

Nancy Lopez: She knew it had to end

By MILTON RICHMAN
United Press International
NEW YORK — A couple of weeks back, when she was playing so spectacularly that she not only was breaking par but all the laws of nature, Nancy Lopez was asked a question she could've easily ignored, but didn't.
She had just won her fourth tournament in a row, the \$150,000 Ladies Professional Golf Association

championship at Kings Island, Ohio, only one short of the women's record as well as the money record for either a male or female professional rookie, and someone wanted to know if she thought she was unbeatable.
"No," she responded, with that warm, natural smile of hers that has a way of making everyone who sees it feel immediately better, "but I'd like to win everything if I could."

Saying that, winsome, 21-year-old Nancy Lopez realized she was merely indulging in some wishful thinking, talking more with her heart than with her head, yet she blithely moved along to the next stop on the women's tour, which was Rochester, and won there also, making it five straight and smashing both records.
Somewhere, sometime, she knew it all had to come to an end, and it

did Sunday at Hershey, Pa., where Lopez didn't look anything at all like the same relaxed, carefree young girl in finishing 15 strokes behind the winner, Pat Bradley.
What happened?
Nothing really. Nancy Lopez simply was worn out. Mentally more than physically. She had given too much of herself accommodating autograph seekers, members of the media, practically everyone who

came up to talk with her, and all that finally took its toll on her nerves and on her game.
She showed that during the tournament the past few days when she admitted her concentration wasn't what it should've been because she was thinking about interviews instead of her golf game. Eventually, it got to be too much for her.
Lopez was scheduled to be on the Today show Tuesday but said no.

"It's ridiculous to be running around all the time," she said. "I want to play golf. I don't want to be running all over the United States."
Well-wishers also took something out of Lopez, primarily because she didn't want it to look as if she were snubbing anyone. People mean to be supportive when they flock around an accomplisher to shower her or him with adulation but they generate a kind of pressure they're

not even aware of.
Lopez had no alibis for being ing when she came into the tent Sunday. She had finished a 5-over-par 221 to Bradley under 206 but was still in the lead.
"Do you have anything to say?" an LPGA official asked.
"I'm going to dye my hair next week so they won't see me," she said.

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