

Publication	Page No	Date
Times of India (Delhi)	25	07 December'11

No male versions of this 'happy' spice girl

Moushumi Bora | TNN

New Delhi: Colourful Christina, golf's spice girl, excitement machine: There are several monikers for the two-time Ladies PGA champ who has been often misunderstood for her on-course exuberance. But ask her and she blurts out a simple statement, "I am a happy person."

Comparisons have been made with Ian Poulter and even John Daly for her flamboyant dressing style, but Christina Kim will have none of it. "There's no male version, I think all the boys are boring," she whispers. When people stop her with the 'we've-heard-so-much-about-you' greeting, she shoots back, "All lies!"

Armed with honesty and one-liners, the twitter addict has one eye on a second Ladies European Tour title this year as the Hero Women's Indian Open tees off on

Friday. There are peals of laughter as she superstitiously refrains from touching the trophy. "I've been a pro for ten years and my career has been fantastic but my game still needs a lot of work. It hasn't been a stellar year so far until my win in Sicily, and hopefully, things will work out here also," says the 27-year-old from Orlando, Florida.

The other eye is on Delhi's age-old monuments. Confessing that her Hindi vocabulary is limited to only 'namaste', 'paneer', 'palak' and 'murgh', the photography buff's discovery of India is incomplete unless she visits Humayun's Tomb and Qutub Minar. "I think India has the greatest history. I was sweating because I got my passport only the day before I arrived. I'm ready to absorb the culture."

Taj Mahal, however, will have to wait because the pro that she is, Christina would like to "balance ex-



A DASH OF COLOUR: Golfer Christina Kim is in the swing of things

ploring and winning". Born of Korean immigrant parents just like Michelle Wie, it was apt that the two revelled in their partnership in America's famous 2009 Solheim

Cup victory over Europe, although Christina hit the headlines for the wrong reasons. Her celebrations were termed 'discourteous' and 'over the top' while her decision to

appear in the nude for a sports magazine was called 'shocking'. Perhaps, that's why she felt the need to record her thoughts in an autobiography 'Swinging from My Heels: Confessions of an LPGA Star'.

"My co-writer Alan Shipnuck approached me with the lure 'your life is so hilarious'. It was wonderful therapy as I found another medium to express myself, and my words did affect a lot of people. The response was fantastic."

As she divides her time between the LPGA and LET, she opposes the claim that the former is a superior tour. "Lucrative, yes, the prize purse is much bigger but I don't see many differences. Top players are top players, here or there. You can say Europe is friendlier, LPGA more businesslike; It's easy to forget the joys of life. LET also offers you a ticket to the most wonderful places." Like India. Her smile conveys the message.