to do my stats. Some may think that is stupid, but the fact is it helped me see the bigger picture. For the last hour, I had been kicking myself for bogeying the last hole. In truth, I carded a total of nine bogeys over the course of the two rounds. Any one of those

could have tipped the scale and put me on the other side of the dreaded line.

With almost five more hours until I would know any type of answer, my mind drifted from the game of golf to the game of life. So often we get fixed on one moment or one decision. In these times, we get anxious. However, when we can zoom out, we see that life is the accumulation of little moments. When we combine all of our days, that's what equates to the final score of our lives. At that time, I find it hard to believe that we will be worried whether we finished below or above anyone else. The only metric we will have is inside our hearts. That is where we answer the question: Did I really live my life to the fullest? Did I love like there is no tomorrow but with the faith that there will be?

I've realized when we think like that, there is no anxiety, but only peace.

Peace is what I found, when I knew in my heart that I had given my absolute all for those 148 shots. It didn't matter where that put me on the leaderboard because I could finally understand that over time that will take me exactly where I need to be.

Ironic or not, in that moment of tranquility I received a text from a friend that I'd see the sunrise on the golf course the following morning.

I made the cut.

When I teed it up in the final round, I promised myself I wouldn't take this day for granted. I would remain grateful for the competitive environment and cherish the time I had with my mom caddying. It was a fulfilling day because I truly enjoyed the game, the weather, and the good company I was able to share all of it with.

I'd go on to shoot three-under in the final round - my lowest score of the tournament. I was proud of it, but it paled in comparison to the joy I felt in all the moments that totaled that score.

So here's to not waiting, worrying, or wasting our time. I think that only leads to a wearisome life. Instead, let's learn, laugh, and love. I think that's what they call living.

Originally published on LPGA.com



Investing in WOMEN'S GOLF

SPONSORS RECOGNIZE THE VALUE AND OPPORTUNITY OF
PROMOTING THE EPSON LPGA COPPER ROCK CHAMPIONSHIP

The 2022 LPGA Epson Tour Copper Rock Championship came to Hurricane, Utah, April 18-23, 2022, thanks to the generous support of local sponsors and the community—who made this legendary event possible.

BY ELAINNA CIARAMELLA



FOUNDING PARTNERS



MAJOR PARTNERS



GOLD PARTNER



EXECUTIVE PARTNERS



MEDIA PARTNERS





Fans enjoying golf amid spectacular scenery at the first tee box.

"We endeavor to be actively engaged in issues and events of importance to the communities we serve..."

Darcy Horman serves as the director of operations at Henderson Hospitality Management, Inc., where she oversees all of the golf, restaurant, and rental management functions for the Copper Rock community. According to Horman, "The Copper Rock Championship is being sponsored by Copper Rock Golf Course, for which I am directly responsible. The vision we had when we began planning the Copper Rock Golf Course nearly two decades ago was that of a world-class golf course suitable for professional tournaments, nestled among some of the most stunning scenery here in southern Utah."

Horman explained how from the beginning, they envisioned inviting guests from near and far to visit this oasis in the desert, and how they sought

to support their friends and neighbors by providing jobs, housing, and investment opportunities—and they succeeded beautifully.

WHAT THE SPONSORS ARE SAYING
"KSL Sports is thrilled to be the presenting sponsor of the LPGA Epson Tour at Copper Rock. As the leader in sports reporting in Utah, we recognize the need for more coverage of women's sports and welcome the opportunity to showcase women athletes that are doing so much to support and inspire our young people," said Darrell K. Brown, president of Bonneville International Corp./KSL. "We envision a bright future for the LPGA in Utah and this event will be a centerpiece of all that will come in the future. Sports have the unique ability to unite communities and pro-

vide powerful opportunities to teach and celebrate hard work and achievement. KSL Sports will be there to tell those stories and showcase the accomplishments of our athletes."

Rob Brough is the executive vice president of marketing at Zions Bank. He said that Zions Bank is thrilled to support the LPGA Epson Tour Copper Rock Championship, and the bank has a long history of supporting professional golf events in the state of Utah.

"We endeavor to be actively engaged in issues and events of importance to the communities we serve, and the Copper Rock Championship is certainly significant in southern Utah. We also recognize the importance of supporting talented athletes and it's especially exciting when they're competing right

"It's inspiring to see the exceptional talent among these golfers. To watch them drive their ambitious dreams is truly motivating."

here in our own backyard," Brough said.

Brough explained that Zions Bank is a strong advocate for gender pay equality and regularly evaluates it across all roles within the company.

"Earlier this year, Zions Bank commissioned Dr. Susan Madsen and the Utah Women & Leadership Project at Utah State University to conduct research exploring how the state can improve its gender equity in a variety of areas, including pay," Brough said. "One of Zions Bank's Guiding Principles states: 'We celebrate differences by fostering belonging in every aspect of our business while addressing issues of social injustice and inequality and condemning all forms of prejudice, bigotry, and discrimination.'"

Zions Bank has sponsored numerous golf programs and events throughout Utah, including professional, amateur and junior activities. The bank is proud of its association with the LPGA Epson Tour Copper Rock Championship, as they are of any golf event they have supported in the past 25 years.

"It's inspiring to see the exceptional talent among these golfers," Brough said. "To watch them drive their

ambitious dreams is truly motivating. These athletes need our support, as they demonstrate to other young women golfers and young girls that they, too, can achieve their goals."

Serving clients in 47 states, Soltis Investment Advisors, LLC, is an independent registered investment advisor headquartered in St. George, Utah, with offices in Salt Lake City, Arizona, Michigan, Washington, and Texas. Soltis Investment Advisors sponsored the LPGA Epson Tour Copper Rock Championship to support the LPGA Tournament in southern Utah, explained Kim D. Anderson, president and CEO of the company.

"We believe it is important to give back to our southern Utah Community in a positive way, and consider this an opportunity to support women athletes and their success," said Anderson. "We see southern Utah as a great place for these types of professional events." Adding, "We provided the LPGA Epson Tour financial assistance represented by several other professional businesses in support of the LPGA."

Soltis Investment Advisors has hosted a client conference in southern Utah for the past 19 years. They are fiduciary advisors to over 100 corporate



retirement plans. "Our conference will bring in some of the best companies in Corporate America to southern Utah," Anderson said. "We anticipate 35-50 companies represented this year and over 20 industry leading retirement plan sponsors, such as Fidelity, Charles Schwab, T. Rowe Price, Principal, and Transamerica, to name a few that will participate. Upon hearing of the LPGA at Copper Rock, we recognized this as an opportunity to hold our conference on-site, and to support the athletes in the LPGA Tournament."

Anderson cited several positives of being an LPGA Epson Tour Copper Rock Championship sponsor, specifically the opportunities to support their local community and give back,

to support women athletes in their success at the LPGA, to support the future of southern Utah as a place for the LPGA Tour, and to have a positive venue for the education of clients.

Tyler Finlinson is the managing partner of institutional and retirement plan services at Soltis Investment Advisors. Finlinson said they also saw this as a great way to combine their annual fiduciary training that they provide to clients and highlights the LPGA Tournament here in southern Utah.

"We have institutional clients that come from all over the country each year, and we felt this would be a unique opportunity to provide the education that is needed as well as give

these clients a memorable experience with the LPGA,” said Finlinson.

Hurricane City Mayor Nanette Billings says having the LPGA Epson Tour Copper Rock Championship in Hurricane is an amazing opportunity for Hurricane City, and southern Utah.

“Never in the history of professional golf has a tournament been held here,” she said. “It was historic to be the ambassador of the first tournament last year. To host these amazing athletes again this year is such a treat. Last year with so many restrictions, we as a community were not given the opportunity to host these professional athletes in our homes. This year however, we get that chance.”

Hurricane City Council understands economics, she said. The city council voted to sponsor

this tournament for three year with 2021 being the city’s first year, and the city knew it would only grow from there.

The Tour brought in millions of economic impact last year, and the city is seeing the traction snowball. As the tournament is about to kick off, the city sees the impact of advertising on the golf channel and local media. More golfers visited the area last year and then again this year than any other year, according to Billings.

“My son Kade, while golfing Copper Rock a couple months ago, spoke with the pro shop manager about the tournament he attended as a spectator last year. He mentioned he would enjoy being a caddy for one of the ladies,” Billings said. “The pro shop manager hooked him up to caddy one of the top golfers this year. The young lady’s mom called my son

so excited and grateful he is willing to pack her daughter’s bag and caddy all week. My son loves golf and is excited to learn from this professional golfer. These ladies don’t have the luxury of riding in a cart during the Tournament. They walk all 18 holes each day. Many pack their own bags.”

As the only female on the council last year, and since this is a women’s golf tournament, Mayor Billings asked the council if she could be the ambassador. They voted for her to represent the city.

“It was an honor, and a lot of work,” she said. “I attended many hours of meetings, helped coordinate volunteers, and had the opportunity to hang out in the VIP tent during the tournament. My favorite memory from last year was when all the players surrounded the winner Bailey Tardy

on Green 18. Each helped her celebrate her victory. Bailey’s mom packed her bag and was also her caddy that week. Each player honored and supported Bailey winning the \$30,000 grand prize.

“Money is not the only indicator of success. Those athletes were there to win. But, they were good sports and understood the role of doing unto others as you would want others to do unto you. They showed the love and respect they would want shown. That was a beautiful indication of who each of the women golfers are.”

Billings said she was pumped for the Tournament week April 18-23, noting how she had the opportunity to play in the program and was looking forward to playing and learning from one of the best in golf.”

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SPONSORS

The newly named Epson Tour (aka the “Road to the LPGA”) is the official qualifying Tour of the LPGA (Ladies Professional Golf Association) Tour. The Tour’s mission is to take the world’s most extraordinary women professional golfers and prepare them for success as they ascend to the LPGA Tour, and Copper Rock is greatly honored to partner with the following sponsors for this second professional golf tour event:

KSL Sports
(Presenting Sponsor)

Soltis Investment Advisors
(Founding Partner)

Zions Bank
(Founding Partner)

City of Hurricane
(Founding Partner)

Greater Zion
(Major Partner)

Intermountain Healthcare
(Major Partner)

SelectHealth
(Major Partner)

Gail Miller Women’s Leadership Group
(Gold Partner)

Clyde Companies
(Executive Partner)

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JPMorgan Chase
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Economic Impact NUMBERS

120

Number
of LPGA
ATHLETES
participated at
the 2022
Championship

**DAVID
VIVEIROS**

Tournament Director

801.830.6874

davidviveiros@ gmail.com

Copper Rock Golf Course

Hurricane, UT

355

VOLUNTEERS

5,000 PARTICIPANTS AND
SPECTATORS

Copper Rock Championship

Women's Professional Golf Tournament

Golf Club: Copper Rock Golf Course

Date: April 18-23, 2022

* **ECONOMIC IMPACT** is calculate by several criteria
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Entertainment, Travel, Construction, Job creation,
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\$4,525,089

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The LPGA Epson Copper Rock Championship

MEDIA VALUE

Since the LPGA Epson tour announced the 2022 event, \$3,401,133.51 in Media value has been generated for the Copper Rock Championship and Copper Rock Golf Course.

Over

103

online media articles were written about the tournament with placements in USA Today, Yahoo News!, ESPN.com, Associated Press and the Washington Times.

LPGA Epson Copper Rock Championship was **TELEVISED NATIONALLY** on the Golf Channel in 2022.



72 million+

Approximately 72 million+ HH's.

76%

Golf channel is available to 76% of all cable households in the United States

ITEM	KEY DETAILS	MEDIA VALUE
Public Relations	Local & national media coverage	\$2,671, 951
Social	Facebook, Twitter and Instagram (Epson Tour, LPGA, Player Social and misc.)	\$5,013
Website	epsontour.com	\$2,341
Onsite	On-course signage, tournament collateral, tournament billboards.	\$150,732
Marketing	Tournament marketing (billboards, radio placements and email promotions.)	\$571,096
	Total	\$3,401,133

FROM THE BLEACHERS

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