

Your granddad passed away just before the tournament - that must have been difficult to deal with?

It was really hard. I found out on the Wednesday morning before going to play in the Pro-Am. I knew he had been sick but the emotions were running pretty high and strayed that way all week. Then to win the tournament brought more emotions. Then to go to his funeral after that – the emotions were just crazy. But everything happens for a reason and I feel like he was watching me the whole tournament and was with me the whole way I guess.

And your mum hurt her foot afterwards I believe?

She jumped in the pond after I won and the water is pretty shallow in there. I told her to pick her feet up and jump out really

far but she did neither one and landed on the bottom. They diagnosed it as a broken leg at the time but when her doctor checked it over at home she was told she had just torn a muscle.

The jump into Poppie's Pond is a unique way to celebrate isn't it?

It sure is. When I was at college I'd watch on TV and see it happen and you'd think that'd be pretty cool' and I couldn't wait for it – I was ready to go right after we finished but we had to sign the cards and do all that first.

Was there a point in your youth your physical problems were going to stop you becoming a professional golfer?

Yes. When I had the surgery I thought I wouldn't get a scholarship to go to college and was thinking 'what am I going to do'. I was thinking I needed to go to college and get a degree – playing

professional golf was so far out of the picture at that point. I didn't even think about playing professionally until my last couple of years at college. There were times I thought I'd never play golf again at all, never mind professionally.

Does it affect you now?

No, I'm fine now. I work out a lot and do a lot of core work to strengthen the area around my back and take some pressure off it. I've had no trouble in the past couple of years, it's been really good.

So you don't have to make compensatory moves in the swing?

My swing protects itself I think. There are certainly moves in other people's swings which I wouldn't be able to do. But it works well now.

Laura Davies is a columnist in Lady Golfer and she was keen to praise you for your golfing ability rather than focus on the physical issues

you had earlier in your life. That must be nice to hear?

Yes it is. Gosh, I hadn't heard that. It is lovely to get that recognition from someone like Laura. It's really nice to be recognised for my golf rather than other things being discussed. That's pretty cool.



Annika then Lorena dominated – but no firm No 1 now. Is that an aim?

It's encouraging for the rest of us that it's like that. To have that aspiration to be No 1 is good and we've seen so many people take that position over the last couple of years. It's something we all work for and, from a player's standpoint, it's nice not to have someone way out in front year after year.



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