



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

Wednesday Pre-Tournament Notes  
November 15, 2023

**MEDIA AVAILABILITY SCHEDULE**

All times are local (EST) and subject to change

Thursday, November 16

9:30 a.m. – State of the Association address w/ Mollie Marcoux Samaan

**NEWS FROM THE LPGA TOUR**

CME Group and LPGA Announce Two-Year Extension of CME Group Tour Championship with Increased Purse

- *Second-place award will increase to \$1 million*
- *Sponsorship extension through 2025 will continue to include Race to the CME Globe and charity tie-in for St. Jude Children's Research Hospital*

The Ladies Professional Golf Association (LPGA) and CME Group, the world's leading derivatives marketplace, today announced an extension of the CME Group Tour Championship and the season-long Race to the CME Globe through 2025. This two-year title sponsorship agreement will bring exciting new opportunities for women's golf starting in 2024, with an enhanced total purse of \$11 million, including a record \$4 million first-place prize, and \$1 million for the runner-up. Additionally, as part of an enhanced purse distribution formula, for the first time ever, every competitor who qualifies for the 60-golfer field will be awarded at least \$55,000, increasing recognition for all players.

ESPN+ to Stream Live, Exclusive Coverage of Featured Groups at CME Group Tour Championship, Finale of 2023 LPGA Tour Season

ESPN+ will stream exclusive coverage of the LPGA Tour's CME Group Tour Championship, the final event of the 2023 LPGA Tour season, with a live Featured Groups feed starting Thursday, Nov. 16, at 7:30 a.m. ET.

Featured Groups at the CME Group Tour Championship will showcase **Andrea Lee/Madelene Sagstrom** (7:45 a.m. ET), **Danielle Kang/Perrine Delacour** (8:15 a.m. ET), **Cheyenne Knight/Rose Zhang** (10:45 a.m. ET) and **Nelly Korda/Yuka Saso** (11:25 a.m. ET). These groupings include seven LPGA Tour winners, five Olympians and three major champions.

**NOTABLE PLAYERS IN THE CME GROUP TOUR CHAMPIONSHIP FIELD**

**Rolex Women's World Golf Rankings No. 1 Lilia Vu**

"I think it's just been wild. I don't think I expected this at all. I have said this before. I came in with no expectations because last year I had too many and was too hard on myself. I'm trying to enjoy every moment and be grateful I'm out here. A lot of people would love to be in our position. When it gets tough out there and I'm being a little bit of a brat, I just remind myself I'm being ungrateful and go back to that mindset." – *Vu reflecting on her four-win 2023 season*

- Vu returns to Naples, Fla. for just the second time in her career after winning for the fourth time this season at the ANNIKA driven by Gainbridge at Pelican
  - Last season she finished T30 at the CME Group Tour Championship and did not shoot a round in the 60s
- According to KPMG Performance Insights, she became the fourth American player to win four times on the LPGA Tour in the same season
  - She joins **Paula Creamer** (2008), **Stacy Lewis** (2012) and **Nelly Korda** (2021)
  - The last American player to win five times on Tour in a single season was **Juli Inkster** in 1999
- Vu returned to No. 1 in the Rolex World Women's Golf rankings for the third time this season after her win at Pelican Golf Club
  - She has spent 10 weeks at the No. 1 spot
- This is Vu's 18th start of the 2023 season
  - Outside of her wins, she has two additional top-10 finishes
    - She finished runner-up at the Buick LPGA Shanghai after a one-hole playoff with **Angel Yin**
    - She also finished T7 at the LPGA Drive On Championship at Superstition Mountain
  - She is the second player to earn at least four victories on Tour this season, joining **Celine Boutier**
    - Vu became a Rolex First-Time Winner at the 2023 Honda LPGA Thailand event and went on to become a two-time major championship winner at The Chevron Championship and the AIG Women's Open
    - She is the first American to win two major championships in the same season since 1999
- This is her fourth season on the LPGA Tour
  - Before this season, she had eight top-10 finishes
    - Before this season, her most recent top-10 finish came at the 2022 TOTO Japan Classic (T10)
  - She lost priority status on the LPGA Tour after her rookie season in 2019
- She has represented the United States twice in her career at the 2023 International Crown and the 2023 Solheim Cup
  - Vu went 1-3 in her first start at the Solheim Cup winning her singles match against **Madelene Sagstrom** 4 and 3
- Vu was a 2021 Epon Tour graduate; she made 15 cuts in 18 starts in 2021 including three victories and finished first in the Race for the Card to earn LPGA Tour Membership for the 2022 season
- Vu is a graduate of UCLA; she was the 2018 WGCA Player of the Year and Pac-12 Conference Golfer of the Year
  - She is ranked first on the all-time UCLA career victory list with eight individual titles

**Rolex World No. 2 Ruoning Yin**

"So I think because I had really good start at Dana Open last year. I finish Top 4, and just before that I haven't play any tournament for two months because the injury. My mom told me, if you cannot swing just don't swing. Just do your putting drills, practice putting and chipping you'll be fine. No matter what, we still love you. I think that give me power to continue practicing, and I had a good week at Dana, and I think that give me a lot of confidence and keep playing. This year I think I did some change in my off-season. I start playing draws instead of always playing fades, so I can play both way. I think that makes me more comfortable on the course." – *Yin on her mindset heading into this year after her 2022 season*

- Yin will be making her first appearance at the CME Group Tour Championship in her sophomore year on the LPGA Tour

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- [LPGA Tour Online Media Center](#)
- [LPGA Statistical Database](#)
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- [Media Assets](#)
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**SOCIAL MEDIA: #DRIVEON**

**Tournament** - @CMEGroupLPGA (X), @cmegrouptourchamp (Instagram)

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

**TV & STREAMING TIMES**

**Thursday, November 16**

*Round 1*

7:45/8:15/10:45/11:25 a.m. – ESPN+ Featured Group Coverage  
2:00-3:00 p.m. – Live on Peacock, International  
3:00-5:00 p.m. – Live on NBC GOLF Channel, Peacock, International

**Friday, November 17**

*Round 2*

TBD - ESPN+ Featured Group Coverage  
2:00-3:00 p.m. – Live on Peacock, International  
3:00-5:00 p.m. – Live on NBC GOLF Channel, Peacock, International

**Saturday, November 18**

*Round 3*

TBD - ESPN+ Featured Group Coverage  
2:00-5:00 p.m. – Live on Peacock/International  
4:00-7:00 p.m. – Tape Delay on NBC GOLF Channel

**Sunday, November 19**

*Final Round*

9:00 a.m.- 3:00 p.m. – ESPN+ Featured Group Coverage & 16th Hole Coverage  
1:00-4:00 p.m. – Live on NBC, Peacock, International

- 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
- Yin has had a lot of success this season due to her ball striking (off the tee and approach) which ranks second to only **Minjee Lee** in strokes gained

Strokes Gained Ball Striking Leaders 2023 LPGA Tour Season	
Minjee Lee	2.18
Ruoning Yin	1.90
Megan Khang	1.50
Hae Ran Ryu	1.33
Hyo Joo Kim	1.30

- Yin competed in the 2023 International Crown representing the People's Republic of China
- After turning professional in 2020, Yin won her first three consecutive CLPGA Tour events, the most in the history of that tour
- In 2019, Yin won nine amateur titles

### Rolex World No. 3 Celine Boutier

"I think last year was definitely very good experience for me. Even though I didn't win as much, I had a lot of Top 10s and weeks where I was in contention. That much did help me get more confidence about my game and me being able to win few weeks in the year rather than just once in a while. So this year I just felt more comfortable in contention, which I didn't necessarily feel last year, and just a little bit less pressure to have to win so hard. I just feel like I just take the opportunities as they come and I don't necessarily try to force as much, which has been a little bit of a difference." – *Boutier on what has been different this season and if she can pinpoint the key to her success*

- Boutier is making her fifth start at the CME Group Tour Championship
  - She has two top-10 finishes in her last two starts including a T3 in 2021
- According to KPMG Performance Insights, Boutier has made a huge leap with her short game this season, ranking at or near the top of the LPGA Tour in a few key categories around the green

Celine Boutier Around the Green 2023 LPGA Tour Season		
	Stat	Rank
Scrambling Percentage	68.7%	1st
Strokes Gained Around the Green	+0.53%	3rd
Sand Save Percentage	58.5%	4th

- Boutier was the first player to win four times this season before being joined by Vu
  - She earned her first win at the LPGA Drive On Championship at Superstition Mountain and went on to claim her first major championship at The Amundi Evian Championship
  - She earned two more wins at the FREED GROUP Women's Scottish Open presented by Trust Golf and the Maybank Championship
  - Each of her four wins this season have come in four different countries; she is the fifth player since 2010 to accomplish that unique feat
    - She is the first since **Inbee Park** (four countries) and **Lydia Ko** (five countries) in 2015
  - She became the first player to win the Amundi Evian Championship and then the tournament following it since the Championship was designated as a major
  - She became the first player since **Ariya Jutanugarn** in 2016 to win any major championship and the tournament after (AIG Women's Open and CPKC Women's Open)
  - Boutier is the first to win back-to-back tournaments on Tour since **Jin Young Ko** in 2021 at the Cognizant Founders Cup and BMW Ladies Championship
  - With her win at the Maybank Championship, she became the first player to win at least four times in a single season since **Nelly Korda** (4 wins) and **Jin Young Ko** (5 wins) did so in 2021
- This will be her 22nd start of the 2023 season
  - Outside her wins, she has four additional top-10 finishes, most recently at the BMW Ladies Championship (T5)
  - She has only missed three cuts this season, at the Mizuho Americas Open, the JM Eagle LA Championship and The ANNIKA driven by Gainbridge
- This is Boutier's seventh year on the LPGA Tour
  - Prior to her four victories this year, she won at the 2021 ShopRite LPGA Classic presented by Acer and the 2019 ISPS Handa Vic Open
  - She competed on the European Solheim Cup team this year, as well as in 2019 and 2021

### Rolex World No. 26 Rose Zhang

"I'm so grateful. Just starting off in June it was kind of my debut and everything followed quickly after, playing all the majors and then getting all those sponsor's exemptions and not needing those sponsor's exemptions and playing throughout Asia. It's been a very busy and fulfilling season. I'm really glad to be here and just being here, being able to compete this week let alone, is already a great achievement for me." – *Zhang reflecting on her season after winning at the Mizuho Americas Open*

- Zhang is making her CME Group Tour Championship debut
- She is one of two players ranked inside the top-25 this season in strokes gained off the tee, approach and around the green, the other being **Megan Khang**

Strokes Gained Off the Tee, Approach and Around Green Top-25 in All Three this Season		
	Zhang	Khang
Off the Tee	22nd	24th
Approach Green	11th	4th
Around Green	22nd	11th

- She made her professional debut as a sponsor invite at the Mizuho Americas Open and went on to win that event
  - She became the first player to win while making their professional debut since **Beverly Hanson** did in 1951
  - She became the first non-member to win on Tour since **Maja Stark** won the 2022 ISPS Handa World Invitational
- Since her win, she went on to make 11 starts with three additional top-10 finishes
  - She finished T3 at the Maybank Championship and T9 at both the Amundi Evian Championship and U.S. Women's Open
  - She is coming off of back-to-back top-15 finishes with eight rounds under par and a 67.5 scoring average in the span
- She competed in her first Solheim Cup in 2023
  - She went 0-2-1 in her first appearance
  - She became the first member of the U.S. Team to compete on the Solheim Cup team as a rookie on Tour since **Angel Yin** in 2017
- Zhang made 13 starts on the LPGA Tour as an amateur, including eight major championships
  - Her best finish on Tour as an amateur was a T11 at the 2020 Chevron Championship
- She is the first player to win an NCAA Division I individual title and LPGA Tour tournament in the same season
- Zhang played collegiately at the Stanford University
  - She had one of the most successful amateur careers in history having earned two NCAA Women's Golf Championship Individual Titles (2022, 2023), back-to-back ANNIKA Awards (2022, 2023) and a win at the 2023 August National Women's Amateur
    - Her eight wins in her 2023 season tied Tiger Woods for the most by a Stanford player in school history

- Zhang won 12 times in 20 starts, the most by any other golfer in Stanford history both men's and women's
- She spent 141 weeks as the No. 1 ranked amateur in the world, the most of any player

#### Rolex World No. 6 Nelly Korda

- This is Korda's seventh appearance at the CME Group Tour Championship
  - She has placed in the top 10 in five of her last six appearances
  - Her best finish came in 2018, when she was the runner-up behind **Lexi Thompson**
- The CME Group Tour Championship is Korda's 18th start of the 2023 season
  - She has a total of eight top-10 finishes this year
    - She had three top-6 finishes in her first three tournaments of the year
    - She also had three straight top-6 finishes at the DIO Implant LA Open, The Chevron Championship and the JM Eagle LA Championship
    - Her most recent top-10 finish was at the Maybank Championship (T6)
    - According to KPMG Performance Insights, since the beginning of the 2019 season, Korda has 42 top-ten finishes on the LPGA Tour – three more than any other player in that span

Most Top-10 Finishes LPGA Tour Since Beginning of 2019	
Nelly Korda	42
Brooke Henderson	39
Jin Young Ko	39
Lydia Ko	36
Danielle Kang	35

- Her best finish was at the HSBC Women's World Championship in March (2nd)
- She has missed just two cuts
- This is Korda's seventh year on the LPGA Tour
  - She has won eight times, including one major victory at the 2021 KPMG Women's PGA Championship
  - Her last win was at the 2022 ANNIKA driven by Gainbridge at Pelican, where she successfully defended her title
  - She has been a member of the United States Solheim Cup team three times (2019, 2021, 2023)
    - She was also a member of the United States team at the Hanwha LIFEPLUS International Crown this year
    - Korda became a gold medalist at the 2020 Tokyo Olympics
  - Her rookie year on Tour was in 2017, after she finished ninth on the Race for the Card Epsom Tour money list to earn LPGA Tour status

#### ON LPGA.COM

- [Five Things to Know About the CME Group Tour Championship](#)
- [The LPGA's Final Test: Who Takes Home \\$2 Million at Tiburón?](#)
- [How to Watch the 2023 CME Group Tour Championship](#)
- [Field Breakdown: CME Group Tour Championship](#)
- [Making Moves: Lilia Vu Returns to No. 1 in Rolex Women's World Golf Rankings](#)
- [Angel Yin Wins Aon Trophy and \\$1 Million Prize in Decisive Victory](#)
- [Hae Ran Ryu Wins 2023 Louise Suggs Rolex Rookie of the Year Award](#)
- [Numbers Game Comes to a Thrilling Conclusion at CME Group Tour Championship](#)

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- [Jessica Korda and Maria Fassi Provide On-Course Insights During ESPN+ Coverage](#)
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