

# 2025 Meijer LPGA Classic for Simply Give

Blythefield Country Club | Belmont, MI | June 12-15, 2025

# **First-Round Notes**

June 12, 2025

Media Contact: Carly Lyvers, +1 (386) 214-9105; Luke Otto, + 1 (734)

560-5745

Course Setup: 36-36—72, 6,451 yards

Scoring Average: R1: 71.174

Weather: Mostly to partly cloudy skies with temperatures peaking

at 80 F and easterly winds reaching between 6-12 mph

Race to CME Globe Points: 500 (winner) Purse: \$3 million (winner's prize, \$450,000)

TV/Streaming Times: How to Watch

## **QUICK LINKS**

**Interview Transcripts** 

LPGA Tour Online Media Center

(OMC)

**Tournament Website** 

#### **SOCIAL MEDIA**

LPGA Tour: @LPGA, @LPGAMedia (X), @lpga tour (Instagram, TikTok)

Tournament: @MeijerLPGA (X,

Instagram)

<u>LEADERBOARD</u>				
	Player	To par	Score	
1	Mi Hyang Lee	-8	64	
2	Grace Kim	-7	65	
T3	Akie Iwai	-6	66	
T3	Karis Davidson	-6	66	
T3	Sofia Garcia	-6	66	

#### **COMPETITION HIGHLIGHTS**

- 1st: Mi Hyang Lee shot a 64 on Thursday
  - Recorded six birdies and an eagle on No. 10
    - Had four consecutive birdies from holes 5 to 8
  - Was one of six players to record a bogey-free round
  - Was one of 14 players to record an eagle in round one
  - Hit 11/13 fairways and 16/18 greens in regulation with 27 putts
  - Seventh time leading or co-leading after the first round
    - First time leading or co-leading after the first round since the 2020 ShopRite LPGA Classic
    - Her first-round lead/co-lead at the 2020 ShopRite LPGA Classic is also the last time she led or co-led after any round on the LPGA Tour

- Her lowest recorded round is 62, shot twice in R1 of the 2016 JTBC Founders Cup and 2021 Pelican Women's Championship
- 2nd: Grace Kim shot a first-round 65
  - Made an eagle, six birdies and a bogey on Thursday
    - Birdied hole 3
    - Made back-to-back birdies on holes 7 and 8
    - Eagled No. 10
    - Recorded consecutive birdies on holes 11 and 12
    - Bogeyed hole 13 and birdied hole 14
  - Hit 8/13 fairways and 12/18 greens in regulation with 23 putts
    - Recorded the lowest number of putts across the field on Thursday
  - o Finished runner-up in 2024 after losing to Lilia Vu on the third playoff hole
- T3: Karis Davidson, Sofia Garcia and Akie Iwai each shot 66 in R1
  - o Davidson's 66 tied for her lowest round on the LPGA Tour
    - Shot 66 twice previously, R2 at the 2022 Walmart NW Arkansas Championship and R1 of the 2024 Ford Championship
    - Made six birdies, was one of six players to record a bogey-free round
    - This is her first start at the Meijer LPGA Classic for Simply Give
    - Her fourth round in the 60s in 2025
    - Her ninth start of the 2025 season
      - Missed her first four cuts of the year
      - Her best finish is T16 at the MEXICO Riviera Maya Open at Mayakoba
  - o Garcia recorded her second round in the 60s on the LPGA Tour on Thursday
    - Recorded seven birdies and a bogev
      - Back-to-back birdies on holes 4 and 5 and 14 and 15
      - Her sole bogey was on No. 17
    - Hit 4/13 fairways and 14/18 greens in regulation with 27 putts
      - Is the only player that finished in the top-10 to record six or less fairways hit on Thursday
    - Has missed each cut in her last four starts this season
    - Her first time shooting 66 or lower since the 2024 Portland Classic where she shot her lowest round, 65
  - o Iwai recorded a 66 with seven birdies and a bogey
    - Had three consecutive birdies from holes 10 through 12
    - Bogeyed No. 17
    - Tied for first for the most birdies across the field on Thursday
    - Hit 7/13 fairways and 14/18 greens in regulation with 27 putts
    - This is her first start at the Meijer LPGA Classic for Simply Give
    - Has two runner-up finishes this season Honda LPGA Thailand and JM Eagle LA Championship presented by Plastpro
- There are three sponsor invites in the field this week:
  - T60 Carolina Lopez-Chacarra, recipient of the 2025 Inkster Award presented by Workday, shot a 71
  - o T118 Bailey Davis, winner of the John Shippen Women's Invitational, carded a 74

- Monday qualifiers:
  - T135 Olivia Stoll shot a 76 on Thursday. She is a recent graduate of Grand Valley State University
  - 144th Annie Park opened with an 81
- Three players to play in every edition of the Meijer LPGA Classic for Simply Give: **Lexi Thompson**, **Ashleigh Buhai** and **Pernilla Lindberg**

#### A LOOK AT THE LEADER

CATEGORY	Mi Hyang Lee
2025 Race to CME Globe Rank	44
2025 LPGA Tour Wins	0
2025 LPGA Tour Top 10s	1
2025 Official Season Earnings	\$302,061
Career LPGA Tour Wins	2
Career Official LPGA Tour Top 10s	27
Career Official Money	\$5,277,377

#### **ABOUT THE LEADER**

Rolex Rankings No. 67 Mi Hyang Lee

- Ninth appearance at the Meijer LPGA Classic for Simply Give
  - o Best finish is T17 in 2023
  - Missed the cut in 2014, 2016 and 2022
- Twelfth start of the 2025 season; 10 cuts made
  - One top-10 finish: Ford Championship presented by Wild Horse Pass (T6)
  - o Only missed cut is the U.S. Women's Open presented by Ally, her last start on the LPGA
- Career: Two wins, 27 career top-10 finishes, \$5 million in career official earnings
  - o Two wins: 2014 Mizuno Classic and 2017 Aberdeen Asset Management
  - o Finished T29 at the LPGA Final Qualifying Tournament to earn Membership for the 2012 season

#### **TOURNAMENT SCORING RECORDS**

18 holes: 61, Lee-Anne Pace (R3, 2017)

36 holes: 128, Brooke M. Henderson (2019)

54 holes: 196, Lexi Thompson (2017) and Nelly Korda (2021)

72 holes: 263, Brooke M. Henderson (2017) and Nelly Korda (2021)

## **QUOTABLE**

Mi Hyang Lee (1st, -8) on her new putting stroke heading into the week

"So normally my putting stroke is short backswing and more follow-through. I'm going to try one by one, more compact stroke. And then my distance control way better, so even good thing is never short, so that's more chance, too."

Grace Kim (2nd, -7) on having a new caddie on the bag for the week

"Yeah, so my original caddie, Drew, just had a baby on Saturday last week. He's so silly. He goes, I can come Wednesday night if you really want me. I'm like, are you joking? No way. Your wife would kill me. No, he'll be back next week. Yeah, been lucky to have John Pond available last minute. It's been good. We've having good chats."

Sofia Garcia (T3, -6) on a good round despite not hitting a lot of fairways

"I don't know about that. We had just that conversation with my playing partner, the low stats. I didn't think I was hitting the driver very badly. I was in bad positions at some point and got some lucky breaks in the sense of where it was sitting in the rough. I was hitting my irons well. Having a little bit of control with that I was able to read the rough, because I was there a lot today. Kind of didn't get in too much trouble second shots and obviously made the putts so that helped."

Andrea Lee (T5, -5) on her expectations coming into the week

"It was a solid round overall. I really wasn't expecting anything coming into today because I had a pretty bad cold last week and I'm still getting over it. I withdrew from the pro-am yesterday; didn't even practice. So had no expectations, but just had a lot of fun out there. Just played really solid golf, hit some good shots, made a decent amount of putts. Yeah, overall really satisfied."

Minjee Lee (T5, -5) on key aspects of her game outside of birdies when she is playing well

"I think probably missing it in the right places. Obviously the rough is up I think in comparison to the other years that I've played out here, so I think I probably missed them in the right places in the rough. Like if the pin was on the right side I was missing on the left side so I had a little bit of room to work with. Yeah, I think just your misses, and obviously when you're playing well your putting is I guess a big deal, so it's nice if your putting is working well."

Lexi Thompson (T12, -4) on being back at the Meijer LPGA Classic for Simply Give

"It's always what I hope for, what we all hope for really, just to see the support out here in Grand Rapids and women's golf. It's just amazing how the community really gets behind this event. I think the girls really just enjoy coming here."

# **ON LPGA.COM**

Grace Kim Contending Again at Meijer LPGA Classic After Opening Round off 65

Battling a Cold, Andrea Lee Soars Up Leaderboard with a 67 on Thursday at Meijer LPGA Classic

Celine Boutier First Round Highlights

Haeran Ryu First Round Highlights

First Round Highlights

Players to Watch: 2025 Meijer LPGA Classic for Simply Give

Featured Groups: 2025 Meijer LPGA Classic for Simply Give

BMW Korea Extends Hosting of Korea's Annual LPGA Tournament, "BMW Ladies Championshi," Through 2029

Field Announced for 2025 KPMG Women's PGA Championship

## **SOCIAL SNAPSHOT**

Grace Kim holding down the fort in second place

Andrea Lee comes off the course T5 and trending in the right direction

Another week of solid competition is nearly here