



**JM Eagle LA Championship presented by Plastpro**  
Wilshire Country Club | Los Angeles, Calif. | April 27-30, 2023

First-Round Notes  
April 27, 2023

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**Course Setup:** 36-36—72; 6,223 yards

**Scoring Average:** R1: 71.786

**Weather:** A mix of sun and clouds with temps in the high 70s and winds gusting up to 16 mph

**Race to CME Globe Points:** 500 (winner)

**Purse:** \$3 million (winner's portion: \$450,000)

**TV/Streaming Times:** [How to Watch](#)

**Quick Links:**

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LEADERBOARD			
	Player	To par	Score
1	Linnea Johansson	-7	64
T2	Minjee Lee	-6	65
T2	Gemma Dryburgh	-6	65

**LINNEA JOHANSSON JUMPSTARTS WEEK AT JM EAGLE LA CHAMPIONSHIP WITH FIRST-ROUND 64**

Sitting in the shadow of the Hollywood sign, it was **Linnea Johansson** who left Wilshire Country Club seeing stars after muscling her way to a bogey-free, seven-under 64 on Thursday at the JM Eagle LA Championship presented by Plastpro. The 29-year-old Swede got off to a fast start, making birdie on the par-4 10th, her first hole of the day. She settled for par on No. 11 but notched two back-to-back birdies on holes 12 and 13, grabbing one more on the par-5 15th, this week's [Aon Risk Reward Challenge Hole](#). Turning in 32, Johansson made another birdie on No. 1 and then hopped on the par train until the par-4, 6th hole. She recorded her sixth birdie of the day there, squeezing in one last birdie on the par-4 No. 9 to post a 64, her new career-low round on the LPGA Tour. It was enough to give Johansson a one-shot lead, the first 18-hole lead/co-lead of her career.

“Obviously, a great day, great round,” said Johansson, who hit 14 of 14 fairways on day one. “Played fearless golf today and really went after a lot of pins and managed to hit them very close and roll in the

putts. I actually managed to roll in the longer ones more than the shorter ones. It was just a great day all-around.”

A pair of LPGA Tour winners sit in a tie for second at 6-under, one shot back of Johansson. Major champion **Minjee Lee** is one of four players in the field that have won at Wilshire Country Club before, and that past success proved helpful on Thursday. Starting the day on No. 10, the Aussie made one bogey and seven birdies, five of which came in a seven-hole stretch as she made the turn. It’s the lowest round of the 2023 LPGA Tour season for Lee, who is making just her fourth start of the year, and she hopes to continue the early form she’s found at a place that feels like home.

“I think it kind of reminds me a little bit of home, just the look of the bunkers and just how they're situated on each hole. Yeah, it just kind of gives me good vibes,” said Lee, who won the 2019 DIO Implant LA Open at Wilshire. “I’m really just focusing on my processes right now. I had a great day today, but I'm going to stick to what I know and do best and do everything that I can in my control. That will be my goal.”

Last year’s TOTO Japan Classic winner **Gemma Dryburgh** matched Lee’s 65 on Thursday, and like Lee, it’s also the lowest round of the Scot’s season. The 29-year-old made two bogeys and a whopping eight birdies in round one, including three consecutive birdies on holes six, seven and eight, and was feeling plenty of confidence after her strong opening round. “I could have birdied every hole to be honest,” said Dryburgh, who hit 14 of 14 fairways. “I hit it pretty close on all the holes, which was nice, and saw the putts going in, which was good. But yeah, got off to a hot start, which was nice.”

India’s **Aditi Ashok**, University of Oregon alum **Caroline Inglis** and California native **Danielle Kang** round out the top five, currently sitting two back of the lead in a tie for fourth at 5-under. A logjam of players are tied for seventh at 4-under, most notably UCLA alum **Alison Lee** and 2007 U.S. Women’s Open champion **Cristie Kerr**. Rolex Women’s World Golf Rankings No. 1 **Nelly Korda** opened with a 2-under, 69 and is tied for 20th.

#### A LOOK AT THE LEADER

CATEGORY	Linnea Johansson
2023 Race to CME Globe Points List	N/A
2023 LPGA Tour Wins	0
2023 LPGA Tour Top 10s	0
2023 Season Earnings	N/A
Career LPGA Tour Wins	0
Career Ladies European Tour Wins	0
Career Epson Tour Wins	0
Career LPGA Tour Top 10s	0
Career Money	\$131,849

#### ABOUT THE LEADER

##### Rolex Rankings No. 358 Linnea Johansson

- She hit 14 of 14 fairways and 15 of 18 greens with 26 putts
- Johansson made seven birdies and was bogey-free during round one
- Her first-round 64 is her lowest round on the LPGA Tour, beating her previous mark of 66 that she shot at the 2022 LPGA Drive On Championship Crown Colony

- Johansson set the 18-hole tournament scoring record with her 7-under 64 on Thursday
- She is one of 13 players to hit every fairway during the first round
- She is one of seven players to go bogey-free on Thursday
- This is her first 18-hole lead of her Tour career
- This is her third start of the 2023 Tour season
  - She has missed the cut in both of her previous starts at the DIO Implant LA Open and the LPGA Drive On Championship at Superstition Mountain
- This is her first appearance at The JM Eagle LA Championship
  - She missed the cut in her past two starts at Wilshire Country Club during the 2021 and 2022 DIO Implant LA Open
- This is her fourth season on the LPGA Tour
  - Her career-best result on Tour is a T24 finish at the Dow Great Lakes Bay Invitational, which she earned alongside playing partner Frida Kinhult
- She finished T26 at the LPGA Q-Series to first earn LPGA Tour Membership for the 2020 LPGA Tour season

#### THINGS TO KNOW

- This is the first playing of the JM Eagle LA Championship presented by Plastpro
- The four past winners at Wilshire Country Club are a combined even par after the first round
  - Major champion and 2019 DIO Implant LA Open winner **Minjee Lee** is currently T2 after opening with a 6-under 65
  - **Brooke Henderson**, who won at Wilshire in 2021, sits in a tie for 33rd after a 1-under 70
  - Last year's DIO Implant LA Open winner **Nasa Hataoka** also carded a 1-under 70 to share 33rd
  - Thailand's **Moriya Jutanugarn** finished the day T142 after an 8-over 79 in round one
- **Gemma Dryburgh** and Lee are tied for second behind Johansson
  - Their first-round 65s are both player's lowest rounds of the season
  - The 65 is Dryburgh's career-low first-round score on the LPGA Tour
    - The last time Dryburgh shot a 65 on Tour, she went on to win the 2022 TOTO Japan Classic
  - The last time Lee shot a 65 or lower was at 2022 Palos Verdes Championship presented by Bank of America; she shot a first-round 63 and ultimately finished T13
- Hole 6, a par-4, is playing the hardest so far
  - No. 6 had a first-round scoring average of 4.375 with just 12 birdies and 53 bogeys or worse made there on Thursday
- This week's three sponsor invites, **Muni He** (E, 71), **Natalie Gulbis** (+4, 75) and **Heather Lin** (+7, 78) shot a combined +12 on Thursday
- **Alison Lee** is the highest UCLA alum on the leaderboard after round one
  - Lee finished the day at 4-under and is T7 after a bogey-free 67
  - **Lilia Vu**, who won last week's Chevron Championship and is the winningest golfer in UCLA history, shot a first-round 69 and is T20
  - Alums **Ryann O'Toole** (-3) and **Patty Tavatanakit** (-1) also shot under par on Thursday
- USC alum **Lizette Salas** shot a 1-under 70, the best of the seven Trojans in the field
  - Salas was the only USC alum to shoot under par on Thursday
- Rolex Women's World Golf Rankings No. 1 **Nelly Korda** is 2-under and T20 heading into the second round

- **Jin Young Ko** could reclaim the No. 1 position in the Rolex Rankings with a win, but Korda must finish solo fifth or worse
  - Ko is 1-over after shooting a first-round 72

#### QUOTABLE

**Danielle Kang on Cole Pesanti, Lilia Vu's caddie, driving to get sandwiches from their favorite spot in their hometown and food that she loves in Los Angeles:** *"(It was) technically a round-trip two hours because he and I made a deal one of us is going to have to go get it, and he happened to have the pro-am time an hour after me, so he's like, I'm going now. I'll be there before you tee off. It's one of my favorite -- it's our favorite sandwich place. It's called Italia Deli. It's like this hole-in-the-wall place in Agoura Hills. It's incredible. We dream about it. I also have a problem with SusieCakes, where I don't share, so my friend brought three boxes, knowing that I don't share, specifically those two things. Yeah, we almost got in a fight because she wanted one bite and I wouldn't give her a bite of my cake."*

**Caroline Inglis on attending a Taylor Swift concert last week at The Chevron Championship:** *"Last week at Chevron, the sponsor was nice enough to let like 10 or 12 of us into their suite, and so I went, but I went last week, and it was incredible. The best concert I've ever been to by far...I went last week, but Cheyenne Knight and I have been planning to go with my husband and her boyfriend. We're all going in Nashville next week before Founders, so she was kind of mad that I went without her last week, but I was like, I'm still going with you in Nashville, and I can't wait to see her again. It was incredible. I'm obsessed with her."*

**Nelly Korda on how her long game is trending upward, and how close she feels to being where she wants to be with her game:** *"My caddie Jason and I were actually talking about it, that this is the best I've probably hit it in a while, even with my driver. I think I just missed one fairway, and that was with a 3-wood on 11. But overall I think I'm not in a rush. Obviously I want to perform the best that I can, but if I'm seeing it continuously get better, I think that's the main goal where I'm comfortable with competition during rounds."*

#### NOTABLE

[First-Round Highlights from the JM Eagle LA Championship](#)

[Natalie Gulbis loves golf](#)

[This is why Stacy Lewis is a Solheim Cup captain](#)

[Afternoon swings at the @jmeaglelchamp](#)

[Three To Watch at the LA Championship](#)

[Five Things To Know About the LA Championship](#)

#### TOURNAMENT SCORING RECORDS

18 holes: 64 (-7), Linnea Johansson, 2023