**LPGA Symetra Tour Coming to Rochester for the First Time**

***The Danielle Downey Classic brings ladies professional golf back to Rochester***

**ROCHESTER, N.Y., September 23, 2014** – Professional Golf won’t be leaving Rochester after all! The Symetra Tour, the Road to the LPGA, and Brook-Lea Country Club are excited to announce the formation of the Danielle Downey Classic from July 13 -19, 2015 at Brook-Lea Country Club. The Danielle Downey Classic will be the first Symetra Tour event in Rochester in the 35-year history of the tour.

“Brook-Lea Country Club is one of the best kept secrets in Rochester, and we know that this event is going to help change that. We are excited to welcome the Rochester golf community and the Symetra Tour to our club and to showcase our beautiful facilities and wonderful Donald Ross designed golf course,” said Ann Kerwick, President of Brook-Lea Country Club. “More importantly, we are proud of the opportunity to honor Danielle Downey, a wonderful young lady who grew up at Brook-Lea and worked her way onto the LPGA tour.”

Mike Nichols, Chief Business Officer at Symetra Tour added “We are thrilled to be bringing the Symetra Tour to Rochester, which as history has shown, is a great supporter of women’s golf. Clearly, I understand the disappointment that the long-standing LPGA tournament will not be returning in the immediate future. The Symetra Tour however is a tour that is growing and thus provides the Rochester community a chance to embrace future stars of the LPGA at the earliest stages of their professional careers.”

Rochester champions - and multiple major winners - Inbee Park and Lorena Ochoa both played their way onto the LPGA through the Symetra Tour. And one of golf’s greatest golf cities can now play a key role in helping these young ladies fulfill their lifelong dreams of playing on the LPGA, just as it did with hometown favorite Danielle Downey, whose memory will be honored by this event.

The Danielle Downey Scholarship fund was created in 2014 after Danielle’s passing and was presented to local High School golfer Meredith Glenning in June. Beginning in 2015 an annual scholarship will be granted to a local high school girl golfer and a matching gift will be given in her name to a charity of her choice. Danielle’s sister, Erica Downey-Setzer emphasized “Our family is honored and humbled by the continued support from the Rochester community, the LPGA and the members of Brook-Lea CC who are partnering to honor Danielle in ways that would make her so proud.”

In addition to helping fund The Danielle Downey Scholarship, the tournament is partnering with The Hillside Work Scholarship Program. “These future stars of the LPGA are outstanding role models for young people with their hard work and commitment to achieving specific goals. We are excited about the opportunity to partner with the Symetra Tour’s Danielle Downey Classic to benefit at risk youth.”

Information on The Danielle Downey Classic including sponsorship opportunities, volunteering and

pro-am events will be posted soon on [www.danielledowneyclassic.com](http://www.danielledowneyclassic.com), or by emailing Mike Vadalaat vadala@danielledowneyclassic.com.

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**About the Symetra Tour**

The Symetra Tour, the official Road to the LPGA, is entering its 34th competitive season in 2014.

With the support of its umbrella sponsor, Symetra, the Tour’s mission is to prepare the world’s

best young women professional golfers for a successful career on the LPGA Tour. The top-10 money winners each season earn memberships on the LPGA Tour for the following season. With more than 500 alumnae moving on to the LPGA, former Symetra Tour players have won a total of 382 LPGA titles, including 45 major championships. Symetra Tour events have contributed more than $5 million to charitable organizations throughout the nation since 1989. Follow the Symetra Tour on the web at www.SymetraTour.com, Facebook.com/RoadtotheLPGA,Twitter.com/Road2LPGA, and YouTube.com/Road2LPGA.

**About Brook-Lea**

Brook-Lea Country Club boosts a 6,400 yard traditional style golf course, designed by Donald Ross. The club has a long tradition of great women golfers including Ann Kerwick; several times Rochester District Champion, former NY State Amateur champions Christy Schultz and Jenna Hoecker, in addition to Danielle Downey, who rose all the way to a successful career on the LPGA tour.

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