



The ANNIKA driven by Gainbridge at Pelican
Pelican Golf Club | Belleair, Fla. | Nov. 9-12

Partial First-Round Notes
November 9, 2023

Please find attached the PARTIAL first-round statistics. Complete statistics will be sent Friday morning upon the conclusion of round one. Play was suspended due to darkness at 5:48 p.m. local time with one player left to finish. Round 1 will resume on Friday at 7:45 a.m.

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Course Setup: 35-35- 70; 6,202 yards

Scoring Average: R1: 68.627

Weather: Mostly sunny skies with a few clouds and temperatures in the lower 80s with light winds

Race to CME Globe Points: 500 (winner)

Purse: \$3.25 million

TV/Streaming Times: [How to Watch](#)

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LEADERBOARD			
	Player	To par	Score
1	Brooke Henderson	-8	62
T2	Jin Young Ko	-7	63
T2	Patty Tavatanakit	-7	63
T2	Minami Katsu	-7	63
T2	Emily K. Pedersen	-7	63
T6	Five Players	-6	64

HENDERSON HURRIES TO THE TOP AT THE ANNIKA

A slow start off of No. 10 began to speed up quickly for **Brooke Henderson** after recording three-straight birdies from holes 12-14, putting herself in prime position to make a splash at The ANNIKA driven by Gainbridge at Pelican. Her round began to slow down as she made the turn finishing with three pars and a bogey heading onto the front. A faster start on the back helped get the ball rolling and the putts dropping for the winningest Canadian after she recorded two birdies in her first three holes. Beginning on the 5th hole, she would card three-straight birdies to propel her into a share of the lead on Thursday alongside three other players. With a long birdie putt on No. 9, Henderson finished her round and recorded the final birdie she needed to take the solo lead at 8-under and tying the 18-hole tournament scoring record, set first in 2021 by **Leona Maguire** during her first round.

“Yeah, today felt really great to be making a lot of birdie putts,” Henderson said about her opening round. “Nice to see the ball go in the hole. And especially on my back nine today, which is actually the front nine, made a lot of birdies coming in, and bonus to get the one on No. 9. It was a long one and definitely glad to hit the hole because it was cruising. No, it’s fun. I feel like my game has been trending in the right direction for a while now, and nice to see a good day happen.”

Four players find themselves tied for second after opening day of play at Pelican Golf Club. **Jin Young Ko** and **Patty Tavatanakit** sat tied for 1st place after the morning wave of tee times until several players joined them in the afternoon. Ko fired off a bogey-free 63, tying her lowest opening round since 2021. She had two streaks of birdies today, recording just one par in between them. Ko birdied holes 7 through 9 before parring the 10th hole, and starting another streak from Nos. 11-13. Tavatanakit is one of three Thai players inside the top-10 also going bogey-free, recording three birdies in a row and setting a career-low opening round record of her own. **Emily Kristine Pedersen** shot up the leaderboard having recorded four-straight holes under par from Nos. 6-9 with three birdies and an eagle. A bogey on her final hole kept her out of a share for first with Henderson. **Minami Katsu** carded five birdies on the front to help situate herself in a position for a tie of first as well. Sitting at 7-under with two holes remaining, Katsu recorded two pars to keep her just shy of the top spot.

“I mean, I’m just going to keep trying to do the same thing,” Pedersen said about staying patient while towards the top. “There are so many good golfers out here. Every week it’s such low scores. You need to have probably that 20-under as a target every single week, and that’s still 12 more under for me to get to that. That is a long way, a lot of birdies. The course sets up to -- you have to be smart. I know there will be tougher pins on the weekend and can really be some sucker pins out here. I’m just trying to put that good swing on every single shot out there.”

Five players round out the top-10 all tied for sixth including Portland Classic winner **Chanettee Wannasaen**, 2022 LPGA Rookie **Dewi Weber**, 12-time LPGA Tour winner **Ariya Jutanugarn**, two-time ANNIKA runner-up **Lexi Thompson** and LPGA Mom **Azahara Munoz**. All three sponsor invites finished under par; Wake Forest graduate student **Rachel Kuehn** sits at 4-under, 2023 ANNIKA Intercollegiate champion **Louise Rydqvist** shot 68 and Epson Tour Player of the Year **Gabriela Ruffels** is at one-under par. Monday qualifier and Epson Tour Championship winner **Austen Kim** is one-under par headed into the second round, competing in her first LPGA Tour event since receiving her LPGA Tour card for the 2024 season.

A LOOK AT THE LEADER

CATEGORY	Brooke Henderson
2023 Rolex Rankings	13
2023 LPGA Tour Wins	1
2023 LPGA Tour Top 10s	3
2023 Season Earnings	\$1,490,812
Career LPGA Tour Wins	13
Career LPGA Tour Top 10s	73
Career Money	\$12,091,290

ABOUT THE LEADERS

Rolex Rankings No. 13 Brooke Henderson

- Henderson hit 13 of 14 fairways, all 18 greens with 29 putts
 - She is the only player to hit all 18 greens in regulation
 - She’s hit all 18 greens in regulation three times this season
 - She carded nine birdies and one bogey
 - Her nine birdies ranks her first in the field, one in front of both **Minami Katsu** and **Georgia Hall**
- Henderson tied the 18-hole tournament scoring record with her opening round 62
 - It ties the record set by Maria Fassi (R1, 2022), Leona Maguire (R1, 2021) and Mi Hyang Lee (R2, 2021)
- 62 is the lowest score of her career and her lowest score since 2018
 - Her previous low was 63, set three times
- Her 62 ties the lowest first round score on the LPGA Tour this season
 - **Ashleigh Buhai** began the BMW Ladies Championship with a 62 earlier this year
- This is her fourth start at Pelican Golf Club
 - She withdrew in 2022 but has finished inside the top-10 twice in 2021 (fifth) and 2020 (T6)
- This is Henderson’s 23rd start on the LPGA Tour this season
 - She has one win at the Hilton Grand Vacations Tournament of Champions and two additional top-10 finishes
 - She is coming off a T6 finish at the Maybank Championship
- This is her ninth season on Tour
 - She has 13 career victories, including two major championships and 60 additional top-10 finishes
 - She earned the Founders Award in 2019
- She is the winningest Canadian golfer in the history of the LPGA and PGA Tours
- She has represented Canada at the 2016 Rio Olympics and the 2020 Tokyo Olympics

THINGS TO KNOW

- Round 1 was suspended due to darkness at 5:48 pm. Round 1 will resume at 7:45 a.m. on Friday
- Four players are tied in second at -7, 63
 - **Jin Young Ko** went bogey free in her best opening round at this tournament
 - In 2022, she missed the cut after shooting a two-day total of +3
 - Her best finish came in 2021 when she ended in a tie for sixth after shooting four rounds in the 60s
 - Her Thursday 63 also ties for her lowest opening rounds of 63 at the 2021 Cognizant Founders Cup (par 72) and 2021 Ascendant LPGA benefitting Volunteers of America (par 71)
 - She went on to win both of those events
 - **Patty Tavatanakit** also went bogey-free in her first round with nine-hole scores of 32 and 31
 - This was only her second bogey-free round this season
 - Her 63 set a new career low opening round
 - Her previous lowest round was a 64 at the 2021 Honda LPGA Thailand, where the par was 72
 - **Emily Kristine Pedersen** was one of seven players to record an eagle in their opening round
 - This is only her second start at the ANNIKA, she finished T17 in 2022
 - She currently sits at No. 80 in the Race to CME Globe Points List
 - A win this week is projected to move her into the top-45, securing a spot at the CME Group Tour Championship
 - The top 60 points earners and ties earn a spot into the season finale with the entire field competing for a \$7 million purse highlighted by a \$2 million winner's check, which ties the largest single prize in the history of women's golf
 - **Minami Katsu** carded eight birdies and one bogey
 - She hit a total of 12 fairways and 13 greens en route to her 63
 - 63 ties for her lowest round recorded in an LPGA event
 - She also shot a 63 in the 2023 DIO Implant LA Open on the last day, where par was 71
 - 63 is her lowest first round score by four shots
 - She last shot 67 in her opening round at the 2023 Walmart NW Arkansas Championship
- Five players round out the top-5 at -6, 64
 - **Chanette Wannasaen** carded six birdies and an eagle after the first round
 - Her 64 is the lowest opening round since her 68 at the Portland Classic
 - 63 is her lowest career round
 - **Azahara Munoz** recorded seven birdies and one bogey
 - She ranked T3 in putts through round one, and T4 in birdies made (7)
 - **Lexi Thompson** shot a bogey-free 64 in the first round
 - Her opening round 64 is her first time shooting a 64 or better since this event last year
 - Thompson has finished as runner-up at this event the past two years
 - In her last two playings of the event, she has not shot a round in the 70s
 - Last week, Thompson was announced as the recipient of the 2023 Founders Award
 - **Ariya Jutanugarn** carded a 64 with two eagles, five birdies, one bogey and a double bogey
 - She ranks first in the field for eagles after round one
 - **Dewi Weber** also shot a bogey-free 64
 - She hit 16 of 18 greens in regulation in her first round, T4 across the field
- Nine players are currently in the field that sit between 55-65 on the Race to CME Globe Points List
 - No. 55 **Sarah Kemp** finished two-over par (T46)
 - No. 57 **Madelene Sagstrom** ended the day at even (T76)
 - No. 58 **Celine Borge** ended her day +6 (T118)
 - No. 59 **Albane Valenzuela** also shot 70 (T76)
 - No. 60 **Patty Tavatanakit** is tied for second after her opening round 63
 - No. 61 **Sarah Schmelzel** shot 2-under 68 (T46)
 - No. 62 **Lauren Coughlin** is 3-over after her first round (T109)
 - No. 63 **Eun-Hee Ji** finished one over (T92)
 - No. 64 **Mi Hyang Lee** ended at -1 (T62)
- All three sponsor invites finished under par in their opening round
 - **Rachel Kuehn** shot an opening round of 66 with six birdies and two bogeys
 - Kuehn is currently a graduate student at Wake Forest University
 - She was also named to the 2024 ANNIKA Award watch-list
 - 2023 ANNIKA Intercollegiate winner and junior from the University of South Carolina **Louise Rydqvist** finished at T46, -2
 - She carded six birdies in her first start at a LPGA Tour event
 - She will return to Pelican Golf Club to compete at the Southeastern Conference Tournament in spring of 2024
 - Epson Tour Player of the Year **Gabriela Ruffels** finished in a tie for 62nd after the first round
 - The University of Southern California alum recorded five birdies at Pelican GC
- **Auston Kim** and **Jennifer Song** qualified to play on Monday after surviving a one-hole playoff for two spots in the field
 - Kim shot a 69 in her first round including two birdies and an eagle
 - The Vanderbilt University alum earned her LPGA Tour card for the 2024 season after winning the Epson Tour Championship
 - Song is currently tied for 109th after shooting a 73 in round one with four birdies
 - Song's rookie year on the LPGA Tour was 2011
- In second place in the Aon Risk Reward Challenge, **Atthaya Thitikul** birdied the AON challenge hole
 - Thitikul needs two eagles this week to pass leader **Angel Yin**, who is not in the field
- This is the fourth edition of The ANNIKA drive by Gainbridge at Pelican all hosted by Pelican Country Club
 - It is the first and only namesake event on the LPGA Tour named after Annika Sorenstam
 - The tournament began in 2020 and was known as the Pelican Women's Championship until 2022
 - In 2022, the event was shortened to 54 holes due to weather
- From Nov. 6-12, Gainbridge launched "Parity Week by Gainbridge," a celebration of three pioneers in women's sports centered around three flagship events, hosted by Billie Jean King, Annika Sorenstam and Lyn St. James
 - The three flagship events include The Billie Jean King Cup by Gainbridge Finals, The ANNIKA driven by Gainbridge at Pelican and The WIMNA's "Women with Drive III – Drive by Mobil 1"
 - Between the golf and tennis events, 180 women will compete for nearly \$13 million

QUOTABLE

Lexi Thompson on returning to Pelican Golf Club

"Oh, it's amazing. One of my favorite events. Of course it's in Florida. I get to drive to it. Just the hospitality that we receive from the Doyle family and just the Pelican Golf Club, it's top notch, and we're always just so excited to come back here. I mean, the golf course is the best shape I've seen it. No complaints here."

Jin Young Ko on being patient with her game since May

"It was really tough. I realized I need to think more of my age right now. And I don't want to think of my age, but I need to think of my age for practice because I practice hard every time during the season or not. But, yeah, after the Founders I practice a lot after the week, so two weeks, I had two weeks off. But I had practice every day in two weeks, over eight hours, so I think that momentum was like my energy goes down so I play wasn't good, so I realize, okay, I need to like prepare for practice, just three hours maximum or like four hours."

Gaby Lopez, an ANNIKA alum, on how great it is for Annika Sorenstam to have a namesake event on the LPGA Tour

"Yeah, I think we been waiting for this moment for a long time. She's done an amazing job, just doing amazing stuff for Latin America, for just Europe, for the U.S. She's done an amazing job, so I'm really happy to contribute to that program that helped me do my college golfing career. I'm really, really happy that she's open to players and just the LPGA."

Linn Grant on the impact Annika Sorenstam has had on her as a golfer from Sweden

"Yeah, I mean, I played both in her junior events, college events, and now here. Feel like she's been around, always around, which is really cool. I think in Sweden where we had the ANNIKA Invitational, she's is there full time. She really takes her time to be there and does fun things with us, her clinic, and really puts on a really great event for us to experience that young. So I just think it's really cool for her to have a pro event and for me to be here. Feel like it's a full circle moment."

NOTABLE

[Patty Tavatanakit Goes on Tear at Pelican Golf Club in Round One of the ANNIKA](#)

[Gaby Lopez Celebrates 30th Birthday with Thursday 65 At The ANNIKA Driven By Gainbridge At Pelican](#)

[First-Round Highlights | 2023 The ANNIKA driven by Gainbridge at Pelican](#)

[NFL International Week with Alexa Pano and Patrick Rodgers](#)

[KPMG Performance Insights First Round | 2023 The ANNIKA driven by Gainbridge at Pelican](#)

[Jin Young Ko First-Round Interview | 2023 The ANNIKA driven by Gainbridge at Pelican](#)

[Linn Grant First-Round Interview | 2023 The ANNIKA driven by Gainbridge at Pelican](#)

[Georgia Hall First-Round Interview | 2023 The ANNIKA driven by Gainbridge at Pelican](#)

TOURNAMENT SCORING RECORDS

18 holes: 62, **Brooke Henderson (R1, 2023)**, Maria Fassi (R1, 2022), Leona Maguire (R1, 2021) and Mi Hyang Lee (R2, 2021)

36 holes: 129, Jennifer Kupcho (2021), Lexi Thompson (2021)

54 holes: 194, Lexi Thompson (2021), Nelly Korda (2021)

72 holes: 263, Nelly Korda (2021), Sei Young Kim (2021), Lexi Thompson (2021) and Lydia Ko (2021)