



KOREAN AMERICAN COALITION

Ladies Professional Golf Association
Mr. Ty Votaw
100 International Golf Drive
Daytona Beach, Florida 32124-1092

October 17, 2003

Dear Mr. Votaw:

On behalf of the Asian American community, we are writing to express our deepest concern with Jan Stephenson's remarks about LPGA golfers of Asian descent and the LPGA's failure to properly address this situation.

In addition to finding Ms. Stephenson's comments offensive, we are disappointed in the LPGA's failure to immediately address the situation formally. The LPGA condones these types of comments if it fails to explicitly express opposition to it.

The Asian American community's objections to Ms. Stephenson's remarks can be summed up in four points:

1. Ms. Stephenson's perpetuating stereotypes of Asians as reticent and unfriendly;
2. Ms. Stephenson's assertion that the LPGA should cater to an American audience and is being exploited by Asian players;
3. Ms. Stephenson's proposal of a quota system to limit the number of foreign players in the LPGA;
4. Ms. Stephenson's assertion that Asians are "killing" the LPGA tour despite the LPGA's recent growth that is commonly attributed to the emergence of prominent Asian players.

Comparisons to other professional sports make Ms. Stephenson's comments all the more ridiculous. We can only imagine the implications for the National Basketball Association or Major League Baseball should one of their players have stated that players of African or Hispanic descent were "killing the sport".

Ms. Stephenson's comments have already estranged LPGA players Annika Sorenstam and Grace Park. Her comments, unchecked, will also alienate the numerous Asian viewers and corporate sponsors who support the LPGA. Asian corporations Mizuno, Asahi, Takefuji, Samsung and Hyundai have sponsored LPGA tournaments. As you are well aware, it was the influx of young talented players of Asian descent that has boosted interest in the LPGA Tournaments, creating the market for these sponsorships.

While you have already stated to the press that you do not agree that the tour is "being damaged by any one group", we recommend that the LPGA call a press conference to issue a formal condemnation of Ms. Stephenson's comments to LPGA's players, LPGA's sponsors and the press. We further recommend that you declare that the LPGA does not discriminate on the basis of race, national origin, creed or sexual orientation.

Unfortunately, the sport of golf continues to encounter situations in which its members and professional associations are being challenged on the basis of racial and sexual discrimination. The Asian American community strongly urges you to use this opportunity to project an image of golf as a tolerant and inclusive sport.



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The following national and local organizations share our concerns regarding this matter:

Asian American Bar Association of the Greater Bay Area
Asian Law Caucus
Center for Asia Pacific Initiatives
Center for Asian American for Self-Empowerment
Chinese for Affirmative Action
Japanese American Citizens League
Korean American Bar Association of Northern California
Korean American Community Center of San Francisco
Korean Community Center of East Bay
Korean American Democratic Committee
MOSAIC Cross Cultural Center at San Jose State University
National Alliance of Vietnamese American Service Agencies
National Congress of Vietnamese Americans
Organization of Chinese Americans

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Charles Kim', with a horizontal line extending to the right.

Charles Kim
Executive Director
Korean American Coalition