

Ladies' Links Fore Golf



# News

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## **Debbie O'Connell Receives LPGA's Nancy Lopez Achievement Award** *Award Honors Women Golfers Who Embody Spirit and Dedication of Golf Legend Lopez*

(Palm City, FL – October 15, 2007) — Debbie O'Connell, head golf professional at Piper's Landing Yacht & Country Club and co-owner of Ladies' Links Fore Golf, LLC, is the 2007 winner of the Nancy Lopez Achievement Award, one of the LPGA's top Teaching and Club Professionals awards. A 16-year LPGA Teaching and Club Professional (T&CP) and a 19-year veteran of women's professional golf, O'Connell will be honored at the Ketel One Cup Welcome Reception and Awards Banquet on Sunday, November 4, at the Hilton Daytona Beach Oceanfront Resort in Daytona Beach.

A former celebrity golfer and radio show host of "The Debbie O'Connell Show," on WPSL radio, which aired from 1995 to 2005 in West Palm Beach, O'Connell joined Piper's Landing Yacht and Country Club in Palm City, FL, in 2007. She was previously the head golf professional at Island Dunes Country Club in Jensen Beach, FL, and Cutter Sound Golf and Yacht Club, also in Palm City. O'Connell also is the co-founder of Ladies' Links Fore Golf, LLC, an organization established in 2006 with the mission to empower women golfers by providing them support, instruction and strategies to improve their golf games and their mental and physical conditioning.

"It means so much to have my name affiliated with Nancy Lopez," said O'Connell, a Class A LPGA T&CP member. "She has been an idol of mine for years, since I was a kid. She's done so much for women's golf and for the LPGA, and is someone worthy of emulation."

O'Connell first crossed path with Lopez in 1992 when she was a member of the Duramed Futures Tour and had qualified for her first and only appearance on the LPGA Tour at the ShopRite Classic.

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“I introduced myself to Nancy in the locker room and told her that my experience would not be complete unless I met her,” O’Connell said. “She was so welcoming to me.”

The Nancy Lopez Golf Achievement Award, was created by the LPGA T&CP in 2007, and is given to an LPGA professional who emulates qualities valued by Lopez: Leadership; Passion; Giving; and Approachability.

O’Connell has been the recipient of numerous golf industry awards throughout the years, including the LPGA National Professional of the Year and the LPGA Southeast Section Professional of the Year. She served as tournament director for the 2002-03 LPGA T&CP Southeast Section Championships and the Susan G. Komen For a Cure Golf Tournament since 2001. From 2004-07, she was the chairperson for the LPGA National Club Professional Advisory Committee. She also is a frequent speaker on the golf speaking circuit, and has given numerous seminars and clinics for the LPGA on the game of golf.

A generous volunteer, O’Connell founded and directs the Bobbi Salmon Scleroderma Project, a national campaign to create awareness for Scleroderma and raise money for research to help find a cure. In addition, she is an ardent supporter of the fund-raising golf tournament held for the Children’s Home Society of Martin County.

Born in Ridgewood, N.J., O’Connell graduated from Western Kentucky University in 1989 with a degree in psychology. She attended college on a basketball scholarship and was a member of the 1986 women’s Final Four team. She did not take up golf until her senior year, playing in only one collegiate event. Despite discovering the game so late, she became a LPGA T&CP member two years after graduating and has made golf her career.

Lopez is a 48-time Tour winner and four-time Rolex Player of the Year. She was inducted into the LPGA Tour and World Golf Halls of Fame in 1987, and captained the victorious 2005 U.S. Solheim Cup Team.

### **About Ladies’ Links Fore Golf**

Ladies’ Links Fore Golf, LLC was founded in 2006 with the mission to grow the game of women’s amateur golf by creating an international online golfing community for women. In 2007 the company launched its test site, [ladieslinksforegolf.com](http://ladieslinksforegolf.com), destined to become the world’s largest online women’s amateur golfing community connecting and empowering women golfers. [Ladieslinksforegolf.com](http://Ladieslinksforegolf.com) offers members tools and channels linking them to golf instruction, physical and mental conditioning, expanded playing opportunities, ongoing personal support and a growing and diverse community of women golfers. For more information, visit [ladieslinksforegolf.com](http://ladieslinksforegolf.com), or contact Lisa Freeman at [lisa.freeman@ladieslinksforegolf.com](mailto:lisa.freeman@ladieslinksforegolf.com).