



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

Third-Round Notes
November 18, 2023

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Course Setup: 36-36-72, 6,391 yards

Scoring Average: R1: 69.333; R2: 68.866; R3: 69.465

Weather: Mostly cloudy skies and breezy conditions with northwest winds gusting to 20 mph at times

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	Amy Yang	-21	68-63-64 – 195
T1	Nasa Hataoka	-21	63-67-65 – 195
3	Alison Lee	-18	66-64-68 – 198
4	Xiyu Lin	-17	67-66-66 – 199
T5	Minjee Lee	-16	64-67-69 – 200
T5	Ruoning Yin	-16	63-68-69 – 200

HATAOKA JOINED BY YANG IN LEAD HEADED INTO FINAL ROUND

With a third-round score of 64, **Amy Yang** moved up on the leaderboard to join **Nasa Hataoka** in the lead headed into the final day at the CME Group Tour Championship at Tiburón Golf Club. Hataoka has been the resident player in the lead this week, co-leading each day with different players including **Ruoning Yin** (first round) and **Alison Lee** (second round). Both Hataoka and Yang would earn a pair of firsts should they win on Sunday; Hataoka would earn her first victory of the 2023 season, and Yang would earn her first victory on the LPGA Tour in the United States.

Yang, not making a bogey since her first hole of the tournament, followed up her bogey-free 63 on Friday with another bogey-free round of 64 on Saturday. She came out on the course quick, making a birdie on the par-5 1st hole. The LPGA Tour veteran would then have a string of three pars from holes 2 to 4 before making back-to-back birdies on Nos. 5 and 6. Yang made one more birdie on the par-3 8th hole to make the turn at four-under par for the day, and 17-under for the tournament. From the Republic of Korea, she made another three pars, and then a string of three birdies from Nos. 13 to 15. She made one last birdie of the day on the par-5 17th hole to wrap up her Saturday with an eight-under round.

“You know, I’ve been hitting the ball really solid and that really gave me lots of chances out there. My putting have been working so well, and just, yeah, was just everything worked out together well,” said Yang. “I mean, I feel quite nervous being in contention, but I never thought like I have to follow the 9-under par yesterday, because golf you never know. But I did try my best just to stay like present, and when I decide to hit one shot and just commit to it and go for it.”

Six-time LPGA Tour winner Hataoka also had a bogey-free round of 65 on the third day. She made her first birdie of the day on No. 2 and followed it up with another birdie on the par-4 3rd hole. A pair of pars on holes 4 and 5, the Japanese player made her last birdie of the front nine on No. 6 to make the turn at three-under par. Hataoka came out on the back nine hot, making back-to-back birdies on two par 4s, Nos. 10 and 11. She made her last two birdies of the day on holes 14 and 17, both par 5s. On her third day in Naples, she took clear advantage of the par 5s, birding three of the four at Tiburón.

“I learn lots of thing this year, so I just need stay aggressive and I will do my best tomorrow,” said Hataoka, who looks to make 2023 her third consecutive season with a win on the LPGA Tour. “My swing feel really comfortable. Tomorrow, I have a couple keys, so I will focus on my keys, good rhythm and good targets.”

Three shots behind both Yang and Hataoka sits another player with a bogey-free round on Saturday, **Alison Lee**. Lee followed up her stellar rounds of 66 and 64 to turn in a four-under 68 in the third round. The 28-year-old seeks her first win on the LPGA Tour since joining in 2015 and would assist in breaking the record of Rolex First-Time Winners in a single season. **Xiyu Lin** could also break the record with a win on Sunday, sitting just one shot behind Lee and four shots behind the leaders.

Rounding out the top-5 spots are Aussie **Minjee Lee** and the People’s Republic of China’s Yin. Both players sit at 16-under par headed into the final round, both looking to secure their third wins of the season and sit behind Rolex Rankings No. 1 **Lilia Vu** (4) and major champion **Celine Boutier** (4) with the most wins this season.

WITH A WIN

Nasa Hataoka

- She would earn her seventh LPGA Tour victory and first since the 2022 DIO Implant LA Open
- She would earn her first win and seventh top-10 finish of the 2023 season
- It would make 2023 her third consecutive season with a win on the LPGA Tour
- She would win the CME Group Tour Championship in her sixth start
 - She finished second at this event in 2021
- She would be the second Japanese player to win on the LPGA Tour this season
 - **Mone Inami** won the 2023 TOTO Japan Classic
- She would earn her fifth LPGA Tour victory after holding the 36-hole lead or co-lead

Amy Yang

- This would be her fifth career LPGA Tour victory
 - The CME Group Tour Championship would be her first win since the 2019 Honda LPGA Thailand
- She would earn her first victory in the United States; her first four wins came in Thailand (3) and the Republic of Korea (1)
- She would be the fourth player from the Republic of Korea to win this season, following **Jin Young Ko** (HSBC Women’s World Championship, Cognizant Founders Cup), **Hyo Joo Kim** (Ascendant LPGA benefitting Volunteers of America), and **Hae Ran Ryu** (Walmart NW Arkansas Championship presented by P&G)
- She would become the 16th different player from Korea to win at least five titles on the LPGA Tour
- She would cross the \$13 million mark in career earnings (\$13,882,919), and would become the 11th-different player in Tour history to earn at least \$13 million in her career
- It would be the 85th top-10 of her LPGA Tour career

Alison Lee

- She would be the season’s 13th Rolex-First Time Winner, joining **Lilia Vu** (Honda LPGA Thailand), **Ruoning Yin** (DIO Implant LA Open), **Grace Kim** (LOTTE Championship), **Rose Zhang** (Mizuho Americas Open), **Allisen Corpuz** (LU.S. Women’s Open), **Linn Grant** (Dana Open), **Elizabeth Szokol** (Dow Great Lakes Bay Invitational), **Alexa Pano** (ISPS Handa)

World Invitational), **Megan Khang** (CPKC Women's Open), **Chanettee Wannasaen** (Portland Classic), **Hae Ran Ryu** (Walmart NW Arkansas Championship) and **Angel Yin** (Buick LPGA Shanghai)

- She would extend the record for most Rolex First-Time Winners in a season on Tour
- She would be the ninth-different American to win this year, joining Corpuz, Khang, **Cheyenne Knight**, Pano, Szokol, Vu, Yin and Zhang
- The United States would have 12 wins this season, ahead of Australia, Republic of Korea and France by eight wins
- She would be the 24th different player to win on Tour this season
 - The record for most different winners in a season is 26 (1991, 2018, 2022)
- She would earn her first victory in her 179th start on Tour since 2009
- She would cross the \$5 million mark in career earnings with the \$2 million winner's check (\$5,405,842)
- She would near the \$3 million mark in 2023 earnings at \$2,966,998

Xiyu Lin

- She would become the third player from the People's Republic of China to win on the LPGA Tour, joining Shanshan Feng (10) and Ruoning Yin (2)
- She would become the second player from the second player from the People's Republic of China to win this season alongside Yin
- She would be the season's 13th Rolex-First Time Winner, joining **Lilia Vu** (Honda LPGA Thailand), **Ruoning Yin** (DIO Implant LA Open), **Grace Kim** (LOTTE Championship), **Rose Zhang** (Mizuho Americas Open), **Allisen Corpuz** (L.U.S. Women's Open), **Linn Grant** (Dana Open), **Elizabeth Szokol** (Dow Great Lakes Bay Invitational), **Alexa Pano** (ISPS Handa World Invitational), **Megan Khang** (CPKC Women's Open), **Chanettee Wannasaen** (Portland Classic), **Hae Ran Ryu** (Walmart NW Arkansas Championship) and **Angel Yin** (Buick LPGA Shanghai)
 - She would extend the record for most Rolex First-Time Winners in a season on Tour
- She would earn her 25th top-10 finish of her career, and 7th of her 2023 season
- She would earn her first career victory on the LPGA Tour in her 215th start

Minjee Lee

- She would earn her 11th career win on Tour, and third this season including the BMW Ladies Championship and the Kroger Queen City Championship
- She would also become the only player with three wins this season, bested only by **Lilia Vu** and **Celine Boutier** who won four times this season
- It would be the 69th time that she was within five shots of the lead entering the final round, and would be the 10th time she won being within five shots of the lead entering the final round
- She would earn her 70th top-10 finish of her career, and 5th this year
- She would pass the \$15 million mark over her career (\$15,765,643), and \$3 million mark over her 2023 season (\$3,552,475)
 - She would be fifth player to make at least \$15 million over their career

Ruoning Yin

- She would earn her third win on the LPGA Tour, remaining with **Shanshan Feng** as the only golfers from the People's Republic of China to win multiple times on Tour
- She would also become the only player with three wins this season, bested only by **Lilia Vu** and **Celine Boutier** who won four times this season
- She would earn her 10th top-10 finish of her career and her 9th of this season
- She would become the only player to win the KPMG Women's PGA Championship and CME Group Tour Championship in the same year
- She would become the second player to win a major and the CME Group Tour Championship in the same year, joining **Na Yeon Choi** in 2012
- She would become just the second golfer from the People's Republic of China to win the CME Group Tour Championship, joining Feng in 2013
- She would near the \$5 million threshold over her year (\$4,929,817), as well as during her 2023 season (\$4,759,677)
 - 96% of her career earnings would come from her 2023 season

A LOOK AT THE LEADERS

CATEGORY	Amy Yang	Nasa Hataoka
Rolex Ranking	36	18
Race to the CME Globe Points Standing	31	19
2023 LPGA Tour Wins	0	0
2023 LPGA Tour Top 10s	4	6
2023 LPGA Tour Season Earnings	\$1,165,834	\$1,543,216
Career LPGA Tour Wins	4	6
Career LPGA Tour Top 10s	84	40
Career LPGA Tour Money	\$11,882,919	\$8,109,845

ABOUT THE LEADERS

Rolex Rankings No. 36 Amy Yang

- Yang hit 12 of 14 fairways, 16 of 18 greens with 27 putts
 - She went bogey-free for the second straight day with eight birdies
 - Yang has not recorded a bogey since her first hole on Thursday
- She has shot 53 consecutive holes without a bogey, her longest streak of the season
 - The most consecutive holes without a bogey in a single tournament for Yang came at the 2018 Indy Women in Tech Championship (60)
 - Her record for most consecutive holes without a bogey is 82 which began on No. 15 in the third round of the 2018 AIG Women's Open and ended on No. 7 in the fourth round of the 2018 Indy Women in Tech Championship
 - **Jin Young Ko** holds the record for most consecutive holes played without a bogey since 2011 at 114
- Yang currently has 22 sub-par holes through three days of play
 - Her Tour record for most sub-par holes (birdies/eagles) in a single event is 29 (2019 Honda LPGA Thailand)
 - The all-time record is 32 set by **Sei Young Kim** (2018 Thornberry Creek LPGA Classic)
- 195 ties her career-low that she set last week at the ANNIKA driven by Gainbridge at Pelican (par 70)
 - She and Hataoka bested the previous 54-hole tournament scoring record by five strokes
 - Lexi Thompson's 200 in 2018 was the 54-hole scoring record
 - Before last week, her career-low 54-holes was 197, set in 2017 at the Walmart NW Arkansas Championship and tied in 2018 at the Indy Women in Tech Championship
- This is her 11th start at the CME Group Tour Championship
 - She has finished inside the top-25 in eight of those
 - Her best finish came in 2015, T7
- This is her 20th start on Tour
 - She has four top-five finishes this year
 - She has finished fourth in three of those finishes
 - Her best finish this season came at the Meijer LPGA Classic for Simply Give, T3
- This is her 15th season on the LPGA Tour
 - She is a four-time winner with 80 additional top-10 finishes
 - She is looking for her first win in the United States
- She was a member of Team Korea at the 2016 UL International Crown
- She has three wins on the LET and two on the KLPGA
- She was offered a special exemption to join the LET at the age of 17 and became the youngest member

Rolex Rankings No. 18 Nasa Hataoka

- Hataoka hit all 14 fairways, 16 of 18 greens with 24 putts

- She recorded seven birdies and two bogeys
 - Her 24 putts ties with **Brooke Henderson** for the second-lowest putts in the third round
 - She is in first place with 76 putts over the last three rounds
- Her 195 is her third-lowest career 54-hole score
 - Hataoka and Lee bested the previous 54-hole tournament scoring record by five strokes
 - Lexi Thompson's 2000 in 2018 was the 54-hole scoring record
- This is her third time this season leading after the third day of play
 - She also led after 54-holes at this event in 2021 where she ultimately finished T2
- 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

- Three players are in contention for the Vare Trophy, given to the player with the lowest scoring average throughout the season
 - **Atthaya Thitikul**: 69.589
 - **Hyo Joo Kim**: 69.645
 - **Xiyu Lin**: 69.865
 - With Jin Young Ko's withdrawal, she is officially out of the Vare Trophy race
 - She needed to complete all four rounds to get to 70 rounds, the minimum to qualify
 - Heading into Sunday, Kim needs at least a 64 Sunday to get below Thitikul's current 69.581
 - Thitikul can better her current average with a 69 or lower on Sunday
- First-round co-leader **Alison Lee** is in solo third
 - Like Yang and Hataoka, she broke the previous 54-hole scoring record with her three-day score of 198
 - Lee also has just one bogey through three rounds, tied for least in the field
- **Xiyu Lin** is in solo fourth at -17
 - She had two streaks of four birdies in a row during the third round
 - She made four birdies on hole 6-9 and four more on holes 15-18
- **Carlota Ciganda** shot the best round of the day with a 63 that included one bogey and an eagle, tying for the lowest round of the week through 54 holes
 - Her 63 tied her lowest 18-hole score on the LPGA Tour, and is her lowest round at any appearance at the CME Group Tour Championship
 - **Amy Yang** shot a bogey-free 63 in the second round
 - **Nasa Hataoka** and **Ruoning Yin** shot bogey-free 63s in their first rounds
- Seven of the past nine winners of the CME Group Tour Championship have held a share of the lead entering the final round
 - The only two to not have a share of the lead entering the final round was **Jin Young Ko** (one shot back) in 2020 and **Lydia Ko** (three shots back) in 2014
- **Nelly Korda** made a hole-in-one on No. 8 during the third round, the first of her LPGA Tour career
 - She hit her 9-iron 148 yards
 - Korda's 66 ties for the lowest score in a round with a hole-in-one
 - This is the 20th hole-in-one on the LPGA Tour this season
 - Thanks to Korda's hole-in-one, CME Group will donate \$20,000 to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital as part of the CME Group Cares Challenge, a season-long charitable giving program
 - The season-long donation total is now \$400,000
- **Jenny Shin** also made a hole-in-one on the par-3 No. 8 during the second round
 - She hit her 8-iron 141 yards to score her third ace of her LPGA Tour career
- **Jin Young Ko** withdrew before her third round, citing injury
- **Jodi Ewart Shadoff** withdrew before her second round, citing injury

SUNDAY ESPN+ FEATURED GROUPS

8:50 a.m. – Jasmine Suwannapura, Grace Kim & Charley Hull

9:11 a.m. – Cheyenne Knight, Rose Zhang & Yuna Nishimura

QUOTABLE

"Yeah, my first in, gosh, 14 years. I had 148; just hit a controlled 9-iron; wind was off my right. Actually kind of pitched pin high and then spun left. I haven't seen the video because you're kind of -- the pin is kind of hidden from the angle of the bunker. But, yeah I'm super psyched. Already had a couple friends send my their Venmo." – *Nelly Korda on her first hole-in-one on the LPGA Tour*

"I think actually this season, even though it didn't look quite that way, I actually struggles a lot mentally. I think from last season, to be honest with you, in the off-season I obviously wasn't happy with the fact that I haven't win, so I think even my team, like all of us, been trying a little too hard. So I did some not very smart club changings and changing shaft, swing, like try to just like work out like where is that one shot that I'm missing. Then it turns out like when I kind of struggle around International Crown and missed those cuts and had poor performance in Vegas, kind of get me a little warning. Then we sit down back together and like rethink again and thinking like this is not about what I need to do. It's just about the timing. So I think from that on, it's been a lot better." – *Xiyu Lin on struggling mentally while chasing her first win*

"I think for me, to be that solid it's just work. I think when you work and you put the hours and work hard, that's what it gives you, the confidence. Then when you see that on the course, I know I have -- I know I'm mentally tough and I know I can compete against anyone. But I think working hard with my coach, working hard with my team, with my caddie every week, and just, yeah, talking about everything, stats, how we can improve, how we can get better going to a course and just doing the strategy before we play. I think we work really hard on just, yeah, believing in myself. I think the work ethic, it's what is important for me, just work and practice." – *Carlota Ciganda on her mental key to playing solid golf*

"I haven't been able to achieve anything really that I thought I would be able to achieve. For the longest time, I finally kind of accepted that I won't be the player that I thought I would be when I was young. So just to be here, like the last month, like putting myself in contention over and over again, it's just been a really fun ride. No matter what happens tomorrow or the next year, if I do get that win or if I don't, I just know I gave it my best." – *Alison Lee on what a win would mean to her*

NOTABLE

[Carlota Ciganda Climbs Leaderboard with 63 at CME Group Tour Championship](#)

[Lee Leaning on Encouragement from Fred Couples Pursuing First Win at CME Group Tour Championship](#)

[Nelly Korda Cards Ace in Third Round of CME Group Tour Championship](#)

[Nelly Korda's Ace Third Round | 2023 CME Group Tour Championship](#)

[Megan Khang Walk & Talk ESPN+ | 2023 CME Group Tour Championship](#)

[Danielle Kang Walk & Talk ESPN+ | 2023 CME Group Tour Championship](#)

[Stephanie Kyriacou Walk & Talk ESPN+ | 2023 CME Group Tour Championship](#)

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TOURNAMENT SCORING RECORDS:

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

36 holes: 130, Celine Boutier (2021), **Alison Lee (2023) & Nasa Hataoka (2023)**

54 holes: **195, Amy Yang (2023) & Nasa Hataoka (2023)**

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