

**Bank of Hope LPGA Match-Play presented by MGM Rewards**  
Shadow Creek | Las Vegas, Nev. | May 24-28, 2023

Tuesday Pre-Tournament Notes  
May 23, 2023

**THINGS TO KNOW ABOUT THE BANK OF HOPE LPGA MATCH-PLAY**

- This is the third edition of the Bank of Hope LPGA Match-Play presented by MGM Rewards
  - In 2021, the event was the first official match-play event since the 2017 Lorena Ochoa Match Play
  - Other past official Tour match-play competitions include the 2010-2012 Sybase LPGA Match Play Championship, the 2005-2007 HSBC Women's World Match Play Championship and the 1950-1954 Women's Western Open (then a major championship)
- Shadow Creek has hosted the event since its inception
  - The course was built in 1989 by renowned golf architect Tom Fazio
  - In 2018, the course served as host for The Match: Tiger vs. Phil, and also hosted the PGA Tour's CJ CUP in 2020
- The LPGA Tour's history in Las Vegas dates back to 1961
  - Stardust C.C. hosted the KPMG Women's PGA Championship from 1961-1966, with champions including Mickey Wright (1961, 1963) and Sandra Haynie (1965)
  - Other past tournaments in the Las Vegas area include the Desert Inn Classic (1971-1974), the J&B Scotch Pro-Am (1979-1985), the Las Vegas LPGA (1990-1993), the ITT LPGA Tour Championship (1996-1999), the LPGA Takefuji Classic (2003-2006) and the Wendy's 3-Tour Challenge, an unofficial event with the LPGA Tour, PGA Tour and PGA Tour Championship (1992-2013)
- Both past champions are in this week's field: **Ally Ewing** (2021) and **Eun-Hee Ji** (2022)
  - Ewing defeated **Sophia Popov**, 2 and 1, in the championship match to earn her second career Tour victory; she has since gone on to win on one other occasion, the 2022 Kroger Queen City Championship presented by P&G
    - This is Ewing's sixth event of the 2023 season; she's made five cuts, including a season-best T5 finish at the LPGA Drive On Championship at Superstition Mountain
  - Ji defeated **Ayaka Furue**, 3 and 2, in the final, becoming the oldest LPGA Tour winner from her home country of Korea at age 36 and the first player since **Katherine Kirk** in 2017 to win the event prior to the U.S. Women's Open and clinch the final spot in the major's field
    - This is Ji's eighth official event this season; she's made five cuts, including a season-best finish of T11 at the HSBC Women's World Championship
- Rolex Rankings No. 3 **Lilia Vu** and No. 8 **Brooke Henderson** are the highest-ranked players in this year's event
  - Vu finished third in 2022 at Shadow Creek after defeating Andrea Lee in the consolation match, 3 and 2
    - Since that third-place result, Vu went on to earn five more top-10 finishes in 2022 and has won in 2023 at the Honda LPGA Thailand and The Chevron Championship
  - Henderson has only played at Shadow Creek once before in 2021, where she went 0-1-2 and failed to move on past the group stage
    - This is Henderson's eighth event of the 2023 season; she's made five cuts, including a win at the season-opening Hilton Grand Vacations Tournament of Champions
- There are three Las Vegas residents teeing it up including **Danielle Kang**, who calls Shadow Creek one of her home courses
  - In 2021, Kang made it through to the quarterfinals, ultimately losing to eventual champion Ally Ewing for a T5 finish
  - In 2022, Kang went 0-1-2 in the group stage and failed to move on to the single-elimination bracket
- Only four 2023 Tour rookies are in the field this week at the Bank of Hope LPGA Match-Play including **Hae Ran Ryu**, who leads this year's rookie class in the Louise Suggs Rolex Rookie of the Year standings
  - Ryu has made every cut through six events this season, and has notched three top-seven finishes, including two in her most recent starts (JM Eagle LA Championship, T6; Cognizant Founders Cup, 4)
  - Only one rookie has won on Tour in 2023 through nine events (Grace Kim, LOTTE Championship)
- There are 15 past members of Solheim Cup teams competing this week in Las Vegas
  - U.S. Solheim Cup Team alumnae: Marina Alex, Ally Ewing, Mina Harigae, Danielle Kang, Jennifer Kupcho, Alison Lee, Stacy Lewis, Angel Yin
  - European Solheim Cup Team alumnae: Celine Boutier, Matilda Castren, Carlota Ciganda, Jodi Ewart Shadoff, Nanna Koerstz Madsen, Leona Maguire, Anna Nordqvist
- Eight participants of the 2023 Hanwha LIFEPLUS International Crown are also in the field
  - Jodi Ewart Shadoff (England), Danielle Kang (USA), Sarah Kemp (Australia), Xiyu Lin (Ppls. Rep. of China), Yu Liu (Ppls. Rep. of China), Anna Nordqvist (Sweden), Maja Stark (Sweden) and Lilia Vu (USA)
- **Muni He** and **Yaeun Hong** are the sponsor invites this week
- There are 24 players making their debut in the Bank of Hope LPGA Match-Play
  - Click [here](#) for past match records and 2023 player debuts
- In 2022, five players who made it to single elimination went on to become Rolex First-Time Winners that season

**LPGA ON-SITE COMMUNICATIONS TEAM**

Megan Santaniello  
Manager, Communications  
[Megan.McGuire@lpga.com](mailto:Megan.McGuire@lpga.com)  
+1 (386) 405-1338

Matt Jesus  
Communications Coordinator  
[Matt.Jesus@lpga.com](mailto:Matt.Jesus@lpga.com)  
+1 (402) 957-4674

**QUICK LINKS**

- [Interview Transcripts](#)
- [LPGA Tour Online Media Center](#)
- [LPGA Statistical Database](#)
- [Stats Box](#)
- [Media Assets](#)
- [Tournament Website](#)

**TOURNAMENT INFORMATION**

**Competition Format:** 64 players, divided into 16 groups of four; after three days of round-robin matches, competition moves to a 16-player, single-elimination bracket

**Purse:** \$1.5 million (winner's portion is \$225,000)

**Whiteline Par and Yardage:** 35-37-72, 6,765 yards (par and yardage are subject to change through the start of the tournament)

**SOCIAL MEDIA: #DRIVEON**

**Tournament** - @LPGAMatchPlay (Twitter), @lpgamatchplay (Instagram)

**LPGA Tour** - @LPGA and @LPGAMedia (Twitter), @lpga\_tour (Instagram)

**TV/STREAMING TIMES**

All times ET on Golf Channel (TV) along with golfchannel.com, NBCSports.com, the NBC Sports App and Peacock (Streaming)

**Wednesday, May 24** – 1:30-4:30 p.m. (Round 1 Pool Play)

**Thursday, May 25** – 7-10 p.m. (Round 2 Pool Play)

**Friday, May 26** – 7-10 p.m. (Round 3 Pool Play)

**Saturday, May 27** – 5:30-8:30 p.m. (Quarterfinals)

**Sunday, May 28** – 1:30-4 p.m. (Semifinals, streaming only), 6:30-9:30 p.m. ET (Finals and Players Challenge)

- o Gemma Dryburgh (TOTO Japan Classic), Jodi Ewart Shadoff (LPGA MEDIHEAL Championship), Ayaka Furue (Trust Golf Women's Scottish Open), Andrea Lee (Portland Classic) and Paula Reto (CP Women's Open)

**RACE TO CME GLOBE UPDATE:**

Coming off a week-long competition hiatus, the 2023 Race to the CME Globe picks back up at Shadow Creek for the Bank of Hope LPGA Match-Play presented by MGM Rewards. Following her second victory on Tour in 2023 at the Cognizant Founders Cup, Jin Young Ko ascended to the top spot on the Race to CME Globe standings with 1,366.973 points. Major champions Lilia Vu (1,346.643 points), Nelly Korda (1,136.533 points) and Georgia Hall (1,020.539 points) trail Ko in second, third and fourth place, respectively, as the only other players with over 1,000 points. LPGA Drive On Championship at Superstition Mountain winner Celine Boutier rounds out the top five with 909.833 points heading into another week on Tour in Las Vegas.

The Race to the CME Globe is a season-long points competition with LPGA Tour Members accumulating points in every official LPGA event to qualify for the season-ending tournament, CME Group Tour Championship. The player who wins the CME Group Tour Championship is named the "Race to the CME Globe Champion."

Beginning in 2019, players started earning points at each official LPGA Tour event throughout the season leading up to the CME Group Tour Championship. The top 60 points earners and ties then earn a spot in the CME Group Tour Championship with the entire field competing for a \$7 million purse highlighted by a \$2 million winner's check, the largest single prize in the history of women's golf.

**CME GROUP CARES CHALLENGE – SCORE 1 FOR ST. JUDE:**

The CME Group Cares Challenge is a season-long charitable giving program that turns aces into donations. CME Group donates \$20,000 for each hole-in-one made on the LPGA Tour in 2023, with a minimum guaranteed donation of \$500,000 to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, which is leading the way in how the world understands, treats and defeats childhood cancer and life-threatening diseases. There have been four hole-in-ones this season, bringing the 2023 donation total to \$80,000 through nine events.

**QUOTABLE**

*2021 Bank of Hope LPGA Match-Play champion Ally Ewing on what excites her about Shadow Creek this week:*

"I think it's a great golf course. It's a really good test, too. You have to drive the ball well. You have to strike it well. You're challenged in all facets, and it truly is a great test of golf. It's such a good golf course. You know, it's pristine, a well-maintained golf course. It's exciting to get to a golf course where it's truly in really, really great shape."

*Las Vegas resident Danielle Kang on the Tour returning to her home course:*

"I absolutely love obviously having the tournament here, and I think everyone knows that it's one of my favorite events of the year. Excited to see what Shadow is going to become throughout the week, because I'm speaking to the grounds crew and the entire staff and they're very looking forward to making the greens faster, firmer, and condition's always so absolutely mint, everyone wants to say. I just hope everyone has a really good time in Vegas and likes coming here."

*2022 champion Eun-Hee Ji on her strengths in match-play heading into her title defense:*

"[With] match play I can play with a little bit more confidence. Even if I make a mistake I know I can make up for it, considering that I can be more aggressive and I think that led to a good result as well. I think there is charm of playing match play without much fear that leads to good play."

*Five-time Ladies European Tour winner Linn Grant on making her debut in the Bank of Hope LPGA Match-Play:*

"I haven't played match play in a while, which is exciting both, yet scary. But I have good memories from match play playing as an amateur in European Team event, and there is always some good golf that comes out of match play. It's always fun to just go head-to-head with someone else and push the limits."

**2023 SEASON-LONG STATISTICS**

**Statistical Leaders**

Official Money: Lilia Vu, \$1,113,878  
 Scoring Average: Jin Young Ko, 69.107  
 Birdies: Nelly Korda, 139  
 Eagles: Jennifer Kupcho, 6  
 Holes in One: In Gee Chun, Gina Kim, In Kyung Kim and Bailey Tardy, 1  
 Greens in Regulation: Anna Nordqvist, 77.2%  
 Average Driving Distance: Emily Kristine Pedersen, 283.750 yards  
 Strokes Gained Total – Per Round: Nelly Korda, 2.290

**Award Leaders**

Rolex Player of the Year		
1	Lilia Vu	94 points
2	Jin Young Ko	75 points
3	Nelly Korda	53 points

Louise Suggs Rolex Rookie of the Year		
1	Hae Ran Ryu	240 points
2	Grace Kim	205 points
3	Natthakritta Vongtaveelap	168 points

Rolex ANNIKA Major Award		
1	Lilia Vu	60 points
2	Angel Yin	24 points
3	Nelly Korda	18 points

#AonRiskReward Challenge		
1	Hae Ran Ryu	-1.083

2	Nelly Korda	-0.938
3	Hye-Jin Choi	-0.929

Race to the CME Globe		
1	Jin Young Ko	1,366.973 points
2	Lilia Vu	1,346.643 points
3	Nelly Korda	1,136.533 points

**2023 Wins by Country (nine tournaments, six countries)**

- 2 – Australia (Hannah Green, Grace Kim)
- 2 – Republic of Korea (Jin Young Ko (2))
- 2 – United States (Lilia Vu (2))
- 1 – Canada (Brooke Henderson)
- 1 – France (Celine Boutier)
- 1 – People’s Republic of China (Ruoning Yin)

**2023 Wins by Player (nine tournaments, seven players)**

- 2 – Jin Young Ko (HSBC Women’s World Championship, Cognizant Founders Cup)
- 2 – Lilia Vu (Honda LPGA Thailand, The Chevron Championship)
- 1 – Celine Boutier (LPGA Drive On Championship)
- 1 – Hannah Green (JM Eagle LA Championship presented by Plastpro)
- 1 – Brooke Henderson (Hilton Grand Vacations Tournament of Champions)
- 1 – Grace Kim (LOTTE Championship presented by Hoakalei)
- 1 – Ruoning Yin (DIO Implant LA Open)

**Average Age of 2023 Winners:** 25.111

**Youngest Winner:** Ruoning Yin (20 years, 6 months, 5 days)

**Oldest Winner:** Celine Boutier (29 years, 4 months, 16 days)

**Team USA Solheim Cup Standings:**

- 1 – Nelly Korda, 422.50 points
- 2 – Lilia Vu, 409.00 points
- 3 – Danielle Kang, 263.00 points
- 4 – Lexi Thompson, 258.00 points
- 5 – Megan Khang, 206.50 points
- 6 – Jennifer Kupcho, 196 points
- 7 – Andrea Lee, 181 points
- 8 – Allisen Corpuz, 177.50 points
- 9 – Cheyenne Knight, 159.00 points
- 10 – Jessica Korda, 154.00 points

[Team USA Solheim Cup standings](#)

[Team Europe Solheim Cup standings](#)

**ON LPGA.COM**

[Linn Grant Grateful for Bank of Hope LPGA Match-Play Opportunity](#)

[Featured Matches: Bank of Hope LPGA Match-Play presented by MGM Rewards](#)

[Field Breakdown: Bank of Hope LPGA Match-Play presented by MGM Rewards](#)

[Five Things to Know About the Bank of Hope LPGA Match-Play presented by MGM Rewards](#)

[The Format: Bank of Hope LPGA Match-Play presented by MGM Rewards](#)

[LPGA Launches Affordable Golf Club, Accessories and Shoes for Female Beginners and Juniors](#)

[Annika at Colonial: 20 Years On](#)