

# Hanwha LIFEPLUS International Crown TPC Harding Park | San Francisco, Calif. | May 4-7, 2023

## <u>Tuesday Pre-Tournament Notes</u> May 2, 2023

#### **MEDIA AVAILABILITY SCHEDULE**

All times are local and subject to change

#### Wednesday, May 3

3:00 p.m. – Japan

4:00 p.m. - Republic of Korea

4:30 p.m. – United States

5:00 p.m. - Sweden

#### THINGS TO KNOW ABOUT THE HANWHA LIFEPLUS INTERNATIONAL CROWN

- This is the fourth playing of the Hanwha LIFEPLUS International Crown
  - The inaugural event was held in 2014 at Caves Valley Golf Club in Owings Mills, Maryland and won by Spain
  - In 2016, the event was held at Merit Club in Libertyville, Illinois and was won by the United States
  - In 2018, the event was held at Jack Nicklaus Golf Club Korea in Incheon,
     Korea and was won by the Republic of Korea
  - The 2020 playing of the event was cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic
- TPC Harding Park will host the 2023 playing of the event
  - This marks the first professional women's competition to be held at TPC Harding Park
  - Named after U.S. President Warren G. Harding, Harding Park Golf Course opened in 1925, on the shores of Lake Merced in San Francisco
  - The initial course was designed by Willie Watson and Sam Whiting, who also designed the Lake Course at The Olympic Club
  - The course underwent a \$16 million restoration in 2002-2003 featuring a complete re-design to the course
  - Since the renovation, Harding Park has hosted several PGA TOUR events such as the WGC-American Express Championship, the President's Cup, and the Charles Schwab Cup Championship

## **NO.5 ENGLAND**

Jodi Ewart Shadoff on Team England's camaraderie and experience: "I think we're probably one of the most experienced match play teams here. Like Liz (Young) said, I played with Liz in the Curtis Cup back in the day. I think match play for me, and I think for everybody else, is probably my favorite format. I really love match play, and I feel like it really brings out the best in my game, and I think we're going to do really well."

- England has been represented twice before in the Hanwha LIFEPLUS International Crown (2016, 2018)
  - The country's total record is 10-10-2 (7-5-2 Four-Ball, 3-5-0 Singles)
  - In 2018, England finished tied for second alongside the United States with
     11 points
- England is the oldest team in the Hanwha LIFEPLUS International Crown, with an average age of 32 years
- This is Jodi Ewart Shadoff (Rolex Rankings No. 49) third appearance at the Hanwha LIFEPLUS International Crown (2016, 2018)
  - o Her overall record is 5-2-1 (4-1-1 Four-Ball, 1-1-0 Singles)
    - Ewart Shadoff (alongside Holly Clyburn) tied the four-ball team record for largest margin of victory, 7&5, in 2016 on Day 4 over Pornanong Phatlum/Porani Chutichai (Thailand)
    - In the same match with Clyburn, the two tied for the second-most sub-par holes made by a team in a match with 10
    - She also set the singles record for largest comeback to win a match in 2016 (3 down through 6), defeating Ssu-Chia Cheng (Chinese Taipei) 1 up
  - Ewart Shadoff is a three-time member of the European Solheim Cup team (2013, 2017, 2019)
    - Her overall record is 3-6-1 (1-2-0 Singles, 0-3-0 Foursomes, 2-1-1 Four-Ball)
    - This is her 13<sup>th</sup> season on Tour
      - She became a Rolex First Time Winner in 2022 at the LPGA Mediheal Championship
- This is **Bronte Law**'s (*Rolex Rankings No. 116*) second appearance at the Hanwha LIFEPLUS International Crown

#### LPGA ON-SITE COMMUNICATIONS TEAM

Emily Carman
Communications Coordinator
emily.carman@lpga.com
+1 (714) 742-8301

Sarah Kellam
Communications Coordinator
sarah.kellam@lpga.com
+1 (386) 212-8826

Christina Lance
Director, Communications
<a href="mailto:christina.lance@lpga.com">christina.lance@lpga.com</a>
+1 (908) 963-1691

#### **QUICK LINKS**

- Interview Transcripts
- LPGA Tour Online Media Center
- LPGA Statistical Database
- Media Guide
- Photo & Video Assets
- <u>Tournament Website</u>

## **TOURNAMENT INFORMATION:**

# **Competition Format**:

Thur.-Sat. – Four-ball competition Sunday (semifinals/finals) – Two singles matches and one foursomes match

## Scoring:

Win -1 point, Tie  $-\frac{1}{2}$  point, Lose -0 points

**Purse**: \$2 million; winning team's portion is \$500,000 (\$125,000 per player)

Whiteline Par and Yardage: 37-35–72, 6,550 yards (par and yardage are subject to change through the start of the tournament)

## SOCIAL MEDIA: #DRIVEON

Tournament - @Intl\_Crown (Twitter), @internationalcrown (Instagram)

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

## **TV & STREAMING TIMES**

(all times EST on Golf Channel, golfchannel.com, NBCSports.com, the NBC Sports App and Peacock)

Thursday, May 4 – 6:00 - 9:00 p.m. Friday, May 5 – 6:00 - 9:00 p.m. Saturday, May 6 – 6:00 - 9:00 p.m. Sunday, May 7 – 6:00 - 9:00 p.m.

- Her overall record is 2-2-0 (2-1-0 Four-Ball, 0-1-0 Singles)
  - Law has only played alongside Ewart Shadoff in past HWLPIC four-ball match appearances
    - Together, their record is 2-1-0
- Law was a member of the 2019 European Solheim Cup team
  - Her overall record is 1-1-2 (1-0-0 Singles, 0-1-1 Foursomes, 0-0-1 Four-Ball)
- As an amateur, her team experience includes playing on the UCLA Women's Golf Team and representing Great Birtian and Ireland in the 2014 Curtis Cup
- This is her seventh season on the LPGA Tour
  - She has one LPGA Tour victory, which she earned in 2019
- This is **Alice Hewson**'s (Rolex Rankings No. 178) first appearance in the Hanwha LIFEPLUS International Crown
  - Hewson has five individual top-20 finishes this season on the Ladies European Tour, including a season-best result of T2 at the Magical Kenya Ladies Open
    - She has one professional victory on the LET, which she earned at the 2020 Investec South African Women's Open
  - She has one additional professional win at the 2020 Rose Series Grand Final
  - o As an amateur, Hewson represented England and Great Britain multiple times
    - She played in three Vagliano Trophies in 2015, 2017 and 2019 as a member of the Great Britain & Ireland Team
    - She also represented Great Britain & Ireland in the Curtis Cup in 2016 and 2018, and in the Astor Trophy in 2019
    - She has represented England five times at the European Ladies' Team Championship and is the only player to be part of both England teams to win the European Ladies' Team Championships consecutively in 2016 and 2017
- This is Liz Young's (Rolex Rankings No. 222) first appearance in the Hanwha LIFEPLUS International Crown
  - Young has two individual top-15 finishes on the Ladies European Tour, including a pair of T12s that she recorded at the Joburg Ladies Open and the Investec SA Women's Open
    - Young's team finished in a tie for sixth at the Aramco Team Series Singapore
  - She has one professional victory on the LET, which she earned at the 2022 VP Bank Swiss Ladies Open
  - o As an amateur, Young represented England and Great Britain multiple times
    - She was a member of the winning England team at the 2007 Spirit International Amateur Golf Championship, alongside Naomi Edwards, Gary Boyd and Danny Willett
    - She represented England at the 2008 European Ladies' Team Championship
    - She also represented Great Britain & Ireland at the 2008 Curtis Cup at St Andrews
  - Young is the only mom in the field this week
    - In 2016, Young competed in the Women's British Open while being 7-months pregnant

#### **NO. 6 THAILAND**

Atthaya Thitikul on what it means for Team Thailand to represent their country: "I think it means a lot to us. It means the world to us, being here, standing here and representing our country, and with all the best players in that country for one crown. I think it's such an amazing event. We are so proud to be out here, not just especially this event, but like every day that we play in the LPGA Tour we're representing our country. I think it's more like a little extra proud of ourselves to be here."

- Thailand has been represented at every edition of the Hanwha LIFEPLUS International Crown
  - o The country's total record is 10-13-5 (7-9-4 Four-Ball, 8-3-4 Singles)
  - o Thailand finished fifth in 2014 (nine points overall), seventh in 2016 (four points), fourth in 2018 (10 points)
- This is Atthaya Thitikul's (Rolex Rankings No. 5) debut appearance at the Hanwha LIFEPLUS International Crown
  - o This is Thitikul's second season on Tour
    - She is a two-time Tour winner, with both victories earned in 2022
    - She is also a four-time winner on the Ladies European Tour and five times on the Thai LPGA
  - According to KPMG Performance Insights, for the second consecutive season, Thitikul is ranked inside the top-five on the LPGA Tour in strokes gained total per round:

Atthaya Thitikul Strokes Gained Total – Last 2 Seasons			
	Per Round	LPGA Rank	
2022	1.93	3	
2023	2.14	4	

 Thitikul is gaining more than half-a-stroke per round off the tee, on approach shots and putting; she's the only player with that distinction on Tour in 2023:

Atthaya Thitikul Strokes Gained Per Round This Season		
	Average	
Off tee Tee	+0.60	
Approach Green	+0.61	
Putting	+1.04	

- As an amateur, Thitikul represented Thailand at events like the Patsy Hankins Trophy (2018), Youth Olympic Games (2018), Asian Games (2018), and Queen Sirkit Cup (2016-2018)
- This is Patty Tavatanakit's (Rolex Rankings No. 63) first appearance at the Hanwha LIFEPLUS International Crown
  - This is Tavatanakit's fourth season on Tour
    - She became a Rolex First-Time Winner at the 2021 Chevron Championship
    - She has three wins on the Epson Tour
  - She represented Thailand at the 2020 Tokyo Olympics, finishing T23
  - o As an amateur, Tavatanakit represented Thailand at the Queen Sirikit Cup (2015, 2016), Patsy Hankins Trophy (2016, 2018) and the international team for the Arnold Palmer Cup
    - From 2016-17, she also played for UCLA, where she won seven times and was Pac-12 Freshman of the Year
- This is Moriya Jutanugarn's (Rolex Rankings No. 80) fourth appearance at the Hanwha LIFEPLUS International Crown
  - Her overall record is 4-4-3 (3-3-3 Four-Ball, 1-1-0 Singles)
  - o This is her 11th season on Tour
    - She is a two-time Tour winner, including a victory alongside her sister at the 2021 Dow Great Lakes Bay Invitational

- This is **Ariya Jutanugarn**'s (Rolex Rankings No. 83) fourth appearance at the Hanwha LIFEPLUS International Crown
  - O Her overall record is 4-5-2 (3-4-2 Four-Ball, 1-1-0 Singles)
    - At 18 years, 8 months and 1 day, she became the second-youngest player to tee it up in HWLPIC history in 2014
  - This is her ninth season on Tour
    - She is a 12-time winner, including two major championships at the 2016 AIG Women's Open and 2018 U.S. Women's Open
    - She represented Thailand at the 2020 Tokyo Olympics, finishing T43
- The Jutanugarn sisters have played in 11 total matches, which ties the second-most played in HWLPIC appearances
  - o They have played in nine Four-Ball matches each, which ties the most played by an individual in HWLPIC appearances
  - o They have played five four-ball matches together, the third most in competition history, with a 2-2-1 record

#### NO. 7 AUSTRALIA

**Minjee Lee** on the competition changes to the Hanwha LIFEPLUS International Crown: "I think it'll be a little bit more exciting. I know the foursomes is now one of the matches that they get to play, foursomes and singles. I think it'll just be a little bit different because the teams can really figure out who will gel together better and maybe there will be a better strategy for the last day."

- Australia has been represented at every edition of the Hanwha LIFEPLUS International Crown
  - The country's total record is 7-10-3; Australia has never made it to singles competition
  - Australia ahs finished eighth twice (2014 and 2016, 3 points) and sixth (2018, 7 points),
- Minjee Lee (Rolex Rankings No. 6) is a three-time Hanwha LIFEPLUS International Crown participant (2014, 2016, 2018)
  - Her overall HLIC Record is 2-5-2 (four-ball)
  - Lee was the youngest competitor in the event's history when she teed it up in 2014 as an amateur (18 years, 1 month, 27 days)
  - o This is Lee's ninth year on Tour
    - She has eight total victories, including two major championships
    - She is a two-time Olympian representing Australia, finishing T7 (2016 Rio Olympics) and T29 (2020 Tokyo Olympics)
- This is **Hannah Green**'s (Rolex Rankings No. 14) debut in the Hanwha LIFEPLUS International Crown
  - Green won last week's JM Eagle LA Championship presented by Plastpro, defeating Aditi Ashok and Xiyu Lin in a two-hole playoff
  - According to KPMG Performance Insights, Green played the last 26 holes of last week's JM Eagle LA Championship (including the two in the playoff) bogey-free; she missed only three greens in regulation in that span and hit nine approach shots inside 15 feet:

Hannah Green at JM Eagle LA Championship Last 26 Holes Including Playoff		
Score to par	-8	
Bogeys or worse	0	
Greens in regulation	23-for-26	
Approaches inside 15 feet	9	

O With the win, Green became the seventh woman from Australia to win three or more times on the LPGA Tour:

Most Career Wins Players from Australia LPGA History			
Karrie Webb	41		
Jan Stephenson	16		
Minjee Lee	8		
Rachel Hetherington	8		
Hannah Green	3		
Katherine Kirk	3		
Wendy Doolan	3		

- o This is Green's sixth season on Tour
  - In addition to last week's victory, she has won two other times, including a major championship title at the 2019 KPMG Women's PGA Championship
  - She represented Australia at the 2020 Tokyo Olympics, finishing T5
- As a professional, Green represented the ALPG in The Queens alongside HWLPIC teammate Sarah Kemp, finishing third among four teams
- As an amateur, Green's team experience included the 2012 Astor Trophy (representing Australia), 2015 Astor Trophy (Australia), 2016 Patsy Hankins Trophy (representing Asia/Pacific), 2016 Espirito Santo Trophy (Australia) and the Queen Sirikit Cup (Australia, 2014-2016)
- This is Stephanie Kyriacou's (Rolex Rankings No. 118) debut appearance at the Hanwha LIFEPLUS International Crown
  - o This is Kyriacou's second season on Tour
    - Her career-best finish is a tie for seventh at the 2022 AIG Women's Open
    - She won twice on the Ladies European Tour (2020 Australian Ladies Classic Bonville and the 2021 Big Green Egg Open)
- This is **Sarah Kemp**'s (*Rolex Rankings No. 161*) debut at the Hanwha LIFEPLUS International Crown
  - This is Kemp's 16th season on Tour
    - She's earned nine top-10 finishes, including a career-best runner-up performance at the 2019 ISPS Handa Vic Open
    - She's won 13 times on the ALPG, including the 2023 TPS Sydney as the leading female
  - $\circ$  As a professional, Kemp represented the ALPG in The Queens from 2015-2017
  - As an amateur, Kemp's team experience included the 2003 Commonwealth Trophy, the Tasman Cup (2003, 2005), 2004 Espirito
     Santo Trophy and the Queen Sirkit Cup (2003-2005)

## **NO. 8 PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA**

**Xiyu Lin** on her second appearance in the Hanwha LIFEPLUS International Crown: "I was lucky enough to play the 2016 International Crown, and at the moment it was -- I remember it was a very unique experience because for me as a golfer, I normally just play by myself, and even we play like the Asian games or the Olympics, it would still be just a stroke play, so you still kind of play just by yourself. It's the first time we really have teammates. I think that year we had a really good time, and it's a very different feeling to me. This year when I realized we're going to make it to

this event, I was very excited, and of course now we have even a better team, I think. Everyone is in good shape, so I'm really looking forward to this week."

- China's only appearance in the Hanwha LIFEPLUS International Crown was in 2016
  - o The country's record is 2-2-2; China has never made it to singles competition
  - o In 2016, the team finished sixth overall
  - o The average age of the China team was 21.75 in 2016, the youngest in competition history
- Xiyu Lin (Rolex Rankings No. 13) is the only player on the China Team to have played in the HWLPIC before
  - Her overall record is 1-1-1 (four-ball)
  - o This is Lin's 10th season on Tour
    - She finished in second three times in 2022, her career-best performances
    - She is a two-time Olympian representing China, finished 38th (2016 Rio Olympics) and T9 (2020 Tokyo Olympics)
    - She has won seven times on the CLPGA
  - o Lin's other team experience includes representing China at the 2010 Asian Games, where the team finished with the silver medal
- This is **Ruoning Yin**'s (Rolex Rankings No. 21) debut at the Hanwha LIFEPLUS International Crown
  - This is Yin's second season on Tour
    - She became a Rolex First-Time Winner at the 2023 DIO Implant LA Open
    - Before the win, her career-best finish on Tour was a tie for fourth at the 2022 Dana Open
    - She won three times on the CLPGA in 2020
  - Yin has three top-15 finishes in her first four starts of the season; according to KPMG Performance Insights, she's averaging more than a quarter of a stroke better on par 5s this season than in the last four tournaments of 2022:

Ruoning Yin Last 8 Starts on LPGA Tour				
	Last 4 of 2022	1st 4 of 2023		
Top-15 Finishes	0	3		
Scoring Average	70	69.4		
Par 5 Scoring	4.80	4.52		
Putts per Round	28.9	28.3		

o Among players with 10 or more rounds, no player has averaged more strokes gained approach this season than Yin:

Most SG: Approach Per Round LPGA Tour This Season (Min. 10 Rounds)		
Ruoning Yin	1.94	
Azahara Munoz	1.29	
Hyo Joo Kim	1.24	
Jin Young Ko	1.22	

- As an amateur, Yin's team experience included represent China at the 2018 Asian Games where she earned a bronze medal in the women's team event
- This is Yu Liu's (Rolex Rankings No. 125) first appearance in the Hanwha LIFEPLUS International Crown
  - o This is Y. Liu's sixth season on Tour
    - She's earned two runner-up performances, her career-best finishes
    - She earned one Epson Tour victory at the 2017 Tullymore Classic
    - She's won on the CLPGA at the 2013 Srixon XXIO Ladies Open as an amateur
  - Y. Liu attended Duke University and played on the women's golf team for the 2013-14 season and was named Atlantic Coast Conference Rookie of the Year
- This is **Ruixin Liu**'s (Rolex Rankings No. 271) debut appearance at the Hanwha LIFEPLUS International Crown
  - This is R. Liu's fifth season on Tour
    - Her career-best finish on Tour is a tie for 10th at the 2022 Dow Great Lakes Bay Invitational playing alongside Wichanee
       Meechai
    - She is a six-time winner on the Epson Tour