



CME Group Tour Championship
Tiburón Golf Club | Naples, Florida | Nov. 16-19, 2023

First-Round Notes
November 16, 2023

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Course Setup: 36-36-72, 6,349 yards

Scoring Average: R1: 69.333

Weather: After 4.11 inches of rain on Wednesday, storms cleared Thursday leaving cloudy skies, brief patches of sunshine and short, passing drizzles; NE winds reached 15-25 mph but decreased in the afternoon with temperatures in the high 70s

Race to CME Globe Points: 500 (winner); Points will be allocated at the CME Group Tour Championship for the purpose of determining Priority List status and tournament eligibility for the following season

Purse: \$7 million (winner's portion is \$2 million)

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

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LEADERBOARD			
	Player	To par	Score
T1	Ruoning Yin	-9	63
T1	Nasa Hataoka	-9	63
3	Minjee Lee	-8	64
4	Anna Nordqvist	-7	65
T5	Five players	-6	66

YIN AND HATAOKA SHARE LEAD AFTER DAY ONE OF CME GROUP TOUR CHAMPIONSHIP

After over four inches of rain in Naples, Fla. on Wednesday, the first round of play at the CME Group Tour Championship saw softer fairways and shortened holes and concluded with two of the LPGA Tour's best atop the leaderboard. Six-time LPGA Tour winner **Nasa Hataoka** and two-time 2023 winner **Ruoning Yin** wrapped opening round play at Tiburón Golf Club with 9-under, 63s, just one birdie away from tying the 18-hole scoring record of 62 set by **Lydia Ko** in 2016.

Hataoka was first to claim her spot at the top after going bogey-free with nine birdies, tied for the most among the field. The Japanese golfer only needed one hole before stepping on the gas with three-straight birdies on holes 2-4. Two more birdies on Nos. 6 and 8 set her up at 5-under at the turn. She started off the last nine holes with back-to-back birdies which put her in a tied with **Anna Nordqvist** at 7-under-par. Birdies on Nos. 13 and 17 were all it took to place her squarely in first while the rest of the leaderboard began to take shape around her.

"When I play Monday it was already -- fairways already soft, so I really practice my hybrid shot," Hataoka said about how she prepared for the softer conditions. "It's because longer iron -- I practiced a lot assuming there would be a lot more distance needed for my iron shots, so that's what I concentrated on because of the wet ground."

Yin teed off in the second to last group of the day and worked her way up the leaderboard also thanks to nine birdies and no bogeys. Just like Hataoka, Yin started with early birdies on Nos. 2 and 3 before firing off three in a row to end her front nine on holes 6-8. At 5-under heading into the back, Yin added another birdie on No. 12, back-to-back birdies on 14 and 15 and a final one on 17 to tie Hataoka atop the rest of the field.

"When I warm up because, because the wind is so windy and I just don't feel great about my swing, but my coach is here this week and just right before the tee shot he told me, you're looking great," Yin said about her round. "Your swing looking great. So just go play your game and just try to enjoy it."

Three-time Tour winner **Minjee Lee** sunk a 10-foot birdie putt on No. 18 to put her into solo third behind the two leaders and ahead of Nordqvist. Lee was also one of the 10 players to go bogey-free on Thursday, and had eight birdies overall including five on the back-nine. Nordqvist fired off an opening round 65, tying her season-low for the third time this year and placing her in solo fourth. Five players round out the top five, with **Georgia Hall**, **Alison Lee**, **Hye-Jin Choi**, **Yu Liu** and **Patty Tavatanakit** all shooting 6-under, 66s.

A LOOK AT THE LEADERS

CATEGORY	Nasa Hataoka	Ruoning Yin
Rolex Ranking	18	2
Race to the CME Globe Points Standing	19	3
2023 LPGA Tour Wins	0	2
2023 LPGA Tour Top 10s	6	8
2023 LPGA Tour Season Earnings	\$1,543,216	\$2,759,677
Career LPGA Tour Wins	6	2
Career LPGA Tour Top 10s	40	9
Career LPGA Tour Money	\$8,109,845	\$2,929,817

ABOUT THE LEADERS

Rolex Rankings No. 2 Ruoning Yin

- Yin hit all 14 fairways, 17 of 18 greens with 27 putts
 - She made nine birdies in her bogey free first round
 - Her nine birdies ranks her tied for first among the field\
- 63 is a career-low opening round for Yin by two strokes
 - Yin has shot a 63 in back-to-back events
 - She fired off a third round 63 at the ANNIKA where she went on to finish T7
- This is the first time she has led or co-led after the first round this season and first time since the 2022 Dana Open
- Yin is making her first appearance at the CME Group Tour Championship in her sophomore season on the LPGA Tour
 - She has two wins this season, at the 2023 DIO Implant LA Open and the 2023 KPMG Women's PGA Championship and five additional top-10 finishes
 - She became the second player from the People's Republic of China to win on the LPGA Tour after her win at the DIO Implant LA Open
 - She has finished inside the top-five four additional times three-straight third-place finishes
 - Before this season, she had just one top-10 finish at the 2022 Dana Open
- Yin became the second player from the People's Republic of China to hold the No. 1 spot in the Women's World Golf Rankings
 - She first took the position on September 11, 2023 and has held it for four total weeks

Rolex Rankings No. 18 Nasa Hataoka

- Hataoka made nine birdies in her bogey-free first round

- She hit 13 of 14 fairways and 14 of 18 greens on Thursday
- She needed just 23 putts during her first round, the least in the field
- Her nine birdies are tied for most in the field
 - This is the third time this season Hataoka has made nine birdies in a single round
- This is her second first-round lead of the 2023 season and eighth in her LPGA Tour career
 - She held the 18-hole lead at the Honda LPGA Thailand, where she finished T23
- Her Thursday 63 ties her season-low round on the LPGA Tour
 - She also shot a 63 during the second round of the Kroger Queen City Championship
 - Her career-low round is 61
- This is Hataoka's sixth appearance at the CME Group Tour Championship
 - She has two top-10 finishes in the event, a solo ninth result in 2018 and a solo second finish in 2021
- This is Hataoka's 23rd start of the 2023 LPGA Tour season
 - She has six top-10 finishes on the year
 - Her best finishes of the season are back-to-back results of T4 and T3 at the U.S. Women's Open and The Amundi Evian Championship, respectively
- This is Hataoka's seventh season on the LPGA Tour
 - She is a six-time LPGA Tour winner
 - Her most recent victory came at the 2022 DIO Implant LA Open
 - She represented Japan at the 2020 Tokyo Olympics and at the 2018 and 2023 Hanwha LIFEPLUS International Crown
 - At age 17, she was the youngest player in the field at the Final Stage of 2016 LPGA Qualifying Tournament, where she finished T14 to earn LPGA membership for the 2017 season
- Hataoka is a six-time winner on the JLPGA
 - Her last JLPGA win came at the 2019 Japan Women's Open Golf Championship

THINGS TO KNOW

- Today's scoring average of 69.333 is lower than any of four rounds played last year at this event
- 10 players went bogey-free in their opening round
 - Five players in the field hold the spot for most bogey-free rounds on the LPGA Tour this season

Most Bogey-Free Rounds 2023 LPGA Tour Season	
Ayaka Furue	14
Hae Ran Ryu	13
Ruoning Yin	10*
Hye-Jin Choi	10*
Cheyenne Knight	10

*Includes Thursday's opening round

- Only four players recorded eagles in their first round
- Only six of the 60 players in the field finished above par
- **Minjee Lee** recorded five birdies in her bogey-free opening round
 - This Lee's ninth start at this event
 - Her opening round 64 is her tournament-low and is her second-lowest career round
 - The last time she shot a 64 in her opening round was at the 2023 BMW Ladies Championship, she went on to win that tournament
 - Lee has won tournaments in two of her last three starts
 - She won the Kroger Queen City Championship and the BMW Ladies Championship
- **Anna Nordqvist** hit all 14 fairways on her way to her first round 65
 - She recorded eight birdies and one bogey
 - This is her 12th start at the CME Group Tour Championship
 - Her 65 is a career-low round at this event
 - She shot a 66 in 2013 in her opening round
- Five players are tied at T5 at -6
 - **Hye-Jin Choi** went bogey-free in her first round
 - **Yu Liu** recorded eight birdies
 - This is her fifth start at this tournament
 - Her opening round 66 ties her tournament-low round and is her lowest first round
 - **Patty Tavatanakit** also went bogey-free with four-straight birdies on the back nine
 - **Alison Lee** carded six birdies with no bogeys
 - **Georgia Hall** went bogey-free with six birdies

FRIDAY ESPN+ FEATURED GROUPS

8:55a - Megan Khang/Angel Yin
 9:05a - Carlota Ciganda/Rose Zhang
 11:05a - Charley Hull/A Lim Kim
 11:15a - Nelly Korda/Yuka Saso

QUOTABLE

"Just trying to stay fresh every day. Not changing too much into my routine. Doing my best to really unwind off the golf course and not think too much on it. Obviously I am a little disappointed with my last two finishes. Obviously if you told me a month before that I was going to go second place, second place, I wouldn't have believed you. So, yeah, just trying to treat every day like a new day and a new challenge. That's what I tried to do today, and tried to make as many birdies and tried to play a bit more aggressively, especially with some of the putts I had with it raining and being a little bit slower. So, yeah, thankful some of them, the hole caught the ball, so hopefully I can keep doing that and play another three good days. It's so tough to play four rounds of good golf. Even playing one round of good golf is tough, so putting four rounds together is obviously the biggest challenge. So three more days to go. Hopefully keep in the same mindset and hitting it like I am now." – *Alison Lee on how she's been able to stay consistent after finishing second in her last two starts*

"Yeah, I feel like Terry surprises us every year with something new and more amazing, so always grateful for purse increases and guys like Terry and partners like Terry who step up to elevate our game and the LPGA Tour. Really, really appreciative. I think it's always nice because it is the season ender and we always get to see the schedule for next year and kind of, you know, I'm thinking about which events I want to play next year and things like that. The year coming to an end, I think it's always nice to finish here." – *Minjee Lee on the purse increase announcement for the CME Group Tour Championship next season*

"Well, I come here every year and I feel like this course doesn't suit me very well, so I don't know what it is. I got to play with the commissioner in the pro-am this week and she asked me, do you love this course? I said, well, maybe doesn't set up well for me, but I know I had a great round Sunday last year. Overall, I mean, you get to hit a lot good shots. If you miss a little bit like you can take some of those run-offs. So overall I feel like it's a ball striking course and maybe that's why it suits me." – *Anna Nordqvist on what it is about this course and event that brings out the best of her game*

"I think, I mean, I missed the cut last week, so I was sitting there, well, I can't do anything right now. It was a bit -- felt a bit down, like a bit deflated. Just a little bit deflated early this week. Like I don't like not being in control. But being here is a bonus. The fact that I couldn't really do anything myself to get myself in. But I haven't had the best of years, so this is really kind of nice to finish off on a good note. I have this one and the next tournament coming up for me is really nice ending ones. It's a nice bonus for a not-fantastic year." – *Madelene Sagstrom on being one of the last ones to make the field*

NOTABLE

[LPGA Tour Announces Record-Breaking 2024 Schedule](#)

[LPGA Tour 2024 Schedule Announcement Hype Video](#)

[LPGA, ESPN Agree To New Two-Year Deal Through 2025](#)

[CME Group and LPGA Announce Two-Year Extension Of CME Group Tour Championship With Increased Purse](#)

[A new view! Maria Fassi and Jessica Korda are providing on-course commentary with ESPN+ this week](#)

TOURNAMENT SCORING RECORDS:

18 holes: 62, Lydia Ko (R2, 2016)

36 holes: 130, Celine Boutier (2021)

54 holes: 200, Lexi Thompson (2018), Sei Young Kim (2019)

72 Holes: 265 (-23), Jin Young Ko (2021)