



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

First-Round Notes
May 11, 2023

Media Contact: Emily Carman +1 (714) 742-8301,
Carly Lyvers +1 (386) 214-9105

Course Setup: 36-36-72; 6,536 yards

Scoring Average: R1: 73.148

Weather: Mostly sunny with dry conditions throughout the day; temperatures in the low 80s with west-northwesterly winds increasing to 8-13 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:

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LEADERBOARD			
	Player	To par	Score
1	Sei Young Kim	-6	66
2	Hae Ran Ryu	-5	67
T3	Nine Players	-4	68

SEI YOUNG KIM LEADS AFTER 18 HOLES AT COGNIZANT FOUNDERS CUP

Under bright skies at New Jersey's Upper Montclair Country Club, 12-time LPGA Tour winner **Sei Young Kim** got off to a blazing start at the 2023 Cognizant Founders Cup. Kim shot a bogey-free 6-under 66 on Thursday, including a streak of four consecutive birdies at 12, 13, 14 and 15. The Korean superstar already has a Founders title to her name, capturing the 2016 edition held in Arizona, and is now aiming for her first LPGA Tour victory since 2020's The ANNIKA driven by Gainbridge at Pelican.

"This course is (one of my) favorite courses," said Kim, who holds an 18-hole lead for the first time since the 2022 Walmart NW Arkansas Championship. "This course has kind of lot of trees on both sides, and keeping (the ball in) the fairway, it's really important this week."

LPGA Tour rookie **Hae Ran Ryu** holds solo second at -5, carding eight birdies and three bogeys in her opening round. Sitting at -1 through 11 holes, Ryu went on the same tear as Kim, dropping birdies at 12, 13, 14 and 15 to vault up the leaderboard. The 22-year-old, who has five victories on the KLPGA Tour, is

looking for her breakthrough moment on the LPGA Tour after earning medalist honors at the 2022 Q-Series.

“At the very first (event) I have really low confidence and I'm always draw a question mark myself, (if) I can do my best or I can do it well,” said Ryu, whose best finish in 2023 is a tie for sixth at the JM Eagle LA Championship. “But after the tournament and after the rounds I'm getting more confidence at the tour, and from now, I'm really doing well I think.”

Nine players are tied for third at -4, including defending champion **Minjee Lee** and two-time Founders champion **Jin Young Ko**. Others in the pack at -4 are U.S. Solheim Cup captain and 2013 Founders winner **Stacy Lewis**; **Atthaya Thitikul**, a member of the winning Thai team at last week's Hanwha LIFEPLUS International Crown; The Chevron Championship's first-round leader **Peiyun Chien**; and **Hye-Jin Choi**, who carded eagles on two of her first four holes.

“Hit a lot of good shots today that ended up on the fringe so the stats maybe don't show the ball striking. I think (stats) showed I only hit 12 greens, but probably putted four or five times from the fringe,” said Lewis. “So the misses were really good, and just took what the course gave me and took advantage of the par-5s.”

Rolex Women's World Golf Rankings No. 1 **Nelly Korda** is tied for 45th after an even-par 72 on Thursday. Korda's caddie this week is Joe LaCava, the former looper for Tiger Woods who recently started working with Patrick Cantlay. Jason McDede, Korda's regular caddie, is out on paternity leave and will return at her next LPGA Tour event, the Mizuho Americas Open.

A LOOK AT THE LEADER

CATEGORY	Sei Young Kim
2023 Race to CME Globe Points List	67
2023 LPGA Tour Wins	0
2023 LPGA Tour Top 10s	0
2023 Season Earnings	\$63,968
Career LPGA Tour Wins	12
Career Ladies European Tour Wins	0
Career Epson Tour Wins	0
Career LPGA Tour Top 10s	63
Career Money	\$12,146,541

ABOUT THE LEADER

Rolex Rankings No. 33 Sei Young Kim

- She hit 12 of 14 fairways and 16 of 18 greens with 29 putts
- With a bogey-free round, Kim made six birdies during her first round
- She is one of five players to hit 16 of 18 greens in regulation, one behind Minjee Lee (17 of 18 greens)
- Kim ranked third among the field in driving distance
- She is one of four players to go bogey-free on Thursday
- This is her first 18-hole lead of her Tour career
- This is her sixth event of the 2023 Tour season

- She missed one cut this season at the DIO Implant LA Open and competed in four tournaments prior to that event
- Her last event was at the Hanwha LIFEPLUS International Crown, where she represented Korea
- This is her eighth appearance at the Cognizant Founders Cup
 - Her best finish at the event was a victory in 2016 at Wildfire Golf Club
 - With two rounds of 63 and 66, Kim tied for the 36-hole scoring record previously set by Jee Young Lee in 2013
 - She set the 72-hole scoring record for the tournament after finishing -27
 - She has only missed this event's cup once in her career in 2018
 - Kim has placed in the top-10 at this tournament three times
- This is her ninth season on the LPGA Tour
 - Her career-best result on Tour is a major championship win in 2020 at the KPMG Women's PGA Championship

THINGS TO KNOW

- 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
- Second behind Kim is rookie **Hae Ran Ryu**
 - Her first-round 65 is her second-lowest round of the season
 - She shot a 64 in the third round of the LPGA Drive On Championship
 - Ryu made eight birdies on Thursday at Upper Montclair Country Club, tied for most in the field along with fellow rookie **Samantha Wagner**
 - This season, Ryu has two top-10 finishes and one additional top-20 finish and is leading the standings for Rookie of the Year
- Nine players sit in a tie for third at -4, including LPGA Mom **Stacy Lewis**, defending champion **Minjee Lee** and two-time champion **Jin Young Ko**
 - Lewis is one of just four players to go bogey free in the first round
 - She is one of five past champions in the field this week, having won in 2013 when it was played in Phoenix, Ariz.
 - In 2022, Lee opened with a first-round 67 before going on to shoot a second-round 63
 - On Thursday, she shot a 68 and was the only player to hit every fairway
 - She also hit 17 of 18 greens in regulation, the most in the field during the first round
 - Ko made seven birdies, a bogey and a double bogey during the first round
 - She and Karrie Webb are the only players to have won the Cognizant Founders Cup twice
 - She has shot a 68 or better 11 times this season, but this is her best opening-round score
- The five past champions in the field this week are a combined -21 after the first round
 - All five are in the top-12 on the leaderboard after round one
 - All five past champions are within three shots of one another
 - Kim is in first place at -6 with Ko, Lee and Lewis tied for third at -4
 - **Anna Nordqvist** shot a first-round 69 and is -3 after day one
- Hole 3, a par-4, played the hardest during the first round

- No. 3 had a first-round scoring average of 4.373 with 18 birdies and 54 bogeys or worse made there on Thursday
- **Paula Creamer** withdrew from the field after 11 holes, citing injury
- **Jodi Ewart Shadoff** withdrew from the field after the first round, citing injury

QUOTABLE

Peiyun Chien on what she is focused on in her game right now – “I saw Tiger Woods, and he has a video and he’s just holding the...toothbrush. And...toothpaste. I was very soft and I was just not feeling with my grip. I just putt without feeling. It is really helpful. You have to feel very, very soft in your hand.”

Atthaya Thitikul on her mentality coming off a team win at last week’s Hanwha LIFEPLUS International Crown – “I mean, obviously today I play with Patty (Tavantanakit) as well. It's kind of remind me like last week. And then, yeah, it's kind of totally different than the team or the match play, but I trying to focus more. I mean, like I'm so tired. This is my four week in a row, and then the last two day when I practice it's like, 'oh, my God, I'm so tired.' So just I don't want to focus like so much on how tired I be on the course, so just to be like, okay, it’s my last week. Going to try to do my best.”

Samantha Wagner on the challenges of her rookie season so far – “Oh, man, it's been frustrating. I've had some close calls and some tournaments where I'm like I could easily count three shots where I could have changed things. I think that's part of the learning process. Took me a couple weeks to just be okay with that and roll with the punches and know that I earned my spot out here and just trust that and keep sticking with it.”

NOTABLE

[Sei Young Kim Shoots Bogey-Free 66 For Lead in LPGA Tour’s Founders Cup](#)

[Cheyenne Knight Nabs Opening 68 At Cognizant Founders Cup](#)

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

[9 Swings for Your Thursday Afternoon](#)

[Celebrating the Past, Present and the Future](#)

[Atthaya Thitikul's game was on point to start at the LPGA Founders](#)

[Brittany Lincicome talks about her game and getting into golf](#)

[Lydia Ko chips in to get back to even](#)

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.