## "Pitching" Today's Media

PR News Media Relations Conference Story Pitching Techniques You'll Need in 2014

Kraig Kann
Chief Communications Officer
LPGA

@KraigKann, @LPGA

#prconf

#### "PITCHING" TODAY'S MEDIA

### "Those Who Listen Are Only Those You Make Pay Attention"



- BALLGAME begins well before the First Pitch
- Winning Ballgame WON'T happen on paper
- Every Good "Pitcher" cares for their CATCHER
- You're Pitching MORE than just your story

### ART OF THE PITCH

# PHILOSOPHY: Treat Media As Million \$\$\$ Customer

- \* They help shape your brand
- \* They help build your "following"
- \* They always get the last word



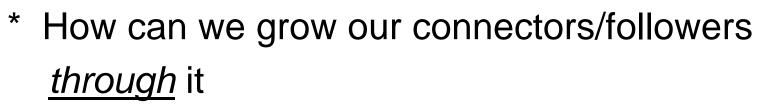


Relationships Feedback Appreciation



#### **EXECUTION OF THE PITCH**

- Our Pitch Plan Starts with DEFINED Questions
  - \* What story can best get us noticed
  - \* Who among media can best build brand of our tour and our players <u>with</u> it



\* Might it be promotable enough to get future results <u>from</u> it



#### **EXECUTION OF THE PITCH**

#### Fastball: (Golf Beat Media)

- \* Story Straight Down Middle
- \* Basic storylines, day to day news & features
- \* Target: Core Golf audience only

#### Slider: (National Sports Media)

- \* Story With a Twist Angle
- \* Unique & Tougher sell
- \* Target: Mainstream Sports Audience



#### **Curve:** (Non- Sports Media – New Demographic)

- \* Story Way "Off the Plate"
- \* Idea "outside the box" which could lead to more coverage
- \* Target: People Unfamiliar with the LPGA



"Fastball"



## **Golf Digest**

Stacy Lewis #1 & America's Darling

"Fastball"



Inbee Park
"Look at Me" - GolfWorld

"Slider"



The Asian Swing
Strategic Press Conference



Recession, it looked as if the world's premier women's sports league might go out of business. In 2010 the tour staged only 24 tournaments, down from 34 two years earlier.

Golf is a niche sport, and women's golf is a niche of a niche, but the commissioner who led the tour off a fiscal cliff, Carolyn Bivens, had scared away sponsors with hardball negotiations that were part of an appressive strategy to make the LPGA too.

Golf is a niche sport, and women's golf is a niche of a niche, but the commissioner who led the tour off a fiscal cliff, Carolyn Bivens, had scared away sponsors with hardball negotiations that were part of an aggressive strategy to make the LPGA too big to fail. Bivens departed in July 2009 after a player revolt, and the LPGA was both lucky and good to have chosen Mike Whan as her successor. A longtime executive in golf and sporting goods, the effervescent Whan has taken the LPGA back to its roots as a tour that offers some of the rarest commodities in professional sports: intimacy, value and player interaction with fans and sponsors. At the same time Whan, 48, has taken what used

#### **OUR SUCCESSES**

"Slider"

"The Case For – The LPGA"

Sports Illustrated



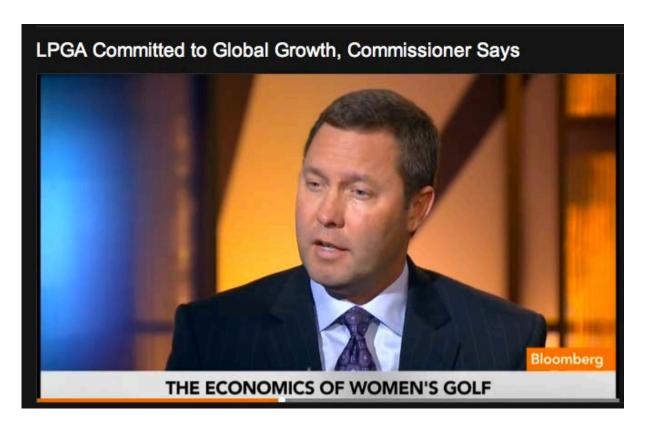


"Slider"

Inbee Park's Major Run

The Today Show & ESPN

"Slider"



# LPGA's Momentum Bloomberg





"Curve Ball"

**Caddy Bibs** 

LPGA Player's Twitter Handles

**LPGA First** 





"Curve Ball"

Danica Patrick

LPGA Salutes
Daytona 500 pole
from Thailand

"Curve Ball"



Natalie Gulbis
The Weather Channel

"Curve Ball"



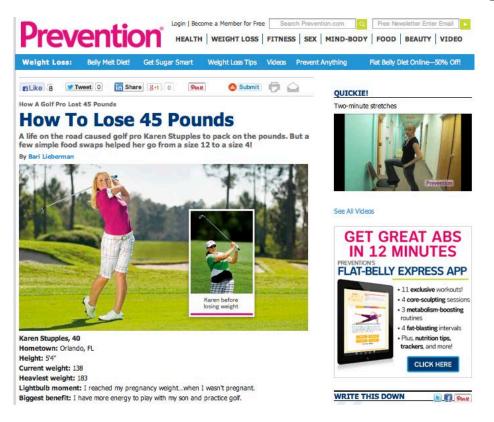
Azahara Munoz CNN Español

"Curve Ball"



Jessica Korda Teen Vogue

"Curve Ball"



# Karen Stupples Prevention Magazine



"Curve Ball"

Stacy Lewis
Shape Magazine

#### "FINAL PITCH"

- PHONE over EMAIL every time
- Unglue Yourself from the Chair
- Use Media as a Tool for Your Success
- Use Key Assets to Help with Pitch
- Allow Media to be Part of Story
- Don't Marry Yourselves to Your Core Media
- Reward Those Who Build Your Brand, promote their stories on Your Brand
- DON'T BE AFRAID TO FAIL







## "Pitching" Today's Media

PR News Media Relations Conference Story Pitching Techniques You'll Need in 2014

Kraig Kann
Chief Communications Officer
LPGA

@KraigKann, @LPGA

#prconf