

JM Eagle LA Championship presented by Plastpro

Wilshire Country Club | Los Angeles, Calif. | April 27-30, 2023

<u>Tuesday Pre-Tournament Notes</u> April 25, 2023

MEDIA AVAILABILITY SCHEDULE

(All times are local and subject to change; Zoom link available upon request) **Wednesday, April 26**

11:45 a.m. – Natalie Gulbis 12:45 p.m. – Minjee Lee

THINGS TO KNOW ABOUT THE JM EAGLE LA CHAMPIONSHIP PRESENTED BY PLASTPRO

- This is the first playing of the JM Eagle LA Championship presented by Plastpro
 - Wilshire Country Club previously hosted the DIO Implant LA Open and was the venue from 2018-2022
 - The DIO Implant LA Open was not played in 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic
- Four past winners at Wilshire Country Club are in the JM Eagle LA Championship field
 - Moriya Jutanugarn won the 2018 DIO Implant LA Open by two shots over Inbee Park and Jin Young Ko
 - This is Jutanugarn's seventh start of the 2023 LPGA Tour season; her best finish through six events is a T7 at the LPGA Drive On Championship at Superstition Mountain
 - Winning the LA Open in 2019, Australian Minjee Lee defeated Sei Young Kim by four shots
 - This is Lee's fourth start of the 2023 season; her best finish through three events is a T41 at The Chevron Championship
 - Brooke Henderson captured the 2021 DIO Implant Open title, defeating Jessica Korda by a shot
 - This is Henderson's seventh event of the 2023 season; she won the season-opening Hilton Grand Vacations Tournament of Champions and has one other top-15 finish, a T11 at the LOTTE Championship presented by Hoakalei
 - Nasa Hataoka won in 2022 at Wilshire Country Club, defeating Hannah
 Green by five strokes
 - This is Hataoka's seventh start of the 2023 season; her best finish is a solo fifth place that came at the Hilton Grand Vacations Tournament of Champions
 - She has one other top 10, a tie for seventh at the DIO Implant LA
 Open at Palos Verdes Golf Club
- Eight of the top 10 in the Rolex Women's World Golf Rankings are in the field, including No. 1 Nelly Korda, No. 3 Jin Young Ko, No. 4 Lilia Vu, No. 5 Atthaya Thitikul, No. 6 Minjee Lee, No. 8 Brooke Henderson, No. 9 Celine Boutier and No. 10 Georgia Hall
 - Korda recaptured the top spot from Lydia Ko on Monday, April 24 after Ko missed the cut at The Chevron Championship
 - Jin Young Ko is a 2023 LPGA Tour winner, successfully defending her title at the HSBC Women's World Championship
 - Vu is ranked in the top five for the first time in her LPGA Tour career following her victory at The Chevron Championship
 - It is Vu's second win of the year; she became a Rolex First-Time Winner at the Honda LPGA Thailand

ON-SITE LPGA COMMUNICATIONS TEAM

Sarah Kellam

Coordinator, Communications sarah.kellam@lpga.com

+1 (386) 212-8826

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

QUICK LINKS

- Interview Transcripts
- LPGA Tour Online Media Center
- <u>LPGA Statistical Database</u>:
- Stats Box
- Media Assets: For access to tournament photos and videos, please contact communications@lpga.com
- Tournament Website

TOURNAMENT INFORMATION

Competition Format: 144 players; 72-hole stroke play, cut to top 65 and ties after 36 holes

AON Risk Reward Challenge Hole: No. 15, par 5

Purse: \$3 million; winner's portion is \$450,000

Whiteline Par and Yardage: 35-36-71, 6,447 yards (par and yardage are subject to change through the start of the tournament)

TV TIMES

(all times Eastern)

Thursday, April 27 – 6:30 p.m. - 9:30 p.m. Friday, April 28 – 6:30 p.m. - 9:30 p.m. Saturday, April 29 – 6 p.m. - 9 p.m. Sunday, April 30 – 6 p.m. - 9 p.m.

STREAMING TIMES

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

Thursday, April 27 – 6:30 p.m. - 9:30 p.m. Friday, April 28 – 6:30 p.m. - 9:30 p.m. Saturday, April 29 – 6 p.m. - 9 p.m. Sunday, April 30 – 6 p.m. - 9 p.m.

- Thitikul was the 2022 Louise Suggs Rolex Rookie of the Year, winning twice in her first season on the LPGA Tour at the JTBC
 Classic presented by Barbasol and the Walmart NW Arkansas Championship presented by P&G
- o Lee is a two-time major champion, winning the 2021 Amundi Evian Championship and the 2022 U.S. Women's Open
- o Henderson is the winningest professional golfer hailing from Canada, male or female, with 13 victories
- o Boutier captured her third LPGA Tour title at the LPGA Drive On Championship at Superstition Mountain earlier this season
- o Hall is a two-time LPGA Tour winner with victories at the 2018 AIG Women's Open and the 2020 Portland Classic
- There are seven University of Southern California alums in the field, including Jennifer Chang, Allisen Corpuz, Muni He, Annie Park, Lizette Salas, Jennifer Song and Gabriella Then
- There are six UCLA alums in the field, including Bronte Law, Alison Lee, Ryann O'Toole, Patty Tavatanakit, Mariajo Uribe and Vu
- LA resident Natalie Gulbis, Epson Tour winner He and University of Oregon alum Heather Lin are competing as sponsor invites
 - Gulbis won the 2007 Evian Masters
- Mi Hyang Lee and Allison Emrey Monday qualified into the event

2023 Statistical Leaders

Official Money: Lilia Vu, \$1,113,878 Scoring Average: Lilia Vu, 68.600

Birdies: Nelly Korda, 115

Eagles: Nelly Korda and Frida Kinhult, 5

Holes in One: Gina Kim, Bailey Tardy and In Gee Chun, 1

Greens in Regulation: Jin Young Ko, 78.3%

Average Driving Distance: Natthakritta Vongtaveelap Strokes Gained Total – Per Round: Lilia Vu, 2.340

2023 Award Leaders

Rolex Player of the Year		
1	Lilia Vu	94 points
2	Nelly Korda	48 points
3	Jin Young Ko	45 points

Louise Suggs Rolex Rookie of the Year		
1	Grace Kim	155 points
2	Natthakritta Vongtaveelap	142 points
3	Hae Ran Ryu	108 points

Rolex ANNIKA Major Award		
1	Lilia Vu	60 points
2	Angel Yin	24 points
3	Nelly Korda	18 points

#AonRiskReward Challenge			
1	Nelly Korda	-1.083	
T2	Brooke Henderson	-1.000	
T2	Albane Valenzuela	-1.000	
T2	Hae Ran Ryu	-1.000	
T2	Frida Kinhult	-1.000	

Race to the CME Globe		
1	Lilia Vu	1,356.643 points
2	Nelly Korda	1,033.200 points
3	Georgia Hall	941.983 points

AON Risk Reward Challenge Hole: No. 15, par 5

The 15th at Wilshire Country Club can play as two completely different holes depending on how it is set up in a particular round. With the back tees in use, just 3% of players were able to go for the green in 2022. But from the forward tees, players have the green light: nearly half of the field went for the green in two last year, with 47% of those players who tried finding the putting surface. This hole played 88 yards shorter in the final round last year than it did in round three.

Race to CME Globe Update:

The 2023 Race to the CME Globe drives on as the LPGA Tour moves to Wilshire Country Club for the first edition of the JM Eagle LA Championship in Los Angles, Calif. With her victory at The Chevron Championship, Epson Tour graduate **Lilia Vu** (1,346.643) pulls ahead in the Race, leading eight-time LPGA Tour winner **Nelly Korda** (1033.200), who is in second place, by nearly 314 points. Major champion **Georgia Hall** (941.983) sits alone in third with LPGA Drive On Championship winner **Celine Boutier** (889.333) in fourth place. Rounding out the top five is Rolex Women's World Golf Rankings No. 3 **Jin Young Ko** (858.417), who won the HSBC Women's World Championship earlier this season.

The Race to the CME Globe is a season-long points competition with LPGA Tour Members accumulating points in every official LPGA event to qualify for the season-ending tournament, CME Group Tour Championship. The player who wins the CME Group Tour Championship is named the "Race to the CME Globe Champion."

Beginning in 2019, players started earning points at each official LPGA Tour event throughout the season leading up to the CME Group Tour Championship. The top 60 points earners and ties then earn a spot in the CME Group Tour Championship with the entire field competing for a \$7 million purse highlighted by a \$2 million winner's check, the largest single prize in the history of women's golf.

<u>CME Group Cares Challenge – Score 1 for St. Jude Update:</u>

The CME Group Cares Challenge is a season-long charitable giving program that turns aces into donations. CME Group donates \$20,000 for each hole-in-one made on the LPGA Tour in 2023, with a minimum guaranteed donation of \$500,000 to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, which is leading the way in how the world understands, treats and defeats childhood cancer and life-threatening diseases. There have been three holes-in-one this season, recorded by **Gina Kim** at the LPGA Drive On Championship, **Bailey Tardy** at the DIO Implant LA Open and **In Gee Chun** at The Chevron Championship bringing the 2023 donation total to \$60,000 thus far.

2023 Wins by Country (seven tournaments, six countries)

- 2 United States (Lilia Vu, 2)
- 1 Australia (Grace Kim)
- 1 Canada (Brooke Henderson)
- 1 France (Celine Boutier)
- 1 People's Republic of China (Ruoning Yin)
- 1 Republic of Korea (Jin Young Ko)

2023 Wins by Player (seven tournaments, six players)

- 2 Lilia Vu (Honda LPGA Thailand, The Chevron Championship)
- 1 Celine Boutier (LPGA Drive On Championship)
- 1 Brooke Henderson (Hilton Grand Vacations Tournament of Champions)
- 1 Grace Kim (LOTTE Championship presented by Hoakalei)
- 1 Jin Young Ko (HSBC Women's World Championship)
- 1 Ruoning Yin (DIO Implant LA Open)

Average Age of 2023 Winners: 24.71

Youngest Winner: Ruoning Yin (20 years, 6 months, 5 days) Oldest Winner: Celine Boutier (29 years, 4 months, 16 days)

Team USA Solheim Cup Standings:

- 1 Lilia Vu, 409 points
- 2 Nelly Korda, 398.5 points
- 3 Danielle Kang, 263 points
- 4 Lexi Thompson, 258 points
- 5 Megan Khang, 206.5 points
- 6 Jennifer Kupcho, 196 points
- 7 Andrea Lee, 181 points
- 8 Allisen Corpuz, 177.5 points
- 9 Jessica Korda, 154 points
- 10 Ryann O'Toole, 129.5 points

<u>Team USA Solheim Cup standings</u> <u>Team Europe Solheim Cup standings</u>