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Se Ri Pak ends three-year drought, wins Bell Micro LPGA Classic in sudden death

By Kim Shugart
May 16, 2010, 6:31PM



Mike Kittrell/Staff

Se Ri Pak won the Bell Micro LPGA Classic on Sunday in a three-hole, sudden-death playoff at Magnolia Grove.

Se Ri Pak ended a two-year drought Sunday when she rolled in 10-foot birdie putt on the third playoff hole to capture the Bell Micro LPGA Classic at Magnolia Grove's Crossings Course.

Pak, Brittany Lincicome and Suzann Pettersen went to a sudden-death playoff tied at 13-under after LPGA officials were forced to cancel the final round following a lengthy delay due to thunderstorms in the area.

The leaders had completed three holes of the final round when play was stopped at 10:07 a.m. When play resumed at 3:30 p.m., the trio headed to the 402-yard, par-4 18th tee for sudden death.

All three players two-putted for par on the first playoff hole. Pettersen, who could have jumped to the top of the world rankings with the victory, was eliminated from the playoff on the second hole when she couldn't

save par after pulling her approach shot left of the green.

Pak drained a 10-foot par putt on the second hole and Lincicome sank a 5-footer to send the playoff back to the 18th tee.

This time Lincicome, one of the longest hitters on the LPGA tour, appeared to have an advantage after her tee shot reached the fairway and Pak's ball found the bunker.

Pak, however, hit a terrific 6-iron from 172 yards, skipping off the fringe and stopping in almost the same spot as her previous putt.

"Angle-wise is perfect," Pak said of the bunker shot. "As soon as I get there I feel really comfortable. I see a really clear shot from there and I have a lot of confidence in the shot. I think I like the shot from the bunker better than the fairway."

Needing to hit her approach close, Lincicome's 8-iron came up short in the front bunker. She blasted 25 feet past the flag and then sank the putt, forcing

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Pak to make her putt for the win.

"I knew I was going to have to hit a good shot," Lincicome said of her fairway shot. "I just unfortunately didn't trust it. I hit one of the best putts I've ever hit. It was nice to not just kind of give it to her."

The victory was the 25th in Pak's career -- her first since 2007 -- and improved her playoff record to 6-0.

"I never thought I'm never gonna win again," said Pak. "I still believe in myself. My coach still believes in me as top player. All I need is just be patient."

Before play was suspended, Lincicome had surged to the lead at 14-under with a birdie on the 387-yard, par 4, No. 3 hole.

Pettersen was 13-under when play was stopped and Pak was two shots behind at 12-under after taking a bogey on No. 3, but it didn't matter.

The tournament was called after 54 holes and the playoff was set.

"Basically, it was getting to the point where we weren't going to be able to finish," said Sue Witters, director of tournament competitions. "Unfortunately, (Monday's) scenario is not that great either. We have a window in the morning, and then we could have identical of what we had today."

Classic Finish to Bell Micro LPGA Classic 2010

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