

ShanghaiDaily.com

Published on ShanghaiDaily.com (<http://www.shanghaidaily.com/>)
<http://www.shanghaidaily.com/article/?id=468080&type=Sports>



Stacy Lewis (second from left), her caddy Travis Wilson (left) and others take the ceremonial plunge into the lake alongside the 18th green after she won the LPGA Kraft Nabisco championship on Sunday.



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Lewis opens LPGA account

Created: 2011-4-5

STACY Lewis held off defending champion Tseng Yani of Chinese Taipei to win the Kraft Nabisco

Championship in Rancho Mirage, California, by three strokes on Sunday, earning her first LPGA Tour title in the year's first major.

Lewis shot a 3-under 69 to finish at 13-under 275, rallying from an early two-stroke deficit while going head-to-head with the world's top-ranked player. She punctuated a tenacious back nine in gusty conditions at Mission Hills with a 20-foot par putt from the fringe on the 17th hole that broke abruptly to the left and dropped in, prompting a celebration from the gallery.

"I can't even believe it," said the 26-year-old Lewis, who overcame scoliosis in her childhood to become an elite golfer. "I've felt like I'm going to throw up all day. It's awesome. ... I just couldn't believe I made it (on the 17th hole). I thought I had a good shot from there, but I just tried to stay calm."

Lewis shared the first-round lead with Brittany Lincicome and opened a three-stroke lead after two rounds, but Tseng came back on Saturday with a bogey-free 66 to take the lead.

Lost focus

Tseng lost her focus in her quest for her fifth title of the year, however, shooting a 74 and bogeying four times in the final round on Sunday.

"She handled the pressure very well," Tseng said. "She did great, better than me."

Morgan Pressel, Katie Furcher and Angela Stanford finished nine strokes behind Lewis in a share of third place. Pressel, the 2007 Kraft Nabisco champion, and Michelle Wie both faltered badly in their final rounds after starting the day within striking distance of Tseng and Lewis.

Pressel shot a 76, while Wie had a 75 and fell to sixth place.

Lewis started out aggressively, making birdies on the second and third holes. Tseng's bogey on the fourth hole then allowed her to pull even.

Tseng retook the lead with a birdie putt on the eighth hole, but Lewis immediately pulled back ahead with a long birdie putt on the ninth before Tseng missed a short par putt. Lewis then went two strokes up with a 12-foot par putt on the 12th.

Tseng had one more chance when Lewis bogeyed the 15th to allow her to pull within one stroke, but she bogeyed the next two holes to lose the title.

Agencies

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