

Reilley Rankin

Her Relentless Road to the LPGA Tour

HOMETOWN: Hilton Head Island, South Carolina

BIRTHDATE: 04/17/79

BIRTHPLACE: Beaufort, South Carolina

COLLEGE: University of Georgia

DEGREE: Child & Family Development

TURNED PROFESSIONAL: 2001

JOINED FUTURES: 01/07/02

PROFESSIONAL TOUR VICTORIES: 2

2003 Northwest Indiana FUTURES Golf Classic

2003 Betty Puskar FUTURES Golf Classic

Reilley Rankin is known on the golf circuit as the “*Comeback Kid*” by many who have followed her career over the past several years. Last year, she secured one of the coveted few “exempt status” spots on the 2004 LPGA Tour by coming in 5th on the “Top Earnings” list of the FUTURES Golf Tour, which is the official developmental tour of the LPGA. (Up until recently, it was the Top 5 earners who secured a spot; now it’s the Top 10 who receive the exempt status.)

This was a pretty extraordinary triumph for Rankin, considering, in 1999, doctors told her she’d never play golf again after a life-threatening accident left her with a broken back in three places, a broken sternum down the middle, and the possibility of never walking again. While in the hospital during her rehabilitation period, Rankin never once considered the thought that she would not play golf again. The mind is a powerful thing, and during her year-long recovery period, she would practice her golf swing over and over again in her thoughts while walking on a treadmill. It would be a year after the accident before she picked up a golf club again.

When she secured the 1st place finish on the FUTURES Golf Tour in 2003 at Innsbrook Country Club in Northwest Indiana, she was well on her way to reaching her life-long dream of playing on the LPGA Tour.

CAREER HIGHLIGHTS

- ?? Three-time AJGA Rolex All-American (1995, 1996, 1997)
- ?? Semi-finalist at the 1998 Women's Western Championship
- ?? 1998 NCAA Freshman of the Year Award
- ?? 1998 SEC Player of the Year Award
- ?? 1998 NCAA All-American First Team selection
- ?? Winner of four consecutive collegiate tournaments in 1998:
Bryan Park Invitational, Liz Murphy Championship,
SEC Championship and East Regional Championship
- ?? Recorded lowest stroke average in 2001 at University of Georgia
- ?? Member of 2001 NCAA Championship team at University of Georgia