

# KPMG Women's PGA Championship

Thursday, June 22, 2023  
Springfield, New Jersey, USA  
Baltusrol Golf Club



## Lee-Anne Pace

### Press Conference

THE MODERATOR: Here with Lee-Anne Pace. It is 8:06 and we've got a new clubhouse leader. How are you feeling stepping off the golf course?

LEE-ANNE PACE: I feel surprised. Is it 8:00 already? I played very well today. Obviously I'm very happy. No bogeys, which is awesome. Yeah, putted really well. Very happy with the round.

#### Q. What was the game plan going into today?

LEE-ANNE PACE: Oh, we kept it pretty simple. Most of the greens we went for the middle, didn't really attack too many pins. Yeah, like I said, the putter worked, which was awesome. Hit my driver pretty straight, as well.

#### Q. After a couple practice rounds out here, did you think a 66 was out there?

LEE-ANNE PACE: No. Did you? Well, I suppose they did move up some of the tees, so 3 made it a bit easier, and then obviously to birdie the last hole is a bonus.

#### Q. Would you talk a little bit about that finishing stretch where you were just running off birdies there as the darkness closed in?

LEE-ANNE PACE: Yeah, at my age, the darkness isn't your friend. But like I said, I felt very comfortable on the greens. I made a really good putt on I think it was 15, massive slopey, very quick putt. That was a huge bonus.

#### Q. How far was that?

LEE-ANNE PACE: Not that far. Probably about four meters. But above the hole, so very, very quick putt. Up-and-down, 16 from the bunker, which is obviously very nice, and then finished birdie on the last.

#### Q. How did you birdie 18?

LEE-ANNE PACE: I hit it in two.

#### Q. What did you have in there?

LEE-ANNE PACE: 190 meters to the front.

#### Q. Have you seen signs of good play coming, playing in Europe?

LEE-ANNE PACE: You know, I haven't had the best season in Europe. Mainly because I didn't practice hard enough if I have to be completely honest. I started practicing for ShopRite, that event, a lot more. I just spent a lot more time-out there, and I'm feeling super confident in my game.

#### Q. This is only your ninth event in two seasons out here. What does this kind of a round mean to you, not being able to play out here very often?

LEE-ANNE PACE: Yeah, obviously it's fantastic. I feel really good about my round. I feel very good that I'm so patient out there and calm, which is fantastic. But obviously to come out here and play against the best in the world and post a score like that is going to be something I'll never forget.

#### Q. Playing not a lot of golf probably expectations weren't the highest. Do you think that allows you to go out there and shoot some low numbers?

LEE-ANNE PACE: Yeah, I think my game plan was pretty good. Quite a lot of the pins were on a few slopes that went into the rough, so we kept it on the high side and just stayed patient out there. When we played this course, I immediately said it suits my game because I'm pretty straight off the tee usually and my iron play is pretty accurate.

#### Q. What did you find on the greens? Obviously putted pretty well.

LEE-ANNE PACE: Yeah, they are quick. They are quick. So you want to definitely stay below them even if you have



a longer putt. It's sometimes a lot easier than being high.

**Q. Obviously countryman Ash Buhai won the ShopRite, won a major last year. Has she inspired you?**

LEE-ANNE PACE: Yeah, massively. I went to look at a bunch of interviews, what she says, how she takes one shot at a time, stay in the process and not get ahead of yourself, so that did help me a lot.

**Q. Do you talk a lot?**

LEE-ANNE PACE: Oh, yeah, we're good friends. I stayed at their house last week because I wasn't supposed to be in this event. I qualified via ShopRite, so I came over for the fun of it, and then qualified for this one, and they allowed me to stay at their house, which is awesome. West Palm Beach is fantastic.

**Q. With your experience and your perspective, a round like this reminds you of what in the past?**

LEE-ANNE PACE: I guess I felt the same as when I won way back when, just completely in control and just focused, something like that. So it's kind of nice to have that coming back out here.

**Q. Using your experience at the majors, too, it looks like this is probably the easiest day of this week --**

LEE-ANNE PACE: Oh, thank you.

**Q. How do you prepare yourself mentally and with the attitude for the next few days, also?**

LEE-ANNE PACE: Same. I'm going to have dinner with my friend and hopefully have a good night's sleep and just do the same what I did today, try and stay below the hole and make as many putts as I can.

**Q. You've stayed in Palm Beach since the ShopRite?**

LEE-ANNE PACE: Yeah, I went there for the week, practiced at Turtle Creek, which was really nice. We saw Christiaan Bezuidenhout there so quite a few golfers practicing. It actually felt like home. It's the most home I've ever felt in America. I said to them they've got a really good spot there, and yeah, it's definitely something I would have considered in the past living, but I never got there.

**Q. One of the people you wrestled the lead from with the last birdies, 20 years ago. There's a lot of 20-somethings here. What keeps you motivated to compete out here?**

LEE-ANNE PACE: I don't know how to answer that question. Honestly, I just came over because I like to come over every now and then for one or two events. I honestly did not expect to be leading the tournament after day one. It's a very, very difficult golf course. To be in my position, I'm just really happy that I had a good score.

**Q. It is a pretty young leaderboard, a lot of players not been up there in majors. Do you think you have an advantage with your age and experience?**

LEE-ANNE PACE: If the body holds up, yeah. I hit a lot of greens today. Like I said, I feel very confident. I felt very like at ease, just calm, which is a nice place to be, and hopefully I can be that on Sunday.

**Q. How much fun have you having out here?**

LEE-ANNE PACE: Yeah, I love my caddie. He's really funny and he's really cool. We started at ShopRite, and yeah, we're just having a good time.

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