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Colourful Christina Will Be A Big Draw At Indian Open

Christina Kim, one of the most flamboyant stars of world ladies golf, will be a major attraction at the fifth edition of the Hero Indian Women's Open. The bubbly American who has a huge following in both the US and Europe will be coming to India for the first time.

Looking forward to her battle with the legendary Laura Davies of England, Christina will add character and colour to the tournament, which carries a purse of \$ 300,000 and is co-sanctioned by the Ladies European Tour, the Ladies Asian Golf Tour and the Women's Golf Association of India. Christina is among the leading draws alongside Davies, Sophie Gustafson of Sweden, South Africa's Lee Ann Pace, Thailand's Phatlum Pornanong and France's Gwladys Nocera. LET's latest star Caroline Hedwall, three-times winner this year on the Tour, will be a big threat to all.

Kim, a winner of two LPGA titles and one on the Ladies European Tour, said she was delighted to be coming to India. She is also slated to play in Dubai after India. She finished tied fourth on six-under 284 last year, just five shots behind winner Iben Tinning of Denmark. In eight starts on the LET this season, Kim missed just one cut (Women's British Open) and her best finish being tied second at Jamie Farr Owens Corning Classic. The three-time Solheim Cup player, Kim also featured in 20 LPGA events with a tied 13th at the Avnet LPGA Classic being her best result.

Known for her fashion flair and exuberance, the 27-year-old "Excitement Machine" believes in playing aggressively on the course. "Go big or go home," is her philosophy - and it's working well for the outspoken lass from San Jose, California. Kim has been making regular appearances in Europe and said: "Although the LPGA is my first tour, this is like a second home for me and the competition is incredible here every week," she said after winning the Sicilian Ladies Italian Open in October.

"On both of my tours I've got at least one win under my belt and I can't wait to see how many more I may get in my career," said the three-time US Solheim Cup player. The field for Hero Women's Indian open is headlined by the legendary Laura Davies, who despite the late arrival of her golf bag, won the 2010 Hero Women's Indian open and boasts of more than 80 international titles, including four Majors. The 37-year-old Sophie Gustafson, a four-time Money List champion, and winner of 29 titles internationally, including five on the LPGA and 14 on the LET.

Lee-Ann Pace, 30, and winner of five titles and the Henderson Money List title, is back for a second taste of Hero Women's Indian Open.