



Cognizant Founders Cup
Upper Montclair Country Club | Clifton, NJ | May 11-14, 2023

Final-Round Notes
May 14, 2023

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Course Setup: 36-36-72; 6,424 yards
Scoring Average: R1: 73.148; R2: 72.797; R3: 72.015; R4: 74.394
Weather: Mostly sunny to partly cloudy with dry conditions throughout the day, with a high temperature in the low 70s. Northerly to north-northwesterly winds at 8-15 mph
Race to CME Globe Points: 500 (winner)
Purse: \$3 million (winner's portion is \$450,000)
TV/Streaming Times: [How to Watch](#)

Quick Links:

- [Leaderboard](#)
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LEADERBOARD			
	Player	To par	Score
1	Jin Young Ko	-13	68-68-72-67 – 275
2	Minjee Lee	-13	68-69-67-71 – 275
3	Ashleigh Buhai	-10	71-69-68-70 – 278
4	Hae Ran Ryu	-8	67-70-70-73 – 280

JIN YOUNG KO EMERGES AS A CHAMPION AFTER ONE-HOLE PLAYOFF

As the sun set over Upper Montclair Country Club, a familiar name rose to the top of the leaderboard. After shooting her best round of the week, a bogey-free 67, **Jin Young Ko** became a three-time Cognizant Founders Cup with a par on the first playoff hole to defeat defending champion **Minjee Lee**.

The 2019 and 2021 Cognizant Founders Cup champion, Ko headed into her last hole on Sunday one shot behind the leader, Lee. After her tee shot landed in the fairway and her approach shot on the green, Ko had confidence walking up the green on No. 18 despite a roughly 25-foot putt for birdie.

“I thought I would make it because I had three birdies at 18 hole the last three days,” Ko said “So, yeah, I felt I can make it, and I made it.”

Ko's birdie on 18 put her in a tie for first after Lee bogeyed No. 16, which played as the most difficult hole on Sunday with only two birdies made there during the final round. With Ko in the clubhouse, Lee's

fate was in her own hands heading onto the final hole. After overshooting the green on her approach shot, the crowd sighed as her chip on the 18th narrowly missed the hole and she tapped in a par. Then, she headed back to the 18th tee with formerly two-time champion Ko.

After both players found the fairway and then the green, a three-putt on the first playoff hole cost Lee the title as Ko tapped in a par to become the 2023 Cognizant Founders Cup champion, and the fifth player this season to win in a playoff. The Korean is the only player to win the event three times and has done so on three different golf courses.

“Yeah, that's interesting because 2019 was Phoenix; 2021 was the other course. I played this course last year, but how I played -- wasn't good,” said Ko. “So I thought, yeah, this golf course really tough. Just I thought before this week I thought, oh, just make the cut and just finish top 10 or 20. But I made it. Surprise.”

South African **Ashleigh Buhai** shot a final round -2 to come to a solo third place finish, her best result of the season. LPGA Tour rookie **Hae Ran Ryu** bogeyed her last two holes but finished fourth, five shots behind the leaders. **Angel Yin** earned her second top five finish in a row at the Cognizant Founders Cup with a T5 result alongside young star **Atthaya Thitikul**, who was a member of the winning Thailand Team at last week’s Hanwha LIFEPLUS International Crown, and **Aditi Ashok**, who finished T2 at the JM Eagle LA Championship just two weeks ago after losing in a playoff.

A LOOK AT THE CHAMPION

CATEGORY	Jin Young Ko
2023 Race to CME Globe Points List	1 (projected)
2023 LPGA Tour Wins	2
2023 LPGA Tour Top 10s	5
2023 Season Earnings	\$970,692
Career LPGA Tour Wins	15
Career KPGA Tour Wins	12
Career LPGA Tour Top 10s	51
Career Money	\$11,334,148

ABOUT THE CHAMPION

Rolex Rankings No. 3 Jin Young Ko

- She hit 8 of 14 fairways and 12 of 18 greens with 27 putts during the fourth round
- Lee made five birdies in her bogey-free round on Sunday
- With her win, Ko now becomes a three-time champion of the Cognizant Founders Cup
- This is Ko’s sixth consecutive season as a Member with at least one victory on the LPGA Tour
- Ko is the first three-time winner of the Cognizant Founders Cup
 - She surpasses Karrie Webb (2011, 2014) as the winningest player in the events history
- She has won the event at three separate golf courses
 - 2019, Wildfire Golf Club; 2021, Mountain Ridge; 2023, Upper Montclair Country Club
- This is Ko’s fifth appearance at the Cognizant Founders Cup; in addition to her three wins, Ko has made the cut twice; a T46 finish in 2018 and a T17 finish in 2022
- This is Ko’s eighth event of the 2023 season; she represented the Republic of Korea at last week’s Hanwha LIFEPLUS International Crown

- She is the second player with multiple wins this season, joining Lilia Vu (Honda LPGA Thailand, The Chevron Championship)
- Ko passes the \$11 million mark in career earnings on the LPGA Tour and moves into the top-20 on the Career Money list, surpassing Brooke Henderson, Amy Yang and Na Yeon Choi
- She is the fifth player of the 2023 LPGA Tour season to win in a playoff
- This is Ko's sixth season on the LPGA Tour; she has 15 wins including two major championships (2019 Chevron Championship and 2019 Amundi Evian Championship)
- Ko represented Korea at the 2020 Olympics, finishing T4
- She earned LPGA Tour Membership for the 2018 season with her win at the 2017 LPGA KEB Hana Bank Championship
- Ko has 12 KLPGA Tour wins
- She won the 2021 Rolex LPGA Player of the Year and Official Money Title
- Ko was the 2019 Rolex LPGA Player of the Year, Rolex ANNIKA Major Award winner, Vare Trophy winner and Official Money Title winner
- She was the 2018 Louise Suggs Rolex Rookie of the Year

THINGS TO KNOW

- Defending champion **Minjee Lee** finished second after losing to Ko in a playoff
 - Lee shot a final-round 71 to tie with Ko at -13
 - She is T2 in the field in birdies along with Ko, having shot 20 in four rounds
 - She made four birdies with just one bogey during round four
 - Lee is the 2022 Cognizant Founders Cup champion
 - Lee's last win was at the U.S. Women's Open in 2022
- The five past champions in the field this week were a combined -31 for the tournament
 - All five are in the top 21 on the leaderboard
 - Defending champion Lee finished in second place after a playoff with now three-time champion Ko
 - First-round leader **Sei Young Kim** (2016 champion) and **Stacy Lewis** (2013) finished the tournament at T21 at -1
 - **Anna Nordqvist**, who won in 2019, finished T13 at -3
- Four #LPGAMoms spent their Mother's Days on the golf course
 - Lewis finished T21 at -1 (daughter Chesnee Chadwell)
 - **Mariajo Uribe** finished T42 at +3 (son Lucca Bautista)
 - **Brittany Lincicome** finished T52 at +4 (daughters Emery and Sophia Gouws)
 - **Azahara Munoz** finished T59 at +5 (son Lucas Vickers)
- The par-4 No. 16 played the hardest during the fourth round
 - Hole 16 had a final-round scoring average of 4.64 with just two birdies and 38 bogeys or worse on Sunday
 - Between the third- and final-round, the scoring average on No. 16 increased by 0.25
- The par-4 No. 3 played the hardest during the first three rounds
 - Hole 3 had a third-round scoring average of 4.500 with just four birdies and 30 bogeys or worse made there on Saturday
 - Through two rounds, the hole's total scoring average was 4.415
- Sixty- six players made the cut at +1 on Friday including all five past champions in the field
 - Notable players to miss the cut are Rolex Rankings World No. 1 **Nelly Korda** and two-time 2023 season champion **Lilia Vu**
- This is the 12th playing of the Cognizant Founders Cup and the second time it is being played at Upper Montclair Country Club

- The tournament was played in Arizona for its first nine years and has been held in New Jersey since 2021

QUOTABLE

Jin Young Ko on being inspired by Korean golfer Sing-jae Im's come-from-behind victory on the Korean Tour: "Last night, this morning I watch something highlight that was Sung-jae Im, he's PGA Tour player. He's Korean. He played Korea tournament this week and he won. He was five shot behind the lead and he made it to win, so that was inspire me. Yeah, I was four shot behind lead, but if I really play well like Sung-jae I could chance to win, so I really focus myself, yeah."

Ashleigh Buhai on her top finish this season: "Yeah, obviously it's just more confidence. Every week you try to build. I think this is my fourth or -- fourth top 10 this year, so I'm playing good. I know that when it all comes together I'm going to have a chance to win again. I've got to stay patient and not reinvent the wheel, and I know what I am doing is right and just trust the process."

Minjee Lee on what to take away from her finish: "Yeah, I mean, apparently this is only my fifth start on tour this year, so it actually doesn't feel like I've only played five events. I have, so I mean, it's still pretty early I guess in my season and I have a lot more events coming up. So I feel like I could take a lot of positives into, you know, the next couple majors coming up and obviously Mizuho is my next event. Yeah, I think I'm going to train hard the next two weeks and be ready for Mizuho."

NOTABLE

[Ko Wins Cognizant Founders Cup for Third Time in Five Years](#)

[Minjee Lee Finds the Top 10 for the First Time in 2023](#)

[Final Round Highlights | 2023 Cognizant Founders Cup-extended](#)

[Meet the Newest \(And Soon-To-Be\) #LPGAMoms](#)

[Cognizant Founders Cup Champions Jin Young Ko speaks with media](#)

[Ko's Birdie on the 18th to Tie the Lead](#)

[Jin Young Ko Secures a Ticket to the 2024/2025 Hilton Grand Vacations Tournament of Champions](#)

[Ko Taps in For Par to Win](#)

TOURNAMENT SCORING RECORDS:

18 holes: 61, Anna Nordqvist, third round, 2017

36 holes: 129, Jee Young Lee, 2013; Sei Young Kim, 2016

54 holes: 195, Anna Nordqvist, 2017

72 holes: 261 (-27), Sei Young Kim, 2016

2011-2019: Played at Wildfire Golf Club in Phoenix, Ariz.

2021: Played at Mountain Ridge Country Club in West Caldwell, N.J.

2022-Present: Played at Upper Montclair Country Club in Clifton, N.J.