

Sorenstam in Dubai for swansong appearance

'It's going to be a great farewell party,' says the super Swede



Annika Sorenstam is aiming to finish her career on a high with a perfect three-peat at this week's Dubai Ladies Masters, her last competitive event before she steps away from the game to concentrate on other dreams.

A hat-trick of titles in Dubai would be a perfect farewell gift for Sorenstam whose glittering career, spanning 15 years, is studded with 89 professional victories, including 10 major championships. The first player in the history of the game to cross the \$22 million mark in earnings, Sorenstam however, knows how difficult it is to win a tournament three times in a row. After all, she's done it twice.

"It is quite tough. My approach will be to try not to think about it," said Sorenstam ahead of starting her pursuit of a third straight title in the Dubai Ladies Masters which will be played on the Majlis Course at Emirates Golf Club from December 11-14.

"I don't want to put more pressure on myself than I need to," said Sorenstam, who shot a sizzling 18-under-par 270 to take the inaugural edition by a staggering six shots ahead of fellow Swede Helen Alfredsson in 2006. Last year she held off a strong challenge from Denmark's Iben Tinning to retain her title by two shots with a total of 10-under-par.

"I think it's going to be a very emotional tournament," said Sorenstam who has won three titles on the LPGA Tour this season and once on the LET, at the Suzhou Taihu Ladies Open in China.

"First of all, I love Dubai. When I went there two years ago I didn't know what to expect but I just loved it. They took very good care of us, a great golf course, the hospitality and the country itself is just so unique and so special," said the 38-year-old former World No 1.

"I'm going to come back and try to do a three-peat. We are bringing friends, we are bringing family, and everybody is coming to Dubai. It's going to be a great party and I will walk away with good memories," said the Swede who, in her own words, is "leaving the game on her terms."

"I have other priorities in my life, I have a lot of dreams," said Sorenstam, who will be getting married to partner Mike McGee a month after the Dubai Ladies Masters and would like to spend more time building the Annika brand which includes her golf academy and golf course architecture firm. However she may make a comeback in the future, should she feel the urge.

Quick Q&A with Annika ahead of the LET's 2008 season finale in Dubai



Have you any regrets? For example, you were never a member of a winning Solheim Cup team in the States.

I guess there is always something but I have been a part of many Solheim Cup teams and had the win in Sweden, which was huge. I wouldn't say that would put a dampener on my career at all. The memories that you have with your team-mates is something you can't create anywhere else and I am lucky to have done that seven or eight times.

What do you think your legacy will be?

That's a good question. Some of the things I want to be remembered for are my golf, sportsmanship and somebody who enjoyed the challenge and wasn't afraid to push and push and get better.

What is the thing that you can pin point as a high?

It is tough to pin point one, which is a good thing I guess. Shooting 59, being the first woman to do that, Hall of Fame encompasses everything, all the wins and playing with the men. Those are the three big things and the highlights of my career.

Reid set to seal Ryder Cup Wales Rookie of the Year, in association with the Bill Johnson Trophy

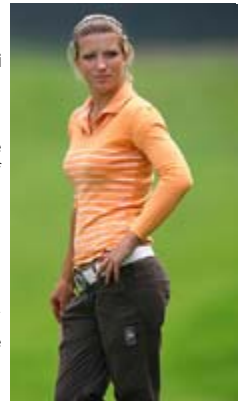
With the Ryder Cup Wales Rookie of the Year Award, in association with the Bill Johnson Trophy, practically in the bag, an upbeat Melissa Reid returns to the Dubai Ladies Masters running high on motivational ammunition this week.

The fast-rising English star, currently leading the race with €125,026 in earnings this season, is miles ahead of second-placed Caroline Afonso of France, with €47,673.

Reid couldn't have asked for a better place – and tournament -- to seal the rookie title for the best newcomer to the Ladies European Tour (LET).

When she missed out on earning her card at LET Qualifying School last year, it was 'golf in DUBAI', the promoters and organisers of the Dubai Ladies Masters, who provided her with a sponsor's invitation to play in the €500,000 event. On her professional debut she tied for 35th place in a field blazing with the ranks superstars Annika Sorenstam, Laura Davies and Gwladys Nocera to name a few. She hasn't looked back since.

Playing her first full season this year as a professional, Reid has raked in seven top 10 finishes, including three runner-up places. She is currently ranked 12th on the New Star Money List and is one of Europe's elite.



Nocera dominates the LET



Gwladys Nocera is all set to claim the New Star Money List title this week, after a fabulous year in which she has won five times and posted seven further top ten finishes.

The 33-year-old has come close over the past three years, finishing fourth, second and third on the list in 2005, 2006 and 2007 respectively. She will now become the second Frenchwoman to claim the official women's European No 1 spot after Marie-Laure de Lorenzi, who won the title back-to-back in 1988 and 1989.

Dubai Ladies Masters

Top 10 prize money at the €500,000 Dubai Ladies Masters

- 1st place: €75,000
- 2nd place: €50,750
- 3rd place: €35,000
- 4th place: €27,000
- 5th place: €21,200
- 6th place: €17,500
- 7th place: €15,000
- 8th place: €12,500
- 9th place: €11,200
- 10th place: €10,000



Rolex World Rankings as of 1st December 2008

1. Lorena Ochoa (Mexico)
2. Yani Tseng (Taiwan)
3. Annika Sorenstam (Sweden)
4. Paula Creamer (USA)
5. Suzann Pettersen (Norway)













For further information please see the Rolex Rankings on www.ladieseuropeantour.com








NEW STAR MONEYLIST 2008 following the Saint Four Ladies Masters



#	Name	€	Played
1	Gwladys Nocera 	384,514.58	22
2	Helen Alfredsson 	320,099.74	3
3	Martina Eberl 	221,596.20	19
4	Amy Yang 	215,599.38	16
5	Suzann Pettersen 	183,278.68	4
6	Lotta Wahlin 	181,114.22	19
7	Paula Marti 	162,698.40	18
8	Lisa Hall 	154,788.84	21
9	Rebecca Hudson 	145,275.91	18
10	Anne-Lise Caudal 	129,220.03	19



THE 2009 SOLHEIM CUP STANDINGS following the Saint Four Ladies Masters






#	Name	Pts	Played
1	Gwladys Nocera 	171.00	25
2	Martina Eberl 	101.90	24
3	Annika Sorenstam 	97.50	8
4	Laura Davies 	76.17	17
5	Suzann Pettersen 	71.50	6



RYDER CUP WALES ROOKIE OF THE YEAR 2008

following the Saint Four Ladies Masters



#	Name	€	Played
1	Melissa Reid 	125,026.02	14
2	Caroline Afonso 	47,673.86	17
3	Emma Cabrera-Bello 	47,500.47	17
4	Denise-Charlotte Becker 	35,004.42	18
5	Marjet van der Graaff 	22,908.43	19



Stroke Averages following the Saint Four Ladies Masters

#	Name	Average	Rounds
1	Suzann Pettersen 	68.60	15
2	Annika Sorenstam 	69.50	18
3	Gwladys Nocera 	70.52	75
4	Sophie Gustafson 	70.71	21
5	Liselotte Neumann 	70.75	4



Greens in Regulation (%) following the Madrid Ladies Masters

#	Name	Percent	Holes
1	Louise Friberg 	86.11	36
2	Suzann Pettersen 	84.44	90
3	Liselotte Neumann 	83.33	36
4	Sophie Gustafson 	81.82	198
5	Charlotta Sorenstam 	80.56	36

Sponsors

