



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

Third-Round Notes
May 13, 2023

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Course Setup: 36-36-72; 6,424 yards
Scoring Average: R1: 73.148; R2: 72.797; R3: 72.015
Weather: Overcast and mostly cloudy. Light winds turned north-northwesterly winds ranging from 7-15 mph
Race to CME Globe Points: 500 (winner)
Purse: \$3 million (winner's portion is \$450,000)
TV/Streaming Times: [How to Watch](#)

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LEADERBOARD			
	Player	To par	Score
1	Minjee Lee	-12	68-69-67 – 204
T2	Angel Yin	-9	69-70-68 – 207
T2	Hae Ran Ryu	-9	67-70-70 – 207
T4	Ashleigh Buhai	-8	71-69-68 – 208
T4	Aditi Ashok	-8	69-68-71 – 208
T4	Jin Young Ko	-8	68-68-72 – 208

MINJEE LEE AIMING FOR TITLE DEFENSE AT COGNIZANT FOUNDERS CUP

For the second consecutive year, Australian **Minjee Lee** will sleep on the lead heading into the final round of the Cognizant Founders Cup at New Jersey's Upper Montclair Country Club.

In 2022, Lee shot a third-round 69 en route to victory. Fast forward a year and Lee bettered her third-round score by two strokes, carding an eagle, four birdies and one bogey in her 5-under 67. Her eagle came at the par-5 12th hole, where she reached the green in two and drained a 20-foot putt. Lee's putter was on fire on Thursday – she drained a 50-footer for birdie at No. 8 and needed just 28 putts on the day.

"I'm sure I'll be nervous coming down the first hole, but I think they're good nerves," said Lee of her mindset for Sunday. "I feel pretty good about the golf course and how I'm hitting it, so just going to play

my game and play aggressively when I can and play smart when I have to. Stick to my processes and game plan, which I have been doing.”

This is the seventh time in Lee’s LPGA Tour career that she holds a portion of the lead heading into the final round. She has won five of those times, most recently at the 2022 U.S. Women’s Open, and finished second the one time she did not win. With a win, Lee would surpass Rachel (Teske) Hetherington (eight wins) to become the third-winningest golfer from Australia behind World Golf Hall of Famers Karrie Webb (41) and Jan Stephenson (16).

Lee holds a four-stroke advantage over **Angel Yin** and **Hae Ran Ryu**, who are tied for second at -9. Yin, who fell in a playoff at The Chevron Championship three weeks ago, and Ryu, a 2023 LPGA Tour rookie, are both looking for the first wins of their LPGA Tour careers. Two-time Cognizant Founders Cup **Jin Young Ko** and major champion **Ashleigh Buhai** join **Aditi Ashok** in a tie for fourth at -8, while **Grace Kim** and **Cheyenne Knight** are tied for seventh at -7.

WITH A WIN

Minjee Lee

- Lee would earn her first victory of the 2023 LPGA Tour season and ninth victory overall
- She would make 2023 her third consecutive season with at least one win on Tour
- Lee would become the second player to defend her title at the Cognizant Founders Cup after **Jin Young Ko** (2019, 2021)
- She would surpass Rachel (Teske) Hetherington (eight wins) to become the third-winningest golfer from Australia behind Karrie Webb (41) and Jan Stephenson (16)
- Lee would be the second Australian to win on Tour this season, joining **Hannah Green** (JM Eagle LA Championship presented by Plastpro)

Angel Yin

- Yin would become the season’s fourth Rolex First-Time Winner, following **Lilia Vu** (Honda LPGA Thailand), **Ruoning Yin** (DIO Implant LA Open) and **Grace Kim** (LOTTE Championship)
- Yin would earn the first victory of her career in her 149th LPGA Tour start
- She would become the second American to win this season following **Lilia Vu** (Honda LPGA Thailand, The Chevron Championship)
- She would earn her second top-two finish in three starts after finishing second in The Chevron Championship three weeks ago

Hae Ran Ryu

- Ryu would become the second LPGA Tour rookie to win this season alongside **Grace Kim** (LOTTE Championship presented by Hoakalei)
- Ryu would become the second winner from the Republic of Korea this season, joining **Jin Young Ko** (HSBC Women’s World Championship)
- Ryu would become the fourth Rolex First-Time Winner of the 2023 LPGA Tour season, alongside **Lilia Vu** (Honda LPGA Thailand, The Chevron Championship), **Ruoning Yin** (DIO Implant LA Open) and **Grace Kim** (LOTTE Championship presented by Hoakalei)

Aditi Ashok

- Ashok would become the first player from India to win on the LPGA Tour

- Ashok would become the fourth Rolex First-Time Winner of the 2023 LPGA Tour season, alongside **Lilia Vu** (Honda LPGA Thailand, The Chevron Championship), **Ruoning Yin** (DIO Implant LA Open) and **Grace Kim** (LOTTE Championship presented by Hoakalei)
- Ashok would earn her second top-two finish in a row after finishing T2 at the JM Eagle LA Championship
- Ashok would be the first player to win on both the LPGA Tour and LET this season
 - She won the Magical Kenya Ladies Open on the LET in February

Ashleigh Buhai

- Buhai would earn her first win since becoming a Rolex First Time winner and major champion at the 2022 AIG Women’s Open
- She would become just the second South African with multiple LPGA Tour wins, following Sally Little (15)
- She would surpass the \$4 million mark in career earnings on the LPGA Tour with the \$450,000 winner’s check (\$4,264,706)

Jin Young Ko

- Ko would earn her second victory of the 2023 season and her 15th victory overall on the LPGA Tour
- Ko would earn her third Cognizant Founders Cup title and surpass Karrie Webb as the winningest player in the events history
 - Ko won the Founders Cup in 2019 and 2021
- She would become the second player with multiple wins this season, joining Lilia Vu (Honda LPGA Thailand, The Chevron Championship)
- Ko would surpass the \$11 million mark in career earnings on the LPGA Tour and move into the top-20 on the Career Money list, surpassing Brooke Henderson, Amy Yang and Na Yeon Choi

A LOOK AT THE LEADER

CATEGORY	Minjee Lee
2023 Race to CME Globe Points List	105
2023 LPGA Tour Wins	0
2023 LPGA Tour Top 10s	0
2023 Season Earnings	\$47,136
Career LPGA Tour Wins	10
Career Ladies European Tour Wins	2
Career Epson Tour Wins	0
Career LPGA Tour Top 10s	9
Career Money	\$12,260,304

ABOUT THE LEADERS

Rolex Rankings No. 6 Minjee Lee

- She hit 9 of 14 fairways and 14 of 18 greens with 28 putts during the third round
- Lee made four birdies and just one bogey on Saturday to shoot a 67
- With a win at last year’s Cognizant Founders Cup, Lee is looking to defend her title headed into Sunday
- Lee has held a 54-hole lead on six different occasions on the LPGA Tour

- She won five of those events, only falling as a runner-up in 2019 at the Honda LPGA Thailand
- At the 2022 Cognizant Founders Cup, she entered the final round in the lead and won
- Her third-round 67 was her second-lowest score of the 2023 LPGA Tour season
 - Her lowest round of the season came during the first round at the JM Eagle LA Championship presented by Plastpro (65)
- This is her seventh appearance at the Cognizant Founders Cup
 - Prior to her victory in 2022, Lee had missed the cut twice and placed outside of the top 20 three times
- This is her sixth event of the 2023 Tour season
 - This is Lee's fourth consecutive week playing
 - She was a member of the runner-up Australian Team at the Hanwha LIFEPLUS International Crown
 - Her best finish of the 2023 LPGA Tour season is a T41 finish at The Chevron Championship
- This is her 9th season on the LPGA Tour
 - She holds two major victories at both The Amundi Evian Championship in 2021 and the U.S. Women's Open in 2022
 - After her 2022 Cognizant Founders Cup win, she won at the 2022 U.S. Women's Open one month later

THINGS TO KNOW

- Tied for second behind Lee is **Angel Yin** and rookie **Hae Ran Ryu**
 - Yin shot a third-round 68 to move from T7 to T2 after round three
 - She is T2 in the field in birdies, having shot 16 in three rounds
 - She made five birdies with just one bogey during round three
 - Yin's 207 is her second-lowest 54-hole score of the season, one stroke higher than her 206 at the 2023 The Chevron Championship where she ultimately finished second
 - Yin finished third at last year's Cognizant Founders Cup
 - Ryu is in her first year on the LPGA Tour
 - Ryu is leading the field in birdies with 17 in three rounds
 - She made six birdies and four bogeys on Saturday at Upper Montclair CC
 - This season, Ryu has two top-10 finishes and one additional top-20 finish and is leading the standings for Rookie of the Year
- The five past champions in the field this week are a combined -36 after the third round
 - All five are in the top 19 on the leaderboard
 - Defending champion Lee is in the lead at -16, with two-time champion Ko just four strokes behind
 - First-round leader **Sei Young Kim** (2016 champion) and **Stacy Lewis** (2013) are T9 and -6 heading into the final round
 - **Anna Nordqvist**, who won in 2019, is T19 at -4
- Four #LPGAMoms will spend their Mother's Days on the golf course tomorrow
 - Lewis is T9 at -6 (daughter Chesnee Chadwell)
 - **Mariajo Uribe** is T12 at -5 (son Lucca Bautista)
 - **Azahara Munoz** is T57 at +2 (son Lucas Vickers)
 - **Brittany Lincicome** is T63 at +3 (daughters Emery and Sophia Gouws)
- The par-4 No. 3 has played the hardest during all 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 is 4.415
- Rolex Rankings World No. 2 **Lydia Ko** is projected to move to No. 1 this weekend if she finishes in a three-way tie for second place or better
- 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**

Three players withdrew from the field during and after the first round, citing injury

- **Paula Creamer** withdrew after 11 holes on Thursday
- **Jodi Ewart Shadoff** and **Yan Liu** withdrew after their first rounds
- Two players withdrew from the field during the second round
 - **Lindsey Weaver-Wright** withdrew after nine holes; no reason was given
 - **Jessica Korda** withdrew after 10 holes, citing injury
- 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

LPGA Tour Rookie Grace Kim on having a win this season: "Yeah, it's incredible. I've seen a couple of them out there today just watching us play. They've created history for us, so hopefully we can replicate that. And having a win out here, I'm still looking at those videos back and I can't really seem to take it in. Yeah, it's definitely something special for sure."

Ashleigh Buhai on what part of her game has been tested most at Upper Montclair Country Club: "I think driving. You've got to drive it accurately and hit different shots, hit fades, draws. And then again, second shots into the green, you can't attack every flag here, especially the last few holes. You got to kind of hit 20, 25 feet to certain parts of the green and just take a two-putt and carry on."

Angel Yin on being happy on the golf course: "It's nice to just be enjoying it, because I know the moments when you don't enjoy it it's just such a grind, because it's like even when you get a birdie it's not that exciting. And birdies are really exciting."

NOTABLE

[Defending Champion Lee One of Three Australians at The Top at Cognizant Founders Cup](#)
[Minjee Lee Eagles the #AonRiskReward 12th](#)
[Jin Young Ko's Birdie Putt on the Last Hole](#)
[Cognizant Founders Cup hosts Junior Golf Clinic with New Jersey Golf Foundation](#)

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.