

**2006 Jamie Farr  
Owens Corning Classic  
Sylvania, OH  
July 13, 2006**

**First-round leader quotes**

**AN INTERVIEW WITH NANCY LOPEZ**

DANA GROSS-RHODE: Nancy, thank you so much for coming in.

Q. Tougher start than you probably wanted for this first round, what went wrong?

NANCY LOPEZ: Well, you know, when I first started practicing, which was probably like three months ago, because I never really had a teacher, I was doing a few things wrong because nobody was really visually watching me.

When I went to Nashville, one of the gentlemen that I know is a pro there. He gave me some tips on what was going on, because I knew I wasn't getting any power.

Somewhere I could feel it just wasn't right. So he helped me work on my swing a little bit, and to think about it. So I had to think about it today, as I have yesterday, would have been a good day.

I went to hit balls in the afternoon yesterday. I was able to work on that. It's just more hand position at impact.

And, you know, when you haven't competed in a long time, it's a lot harder to take that club back and make that good swing, even though you have that confidence, it's the right thing you still have to do.

And a few chip shots, not easy chip shots, I didn't get close. I left a lot of putts short. With all of that rain, you got to remember they have slowed up. They've always been pretty fast. So my mental attitude, still they were going to be fast. Still in my mind I had a lot of speed. I was in the cup a lot of times but short.

So it was just really, you know, a warm up for me to see what I could do. I was hoping I would stay a round 2 or 3-over. That's what I really expected to shoot today. It didn't happen. Tomorrow I'm going to practice. My wedges were terrible today from 80 or 90 yards. I'm going to practice those. That's harder. They are probably harder than the long shots with the hand motion that I have to use to get back to impact point. So my wedges hurt me and driver. I wasn't always in the fairway.

When you are in the rough it's high and really thick. I didn't hit everything real solid.

I was further back on the green. I hit a lot of long irons into the greens. I just want to work on that. I would love to play really good tomorrow. I feel like I can do that. I've got to keep concentrating on doing what I want to do in correcting my swing. It was fun. I had a good time. I

love standing over the shot trying to hit a good shot standing over the chip and grind to make the putt. I loved being out there and doing that again. I haven't done that in a long time.

Q. It felt good physically?

NANCY LOPEZ: It felt good physically. I'm a little tired now. I haven't played and walked 18 holes in quite a long time. I played 18 mostly riding carts and pro-am. It's probably since the Chick-fil-A that I walked and played. My feet don't hurt too bad. My knees feel good. My hips don't hurt which usually bother me. The pool exercises I have been working on has helped a lot of that. Because my hips were always sore after I finished playing, now they are not. The weight loss has helped a lot. I have a ways to go, too. It's going to take time. It's the first time I ever wanted to work on my game again. I hadn't wanted to do that for a long time.

When I had my Farewell Tour, I was tired of having to practice. I was tired to having to work on my game and being mentally into everything I was doing.

And, finally, I felt like the desire to work hard again and bring my golf game hopefully back to where it was when I was playing some of my best golf. I have to be patient and just keep swinging, and just keep, working.

I think it will click in, and I think I will have those good low scores again, getting in shape and keep on practicing is what I have to do.

Q. Is there anything about Toledo that you wanted to play here?

NANCY LOPEZ: I love the golf course. It's a good golf course. It's a good test of good shots. But I feel comfortable here. The people are very friendly. I feel like they know me and I know them. I know they know I am trying to hit every shot perfect if I can. They gave me the benefit of the doubt, even though I don't play very well. I still felt there support. It was fun playing in front of them today. There is so many people out there. It is super.

Q. You are always smiling, did you get that from your dad? Where did that come from? There is not as many smiling as you did in your time.

NANCY LOPEZ: My dad always had a very positive attitude. He was the type of father that taught me to enjoy what I was doing. If I did, he felt like I could always be successful if did I that.

I mean when I was growing up playing golf as a young girl, eight years old, I had a temper. I would get mad. I didn't slam clubs. I slapped a club one time, and I thought my dad was going to kill me. But he looked at me one day, and he says, you know, when you get mad you play worse. So do you want to shoot 39, or do you want to shoot 40?

I say, well, I want to shoot 39, dad. He said, well, you just answered your own question. Don't get mad. Why get mad? I wanted to be the best I could be and it aggravated me when I couldn't.

If you practice, and you work hard, and you know what your ability and capability is, you know you just have to go to the next shot and make your best swing.

My dad taught me that. He always had a smile on his face, and he always was happy, and he always wanted me to be that way.

And, to me, I feel really lucky that I can play golf, and I can walk and I can swing. I am doing something I love, so why not smile. Plus my dad spent a lot of money on my teeth wearing braces for five years, so I might as well use them.

I love playing golf. I love being out here. I love people.  
It's not their fault if I play bad. Don't take it out on them.

Q. Se Ri was just in here talking about learning to smile and enjoy golf and finding some balance, can you see a difference in her for when she arrived on Tour, the player out there?

NANCY LOPEZ: I know when she first came out she was so trained to do things a certain way. And I remember asking her, when I saw she was struggling, I told her why don't you just come to my home in Georgia and relax and enjoy not playing golf. Don't play any golf. Just get away from it for a while.

She told me, I've never done that. I've never not practiced. I think when she hurt her hand, I don't know what tournament it was last year, it was probably the best thing that ever happened to her because she couldn't play. It was time for her to take a break.

And I think she feels a lot of pressure from her country, and felt a lot of pressure. You know, when you fail and people are angry because you fail, then you became afraid to fail, and you can not be successful.

My dad never made me feel afraid to fail. If I failed, you know, I took it to heart myself. But my dad never made me feel like I failed. He would always give me a hug. He would always say that's okay, let's just go work a little harder. Never put pressure on me.

So if I was stepping over a shot I wasn't worried about what my dad was going to say to me when I finished playing a round.

So he always had a hug for me and, I think, that's what helped me to be successful in golf for as many years as I was because I failed sometimes. But I learned from it and I never had anybody to ridicule what I did.

I always kind of beat myself up by myself. And I think that's why I was able to do as well as I did.

I think that really hurt Se Ri Pak for a while because she was successful and then she struggled. Then I think there were a lot of people that were very hard on her during that time. I think with her having that injury was really a blessing for her, so she could get away from golf for a while, and let her mind rest and body rest and practice every day.

Q. I sense that you are really committed to making this comeback happen. How much of a cushion are you giving yourself to make it happen? How much of a time frame? How much patience is it going to take to get back to where you want to be?

NANCY LOPEZ: I don't know. I think as I go and as I practice, and as I work out, and as I get in better shape, I'm going to know more of what I need to do. And if I can do it.

Like I said, today when I finished, my feet started hurting a little bit on the last hole as I was walking up, but my legs felt pretty strong because of all of the exercise, doing it in the water, doing a lot of squats and everything you can't do on land. I can tell my legs are strong.

Before I was dragging. When I played the Chick-fil-A tournament a year ago, I was dragging to finish playing. My swing felt strong, I didn't feel tired. Once you are done, the adrenalin goes away and you feel tired. But during the time I was out there it felt good. I didn't feel tired which is a good positive.

So as I see more positive things happening, that's going to encourage me more than of what I need to be doing.

I don't intend to be playing a full schedule. I would love to play really competitive in the tournaments that I start playing into feeling like I may have one more win in me somewhere if I can I do that. If my body says tomorrow when I get up it feels a little bit better than it did a year ago. I think that's just important for me. I play golf because I love it. I don't play it for the money. I don't

need money. That's not my reason for playing. I play it because I love it. So that's what I want to do. I just want to work hard because it's something I enjoy, and hopefully I can produce and be able to be physically fit, and tomorrow when I wake up, not feel miserable and say why am I trying to do that? I am going to take some time. Tomorrow I may wake up and feel bad, but at least my mind tells me I want to come out here and play. We will see what happens.

Q. Can you speak more about Michelle Wie, the biggest names in woman's golf today?

NANCY LOPEZ: It's in a lot of people's conversation. I want her to be here. I want her to play on our Tour. I want her to bring those fans out here to watch her. I think the LPGA golf, you know, it's nice if she would come out and play with us more, and not play in men's events. But then we can't take away from the players that we have. I think we have the big crowds too because of Paula Creamer, Natalie Gulbis and Annika, and maybe we really don't miss her like this week. It doesn't seem like we're missing her too much. There is a lot of people here.

But it would be nice if she would be here to add to the great Tour that we have. It would be great for her to be out here playing with us and to show people the way she plays. She is a great player. I just think she is a woman, she should support the women's Tour.

Q. Have you spoken to her? Do you plan on trying to reach out to her?

NANCY LOPEZ: I don't think she's very approachable. I don't feel that way. I would like to talk to her. I don't know what she is thinking. I don't know what she is feeling. I don't really think she talks to anybody about it. But I would like to talk to her. But like I said, she is not approachable to me. She is friendly and nice, but I don't feel like I can go up to her and ask her, please, why don't you just play on our Tour and beat the great players on the women's Tour. Or what's your goal? Do you ever want to win? Winning on the men's tour, I think is impossible. I would want to win.

When I was a little girl, that's all I wanted to do was play golf and win. And I told my dad that. And that was -- I set that goal to hopefully one day be on the women's Tour and to win a lot of tournaments. That was my goal.

And I think she has to set a goal so that she can accomplish that. I don't know what goals she has. But I think you need to set goals and be better than what you are.

Q. (Inaudible.) How does it feel playing against the next generation?

NANCY LOPEZ: Se Ri is a good friend of mine. I played a lot of practice rounds with her when I stopped playing on the Tour. Any way can I help any of these young players to realize that.

There is so many players throughout the Tour who have brought the TOUR to where it is now. For them to keep helping this Tour, by being nice, by smiling, by signing autographs, by giving back is what it's all about.

Hopefully, I can set an example to them. If they said, I'm their idol -- because I think it's important. JoAnne Carner was my idol. Joanne had a great attitude and never had that look of defeat on her face. She just always tried. I never saw her quit. I think that's why she had some many fans also because she was fun to watch. People don't like to watch people beating clubs in the ground and having an attitude. I don't like it. I don't like to watch it. So I don't think fans like that. I think they enjoy -- if you hit a bad shot, okay, you hit a bad shot. But you still walked to the next shot with a lot of dignity knowing that you are going to try to hit that next shot as good as you can.

Any way I can help young players, I hope I'm approachable to them. If I can help the next generation realize that this is a great sport, and they have to give back for it to keep growing, and

you have to become one as a Tour, and not individuals as we are. I think in the years passed we were like that.

Kathy Whitworth and JoAnne Carner and Donna Caponi, and Judy Rankin, and myself, Amy Alcott, Beth Daniel, all of those older players, I felt we were really a family. I hope that all of the players out here will learn to be that way, the young players.

I think the Solheim Cup was a family for me, and I think they are still family. They still root for each other. It was a great experience for them. The friendships grew when they weren't that close before.

So I think that's so important because the stronger we are as a group, as one, we'll be so good together if we can do that.

DANA GROSS-RHODE: Thank you all.

Q. Do you have an idea of your schedule?

NANCY LOPEZ: I don't know. I'm going to do Grand Rapids next week. I'm going to go home and work on my game, work on getting in better shape, and then maybe play a couple more this year. But I haven't really looked any further than this. I looked forward coming here and playing and seeing what kind of guts I still had.

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