

# Allison Fouch Gets Acquainted with Success on LPGA Tour

By Kelly Hill  
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Knowing it and showing it are two very different things.

East Grand Rapids native Allison Fouch, 27, has known for years that her game was good enough to contend on the LPGA Tour. Until this season however, she had not shown it.

In 2006 and 2007 Fouch, who graduated from Michigan State University in 2004 with a degree in chemistry, played in five LPGA events, survived the cut only once each year, finished no higher than 31st and earned a total of \$15,069.



Allison Fouch

This year however, Fouch eclipsed her last two years' total

top 25 five times and with her runner-up finish at Kingsmill which

earnings just four events into the season. In three tournaments this season Fouch made more money than in the previous two years combined and when she finished second to Annika Sorenstam in the Michelob ULTRA Open at Kingsmill in Williamsburg, Va., she earned more than nine times what she earned in the previous two years.

Through the U.S. Women's Open, Fouch had played in 13 LPGA events, had missed the cut only five times, finished in the

earned her \$138,548, had pushed her season's earnings to \$225,412.

Perhaps most importantly, her Tour card is secure through the 2009 season.

"I can't not be pleased with the position I am in, and the security I have for next year, knowing that I have secured my Tour card for next year," Fouch said recently. "Even though I have not been playing well lately," she said after missing the cut at the U.S. Women's Open, "I know that I can play and win out here.

game," she said. "It made it easier to work on my game." Forgetting poor shots was not easy for Fouch. "The first thing I had to work on, my most glaring problem, was putting shots behind me," she said.

"I wanted it so badly, but you can want it too much," she noted. "Allowing myself to make mistakes has allowed me to play golf with so much more freedom."

It also allowed Fouch to shoot a 64 in the final round of the Michelob ULTRA Open and fin-

sudden I was second only to Annika Sorenstam."

Since finishing second in Virginia, Fouch's best finish is a tie for 20th in the Ginn Tribute, where she earned \$27,820.

"I played well for a while but then I fell into a slump," Fouch said. "Now I have to do what got me up to that level. I have to work hard again and I know what that is about."

With new success this season, have come new goals.

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"In my first couple of events, I missed the cut but I was playing with girls whose names I knew and who had been out there for a long time, but at the same time, I honestly felt like I had a better game than they did. I hit it a little further, I had a better short game and a better putter. I recognized that I didn't need to learn or perfect any shots."

Fouch's mental game is what needed work. "I realized how important my mind is to my

ished tied for second with Karen Stupples, Jeong Jang and Christina Kim. Fouch shot a 12-under 69-71-68-64-272 at Kingsmill.

"I have been working for this for the last 12 years of my life, but I can't believe that I shot a 64 on Sunday in an LPGA Tour event to move into second place and get the check that I got.

"I got a taste of what it feels like to be at the top. Second place is completely different than a bunch of top-20 finishes. All of a

"I could finish in the top 40 on the money list and get a two-year exemption, what an accomplishment that would be," she said. "My goals have changed. I could finish in the top 80 and keep my card, but now I want to be one of the top Americans on the Tour and I want to play on the Solheim Cup team.

"Now I am not happy being 40th on the money list. I want to be one of the top players, if not the best!" *MG*