



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

Wednesday Pre-Tournament Notes

May 3, 2023

THURSDAY MATCHES

Pool B – Japan vs. Thailand

11:15 a.m. – Yuka Saso/Ayaka Furue (JPN) vs. Atthaya Thitikul/Patty Tavatanakit (THA)

11:30 a.m. – Nasa Hataoka /Hinako Shibuno (JPN) vs. Moriya Jutanugarn/Ariya Jutanugarn (THA)

Pool A – Sweden vs. England

11:45 a.m. – Anna Nordqvist/Caroline Hedwall (SWE) vs. Bronte Law/Jodi Ewart Shadoff (ENG)

12:00 p.m. – Madelene Sagstrom/Maja Stark (SWE) vs. Liz Young/Alice Hewson (ENG)

Pool B – Republic of Korea vs. Australia

12:15 p.m. – Hye Jin Choi/In Gee Chun (KOR) vs. Minjee Lee/Stephanie Kyriacou (AUS)

12:30 p.m. – Hyo Joo Kim/Jin Young Ko (KOR) vs. Hannah Green/Sarah Kemp (AUS)

Pool A – United States vs. People’s Republic of China

12:45 p.m. – Lilia Vu/Nelly Korda (USA) vs. Ruoning Yin/Xiyu Lin (CHN)

1:00 p.m. – Danielle Kang/Lexi Thompson (USA) vs. Ruixin Liu/Yu Liu (CHN)

PAIRINGS NOTES

- Of the 16 pairings, only **Anna Nordqvist/Caroline Hedwall, Jodi Ewart Shadoff/Bronte Law** and **Moriya Jutanugarn/Ariya Jutanugarn** have been paired together before at the Hanwha LIFEPLUS International Crown
- In four-ball competition at International Crown, Nordqvist/Hedwall have only ever played with each other
 - Thursday’s match will be their seventh time playing together at International Crown, which is the second most in the event’s history
 - Together they have won four four-ball matches, second most in competition history
 - Their overall record is 4-1-1
 - In 2014, they were undefeated in four-ball competition (2-0-1)
 - With an average age of 34 years, Nordqvist/Hedwall are the oldest Thursday pairing
- Thursday’s match will be the Jutanugarns’ sixth time playing together in four-ball competition, the third most in International Crown history
 - Their record in past events is 2-2-1
- Ewart Shadoff/Law were paired together in every four-ball match in 2018
 - Their record was 2-1-0
- **Jin Young Ko** and **Hyo Joo Kim** have more combined LPGA Tour wins (19) than any other Thursday pairing
 - **Lexi Thompson** and **Danielle Kang** are just behind with 17 combined victories
- With an average age of 21.5 years, **Atthaya Thitikul/Patty Tavatanakit** and **Yuka Saso/Ayaka Furue** are the youngest Thursday pairings

NO. 1 UNITED STATES

Lexi Thompson on how the Hanwha LIFEPLUS International Crown has evolved: *“It was great the first year that we had it. I think every tournament that we have on this tour gets better and better. I think we improve on little things here and there. But the International Crown itself, I think the sponsors itself just have great hospitality for us. They keep on improving on the event and make us feel very welcome, whether it’s through the dining, the volunteer staff, and just making everything so easy for us during the week. They care, the sponsors here at International Crown and Hanwha. It’s amazing what they do. It’s great to be part of it and it’s an honor to represent our country, and I think the sponsors make the difference in the tournament, so we’re just happy to be part of it.”*

- The United States has been represented at every edition of the Hanwha LIFEPLUS International Crown (2014, 2016, 2018)
 - The U.S. Team won in 2016 (13 total points) with players Cristie Kerr, Stacy Lewis, Gerina Mendoza and Lexi Thompson and were the runners-up with the England Team in 2018 with players Kerr, Thompson, Jessica Korda and Michelle Wie West
 - The U.S. all-time record is 15-11-2 (11-8-1 Four-Ball, 4-3-1 Singles)
- World No. 1 **Nelly Korda** is making her first International Crown appearance
 - She was projected to play on the United States Team in the 2020 playing of the event

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

christina.lance@lpga.com

+1 (908) 963-1691

QUICK LINKS

- [Interview Transcripts](#)
- [LPGA Tour Online Media Center](#)
- [LPGA Statistical Database](#)
- [Media Guide](#)
- [Stats Box](#)
- [Photo & Video Assets](#)
- [Tournament Website](#)

TOURNAMENT INFORMATION:

Competition Format:

Thur.-Sat. – Four-ball competition

Sunday (semifinals/finals) – Two singles matches and one foursomes match

Scoring:

Win – 1 point, Tie – ½ 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 – 1:00-3:00 p.m. (Streaming Only), 6:00 - 9:00 p.m.

- She has represented the U.S. Team in two Solheim Cups (2019, 2021)
 - Her record is 5-2-1 overall in the Solheim Cup
 - She is 1-0-1 in four-ball matches, 2-0-0 in singles and 2-2-0 in foursomes
- This is Korda's seventh season on Tour
 - She is an eight-time winner, including a major championship at the 2021 KPMG Women's PGA Championship
 - She represented the United States at the 2020 Tokyo Olympics, winning the gold medal
- As an amateur, she participated in the 2015 Junior Solheim Cup
- World No. 4 **Lilia Vu** is making her first appearance in International Crown
 - This is Vu's fifth season on Tour
 - She's a two-time winner, including a major championship at the 2023 Chevron Championship
 - She is a three-time Epson Tour winner
 - As an amateur, Vu represented the United States in the 2018 Curtis Cup, 2018 Espirito Santo Trophy and 2018 Arnold Palmer Cup
 - She was on the winning team for all three events
 - Vu is looking to make her Solheim Cup debut in 2023 and is currently second on the United States points list for the team
- World No. 7 **Lexi Thompson** is the only player on the United States Team who has previously played in an International Crown
 - She has been a member of the U.S. Team in all past playings of the event, including the 2016 United States victory
 - She was also projected to play on the team in 2020 before it was cancelled
 - Her International Crown record is 7-3-1 overall
 - She is 7-2-0 in four-ball matches and 0-1-1 in singles
 - She is tied for second in most overall matches played at International Crown with 11
 - Thompson is tied for first in most four-ball matches won individually (7) along with **Cristie Kerr** and **So Yeon Ryu**
 - She and Kerr have played the most four-ball matches together (8) and hold the record for most matches won as a team (7)
 - She has represented the United States in five Solheim Cups (2013, 2015, 2017, 2019, 2021)
 - Her overall record is 6-6-7 (1-1-3 Singles, 3-2-1 Foursomes, 2-3-3 Four-Balls)
 - This is her 12th season on Tour
 - She is an 11-time winner, including a major championship
- World No. 16 **Danielle Kang** is making her first appearance in the event
 - She was projected to play on the United States Team in the 2020 as of March 16 of that year
 - She has represented the United States in three Solheim Cups
 - Her team match-play record in the Solheim Cup is 5-7-0 overall
 - She is 2-2-0 in four-ball matches, 1-2-0 in singles and 2-3-0 in foursomes
 - This is Kang's 12th season on the LPGA Tour
 - She has six career victories, including a major championship, the 2017 KPMG Women's PGA Championship
 - She has 50 additional top-10 finishes
 - Kang represented the United States at the 2020 Tokyo Olympics, finishing T20

NO. 2 REPUBLIC OF KOREA

Jin Young Ko on the strategy behind choosing partners for Thursday's Four-Ball matches: *"We talked a lot about this yesterday in our practice round. To be honest, the first match doesn't really matter who we play. We tried to figure out what would give us a little bit more comfort, if possible, because I think that leads to good performance. Hyo Joo (Kim) and I have known each other for a very long time. Our playing style is pretty similar, so we thought there would be a good synergy effect. With In Gee (Chun) and Hye-Jin (Choi), In Gee as the leader and Hye-Jin as the youngest, we thought In Gee could really lead Hye-Jin, and if that goes well, I think they would have a good round."*

- Republic of Korea, the defending champion, has been represented at every edition of the Hanwha LIFEPLUS International Crown (2014, 2016, 2018)
 - The country's total record is 18-11-1 (12-6-0 Four-Ball, 6-5-1 Singles)
 - Korea has finished fourth (2014), second (2016) and first (2018) in their three previous appearances
- World No. 3 **Jin Young Ko** is making her first appearance in International Crown
 - She was projected to play on the Republic of Korea Team in the 2020 playing of the event
 - This is Ko's sixth season on the LPGA Tour
 - She has 14 career victories, including two major championships, the 2019 Chevron Championship and 2019 Amundi Evian Championship
 - She has 36 additional top-10 finishes
 - Ko represented the Republic of Korea at the 2020 Tokyo Olympics, finishing T9
- World No. 9 **Hyo Joo Kim** is making her first International Crown appearance
 - This is Kim's ninth season on the LPGA Tour
 - She has five career victories, including a major championship, the 2014 Amundi Evian Championship
 - She has 42 additional top-10 finishes
 - Kim represented the Republic of Korea at the 2020 Tokyo Olympics, finishing T15
- World No. 12 **In Gee Chun** is making her third appearance in the Hanwha LIFEPLUS International Crown
 - Chun was a member of the victorious 2018 Republic of Korea team as well as the 2016 team
 - Her overall record is 6-2-0 (5-1-0 Four-Ball, 1-1-0 Singles)
 - She was undefeated in 2018 with a 4-0-0 record
 - She and former partner So Yeon Ryu have won the third most Four-Ball matches in the event (3)
 - Chun has won the second most Four-Ball matches as an individual (5)
 - This is Chun's eighth season on the LPGA Tour
 - She has four career victories, including three major championships, 2015 U.S. Women's Open, 2016 Amundi Evian Championship and 2022 KPMG Women's PGA Championship
 - She has 36 additional top-10 finishes
 - Chun represented the Republic of Korea at the 2016 Rio Olympics, finishing T13
- World No. 25 **Hye-Jin Choi** making her first appearance in the event
 - This Choi's second season on the LPGA Tour
 - She earned 10 top-10 finishes as a rookie in 2022
 - Her career-best result is a tie for second that came at the 2022 CP Women's Open

NO. 3 JAPAN

Yuka Saso on the strength of the Japan team: *"I think we have a really good team, like I said last night at the party. Multiple LPGA winner here and major champions, and me and Nasa (Hataoka) hit it pretty long, and obviously everyone knows Ayaka (Furue) and (Hinako) Shibuno is a very consistent player. We're all friends and we all get along. I think that's a good advantage to have on a team event. I think we're really good."*

- Japan has been represented at every edition of the Hanwha LIFEPLUS International Crown (2014, 2016, 2018)
 - The country's total record is 10-13-5 (7-8-5 Four-Ball, 3-5-0 Singles)
 - Japan has finished in a tie for third (2014), fifth (2016) and seventh (2018) in their three previous appearances
- Japan is the youngest team in the Hanwha LIFEPLUS International Crown, with an average age of 22.75 years
- World No. 15 **Nasa Hataoka** is the only player on the Japan Team who has previously played in an International Crown
 - She was a member of the 2018 Japan Team, boasting an undefeated 2-0-1 record (Four-Ball)
 - This is Hataoka's seventh season on the LPGA Tour
 - She has six career victories and 30 additional top-10 finishes
 - She represented Japan at the 2020 Tokyo Olympics, finishing T9
- World No. 19 **Ayaka Furue** is making her first appearance in the event
 - This is Furue's second season on the LPGA Tour
 - She has one career victory at the 2022 Trust Golf Women's Scottish Open and six additional top-10 finishes
 - She's an eight-time winner on the JLPGA Tour
 - In 2022, she made it to the final match at the Bank of Hope LPGA Match-Play, where she ultimately fell to winner Eun-Hee Ji
 - As an amateur, she represented Japan in team events like the Queen Sirikit Cup (2017, 2018) and the 2018 Asian Games
- World No. 35 **Yuka Saso** is making her first International Crown appearance
 - This is Saso's third season on the LPGA Tour
 - She has one victory, the 2021 U.S Women's Open at The Olympic Club which is 2.1 miles away from TPC Harding Park
 - She has nine additional career top-10 finishes
- World No. 39 **Hinako Shibuno** is making her first appearance in the event
 - This is Shibuno's second season on the LPGA Tour
 - She won the 2020 AIG Women's Open at Royal Troon Golf Club as a non-Member; Shibuno chose not to accept immediate LPGA Tour Membership
 - She first earned Membership by finishing in the top-45 and ties at 2021 LPGA Q-Series
 - She has earned five additional top-10 results

NO. 4 SWEDEN

Anna Nordqvist on what makes team match play and the Hanwha LIFEPLUS International Crown so special: *"I think what's so special about the team events is that we don't do it every week, and you get to have a teammate alongside you or you get to play for a team. It's just a totally different atmosphere. Everything from the practice round to the dinners at night, you just do everything as a team. I've been very fortunate to be a part of this group this week, and obviously have very good memories from the past. I'll be teeing it up with Caroline tomorrow, and we've played a few matches over the years. Very excited to get the opportunity to play with her again. I think what makes this tournament different than the Solheim Cup, you get more countries involved. I know like Thailand and Korea, they love representing their flag, and they don't obviously get to be part of the Solheim Cup. I think it's awesome that we just get to be so many different countries and everyone gets to experience the same thing playing for a team."*

- Sweden has been represented at the Hanwha LIFEPLUS International Crown in two previous editions (2014, 2018)
 - The country's total record is 9-10-3 (6-6-2 Four-Ball, 3-4-1 Singles)
 - Sweden has finished second (2014) and fifth (2018) in their two previous appearances
 - Sweden lost by four points to Spain in 2014
- World No. 30 **Maja Stark** is making her International Crown debut
 - This is Stark's second season on the LPGA Tour
 - She became a Rolex First-Time Winner at the 2022 ISPS Handa World Invitational which she won as a non-Member
 - She accepted immediate LPGA Tour Membership following the victory
 - She has three additional top-10 finishes
 - As an amateur, she represented Sweden in team events like the European Girls Team Championship (2016, 2017) and European Ladies Team Championship (2018-2021)
 - She represented the International Team in 2020 Arnold Palmer Cup and Europe in the 2017 Junior Solheim Cup
 - She is looking to make her debut in the Solheim Cup in 2023 for Europe, and is currently first on the LET Solheim Cup Points List with 208.17 points
- World No. 31 **Madelene Sagstrom** is making her second appearance at the International Crown
 - Her overall record at the HLIC is 1-3-0 (1-2-0 Four-Ball, 0-1-0 Singles)
 - Her lone win came alongside Pernilla Lindberg in 2018 on day three of Four-Ball matches
 - The pair defeated Pornanong Phatlum and Sherman Santiwitwanaphong 2 and 1
 - Sagstrom was a member of the 2017 and 2021 European Solheim Cup teams
 - Her overall record is 2-4-0 (2-0-0 Singles, 0-1-0 Foursomes, 0-3-0 Four-Ball)
 - As an amateur, she helped Sweden to victory at the 2011 European Ladies' Team Championship
 - This is Sagstrom's seventh season on the LPGA Tour
 - She has one win, the 2020 Gainbridge LPGA at Boca Rio, and 13 additional top-10 finishes
 - She is a three-time Epson Tour winner
- World No. 36 **Anna Nordqvist** is making her third appearance in the Hanwha LIFEPLUS International Crown
 - Her overall record is 5-2-1 (4-1-1 Four-Ball, 1-1-0 Singles)
 - She was undefeated in the 2014 HLIC with a 3-0-1 record
 - Nordqvist is a 7-time European Solheim Cup team member (2009, 2011, 2013, 2015, 2017, 2019, 2021)
 - Four of those teams won the Solheim Cup (2011, 2013, 2019, 2021)
 - Her overall record is 14-10-3 (2-2-3 Singles, 7-6-0 Foursomes, 5-2-0 Four-Ball)
 - She is an assistant captain for Team Europe at the 2023 Solheim Cup, set to be played at Finca Cortesin
 - She has also participated in two European Nations Cups representing Sweden (2010, 2011)
 - As an amateur, Nordqvist represented Sweden in the European Girls' Team Championship, Junior Solheim Cup, Espirito Santo Trophy, Vagliano Trophy and European Ladies' Team Championship
 - This is Nordqvist's 15th season on the LPGA Tour
 - She has nine career victories, three of which are major championships (2009 McDonald's LPGA Championship, 2017 Amundi Evian Championship, 2021 AIG Women's Open)
 - She has 69 additional top-10 finishes
- World No. 130 **Caroline Hedwall** is making her third appearance in the event
 - Her overall record is 4-2-2 (4-1-1 Four-Ball, 0-1-1 Singles)
 - In 2014, she recorded two eagles in her match on the second day
 - She has represented Europe in four Solheim Cups (2011, 2013, 2015, 2019)

- Her team match-play record in the Solheim Cup is 8-6-1 overall
 - She is 4-3-0 in four-ball matches, 1-2-1 in singles and 3-1-0 in foursomes
- She was a 2011 LPGA Tour rookie
 - She has 11 career top-10 finishes on Tour
 - Her career-best finish is second at the 2014 Sunrise LPGA Taiwan Championship
- She is a seven-time Ladies European Tour winner, with her most recent victory earned at the 2022 Andalucia Costa Del Sol Open De España
- As an amateur, Hedwall won the 2006 Swedish Junior Match-Play Championship and represented Sweden on the winning 2007 European Junior Solheim Cup team
 - Hedwall also represented Sweden at both the 2008 and 2010 European Ladies' Team Championship as well as the 2008 and 2010 Espirito Santo Trophy