

Ashley Prange: A-Game On!

INSIDER VIEW WITH ONE OF THE LPGA'S RISING STARS

ASHLEY PRANGE PROFILE:

HOMETOWN: Noblesville, Indiana

BIRTHDATE: November 24, 1981

BIRTHPLACE: Newport Beach, California

COLLEGE: University of North Carolina---Chapel Hill

DEGREE: Advertising and Sports Marketing

TURNED PROFESSIONAL: March 2005

PROFESSIONAL TOUR VICTORIES:

2006 Greater Tampa Classic (Duramed FUTURES Tour)

2006 Northwest Indiana Horseshoe Classic (Duramed FUTURES Tour)

Ashley, tell us how you got interested in golf and about some of your past and recent career successes---including wins on the Duramed FUTURES Tour and The Golf Channel's "Big Break V-Hawaii".

"I have been playing golf my entire life. It is pretty much what my family does. When you are born into a family with 4 golf pros already you pretty much have your map thought out. Although growing up I always played other sports, golf was always number one. I started competing at the age of 10 and have pretty much been competitive since then. I began traveling nationally at the age of 13, playing in various junior national events such as the USGA Junior and AJGA events. I experienced some success as a junior but by no means was blowing the socks off of people and coaches. I was what you could consider a "sleeper". I committed to play golf for the University of North Carolina--Chapel Hill. During my 4 years playing in the number 1 or 2 spot, I experienced tremendous success with 3 collegiate victories: 3 times All-ACC honors, and two times NCAA All-American. However it wasn't until my junior year that I decided that I would take my game to another level and turn pro.

Following my collegiate career I did turn pro and played the last two seasons on the Duramed FUTURES Tour, the equivalent to the Nationwide Tour for men. My rookie year on tour was definitely a learning year trying to figure out how I would handle the lifestyle of the touring life. However once getting my feet wet, the second year came much easier. This past summer I finished 7th on the money list with my first two professional victories. In addition to my victories on the FUTURES Tour, I was also the champion of The Big Break V-Hawaii, The Golf Channel's famed reality TV show. Through all of my experiences I have learned how to perform under pressure, deal with the media, and the true importance of one shot at a time. Now going into my third year as a professional golfer, I have moved up the stepping ladder some more. This year I am an official member of the LPGA tour. Although I have conditional status, I will be out there achieving my dream of continued success. It will be a transitional year for me, being that I will float back and forth from the Duramed FUTURES Tour to the LPGA Tour. All in all, I am advancing forward and that is what it is all about."

Ashley, can you share your personal insight with us about your dreams and goals?

“Success for me has always been the most important life goal. I consider myself somewhat of a perfectionist. My friends joke and tell me that every now and then I need to relax and stop being so intense in trying to achieve my goals. Not only do I aspire to get onto the LPGA, but I want to get there and experience success. My tangible goals would be to win a Kraft Nabisco Championship, and get to dive into the lake on the 18th hole at the Dinah Shore. In addition I aspire to win a Women’s U.S. Open and be a member of the Solheim Cup. However, when I am done with my golf career, I would love to get into golf broadcasting. For instance, what Dottie Pepper and Rocco Mediate are doing after their professional golf careers. I dream to have a long career in this great game on and off the golf course.”

Did you have any mentors or anyone who helped you reach the level you are at in your career?

“I have been fortunate enough to have all the members of my family as my mentors helping me reach the top. My family has always been 100% supportive of my career and desire for greatness.”

Can you share some advice to those aspiring to a professional golf career or what it takes to be successful in one’s career and life?

“You know there is some truth to ‘hard work pays off’. I am a firm believer that the amount of result one gets is in direct effect to the amount of work you put into it. Perfect practice and preparation leads to perfect success. It takes determination and patience to keep progressing to the next level in regards to life and a successful career. In addition, I truly believe that before you can walk you must crawl--and moving up the ladder one step at a time is the true way to get to the top.”

Ashley, is there a personal thought you would like to close with today?

“Yes, there is. I have been pretty much groomed to play golf since the day I was born. When you are born into a family of four Class A PGA Professionals, you aren’t left with much of a choice as to what road you will take. I had a golf club put in my hand at a very young age, around 5. I started taking the game to a competitive level, young as well, at the age of 10. The ironic thing that most do not know about me is that at the age of 14, I truly wanted to quit the game and focus on volleyball as my main sport. My parents wouldn’t allow me to throw it all away and pushed me to stick with golf. To this day, I owe them for their constant love, support, and a little nudge in keeping me competitive in a game that I have become very passionate about.”