KPMG Women's PGA Championship
Baltusrol Golf Club (Lower Course) | Springfield, NJ | June 22-25, 2023

Wednesday Pre-Tournament Notes
June 21, 2023

NOTABLE PLAYERS IN THE KPMG WOMEN'S PGA CHAMPIONSHIP

JIN YOUNG KO (Rolex Rankings No. 1)
"It's an honor people saying with Lorena and me in same sentence. It makes me happy, but also it makes me humble. It's great to honor, to stand with Lorena." – *Ko on tying Lorena Ochoa's record for the most weeks overall at Rolex Rankings No. 1*

- This is Ko's ninth start on Tour this season and second major start
  - Ko has finished in the top-10 five times this season, including two wins at the HSBC Women's World Championship and the Cognizant Founders Cup
  - At The Chevron Championship, she finished tied for ninth
- This will be Ko's fifth start at the KPMG Women's PGA Championship
  - She has made the cut in every appearance at this event
  - In her four previous starts, Ko has not finished within the top 10 with her lowest finish coming in 2018, a tie for 11th (284, -4)
- Coming in to this week, Ko ranks in the top five across the LPGA Tour in scoring average
  - This season, she has finished 16 rounds in the 60s and four under 65
- According to KPMG Performance Insights, Ko is second on the LPGA Tour this season in strokes gained

Jin Young Ko Strokes Gained Ranks This Season		
	Per Round	LPGA Tour Rank
SG: Off the Tee	0.21	52nd
SG: Approach Green	1.40	2nd
SG: Around Green	0.34	18th
SG: Putting	0.27	58th

- Ko's approach play accounted for 50.7 percent of her strokes gained total last season. This season, she's gaining 1.4 strokes per round around the green accounting for 62.8 percent of her strokes gained total.

Jin Young Ko Approach Play Over the Last Two LPGA Tour Seasons		
	2022	2023
Greens in Regulation	70.1%	75.0%
SG: Approach	+0.50	+1.40
Percent of Strokes Gained	50.7%	62.8%

- This is Ko's sixth year on Tour
  - She has 15 official career wins, including two majors
  - She also has 51 career top-10 finishes
  - Ko has the most Tour wins (15) since 2017
  - Ko has spent 158 weeks at No. 1 in the Rolex Women's World Golf Rankings, tying the all-time record for most weeks spent at No. 1

NELLY KORDA (Rolex Rankings No. 2)
"All of it. You need length. You need to hit the fairways, and you need to position really well. The greens are really big and they're undulated. They're going to be fast. I don't know what the weather is going to be like. I feel like it's kind of changed every single day. I know that there's going to be some rain, but it's going to just take an overall really good score out here to win. Like your game has to be good and on all cylinders." – *Korda on what the Lower Course at Baltusrol Golf Club will demand from the field this week*

- This is Korda's eighth official start of the season and second major championship appearance
  - Her last start was in the beginning of May at the Cognizant Founder's Cup in, where she missed the cut
    - Following the event, Korda took a break from competition due to a lower back injury
  - In her eight starts, Korda has finished outside of the top six only twice
  - Her best finish this season is a solo second result at the HSBC Women's World Championship
  - In the first major of the year, The Chevron Championship, Korda finished solo third
- Korda is making her seventh start in the KPMG Women's PGA Championship
  - She earned her first and only major championship victory at the event in 2021
  - In addition to her win, Korda has earned one additional top-3 finishes at the major in 2019
- This is Korda's seventh season on the LPGA Tour
  - She is an eight-time winner on Tour and has 52 total top-10s
  - Her most recent victory came at the 2022 The ANNIKA driven by Gainbridge at Pelican
- Korda has averaged 2.31 strokes gained total per round in the major championships since the beginning of 2021, best of any player with 20 or more rounds in that span according to KPMG Performance Insights

Most Strokes Gained Total Per Round Major Championships Since Beginning of 2021	
Nelly Korda	2.31
Atthaya Thitikul	2.24
Hyo Joo Kim	2.16
Minjee Lee	2.14
Brooke Henderson	2.05
Lydia Ko	1.90

*Minimum 20 rounds played

- The KPMG Performance Insights show that Korda has excelled in key strokes-gained categories this season
  - She ranks fourth on the LPGA Tour this season in strokes gained off-the-tee (1.03)
    - She was first in this category in 2022 with an average of 0.88 strokes gained off-the-tee
  - She is one of just two players ranked in the top-20 this season in both strokes gained putting (16th) and strokes gained around the green (19th)
    - Hinako Shibuno is the other (4th in SG: Putting, 6th in SG: Around the green)
  - Korda ranks 72nd in SG: Approach green

LYDIA KO (Rolex Rankings No. 3)
"Yeah, I haven't been playing the best golf leading up to this event. But in saying that, I feel like my scores haven't been the exact reflection of how I've been playing. Last week I didn't feel like I played that bad but just a few putts here and there, maybe a few shots, and those are the big differences at the end of the week. Hopefully being able to bring all

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QUICK LINKS

- Interview Transcripts
- KPMG WPGA Media Hub
- LPGA Tour Online Media Center
- LPGA Statistical Database
- Stats Box
- Tournament Website

SOCIAL MEDIA: #DRIVEON
Tournament - @KPMGWomensPGA (Twitter, Instagram), #KPMGWomensPGA

LPGA Tour - @LPGA and @LPGAMedia (Twitter), @lpga_tour (Instagram)

TV/STREAMING TIMES
(all times EDT)

Thursday, June 22
Golf Central Pregame
10:00-11:00 a.m.– NBC GOLF Channel
Round 1
11:00 a.m.- 3:00 p.m. – NBC GOLF Channel/ Peacock/International
5:00-7:00 p.m. – Peacock/International
Golf Central Live From the KPMG WPGA
6:00-7:00 p.m. – NBC GOLF Channel

Friday, June 23
Golf Central Pregame
10:00-11:00 a.m. – NBC GOLF Channel
Round 2
11:00 a.m.- 3:00 p.m. – NBC GOLF Channel/ Peacock/International
5:00-7:00 p.m. – Peacock/International
Golf Central
6:00-7:00 p.m. – NBC GOLF Channel

Saturday, June 24
Golf Central Pregame
12:00-1:00 p.m. – NBC GOLF Channel
Round 3
11:00 a.m.- 6:00 p.m. – Peacock/International
3:00-6:00 p.m. – NBC
Golf Central
6:00-7:00 p.m. – NBC GOLF Channel

Sunday, June 25
Golf Central Pregame
12:00-1:00 p.m. – NBC GOLF Channel
Final Round
11:00 a.m.- 6:00 p.m. – Peacock/International
2:00-6:00 p.m. – NBC
Golf Central
6:00-7:00 p.m. – NBC GOLF Channel

***Live Tournament Coverage can also be found on Digital:*
NBC Sports App/NBCSports.com/golfchannel.com

that together, that's the weird thing and fun thing and frustrating thing about golf is that every day it's different. Everything is clicking for you one day or that week, and then it may not be the case the week after." – *Ko on her game recently and what she hopes to dial up a notch this week*

- This is Ko's eighth start of the season and second start in a major championship
    - Ko's best finish on Tour this year is a T6 result, which she earned in her first event of the season, the Honda LPGA Thailand
    - She has not earned any other finishes in the top-30 this season, but has three top-40 results and an additional T42 finish
    - In The Chevron Championship, Ko missed the cut
- Ko won the 2023 Saudi Ladies International on the LET in February
- This will be Ko's 11th appearance in the KPMG Women's PGA Championship
    - Her best finish in the event is a solo second result in 2016
    - She has two additional top-10 finishes; a third-place result in 2014 and a T10 finish in 2019
- This is Ko's 10th season on the LPGA Tour
    - She has 19 wins and two major championship titles
    - Ko was a three-time winner in 2022, most recently at the season-finale CME Group Tour Championship
    - Ko's most recent major championship victory was at the 2016 The Chevron Championship
        - She also won The Amundi Evian Championship in 2015
- Last season, Ko led the LPGA Tour in strokes gained total, strokes gained putting and scoring average but hasn't been able to replicate those numbers so far in 2022

Lydia Ko LPGA Ranks Last 2 Seasons		
	2022	2023
SG: Total	1st	31st
SG: Putting	1st	100th
Scoring average	1st	47th

- Since 2017, Lydia Ko is more than half-a-shot better in rounds one and two of the majors than in rounds three and four

Lydia Ko in Major Championships Since Beginning of 2017		
	Rounds 1-2	Rounds 3-4
Score to par	-33	+2
Scoring average	70.98	71.57

- Ko also enters the KPMG Women's PGA Championship two points shy of induction into the LPGA Hall of Fame
    - She currently has 25 points accumulated
    - 27 is needed for official induction
    - A major championship victory is worth two points towards a player's total

LILIA VU (Rolex Rankings No. 4)
"I think just going through my same process as I do through every tournament. I don't really like to make a tournament bigger than another. I just go in with the same mindset. I think that helps take pressure off of me, and I just try and focus and play my best and have fun." – *Vu on her mindset coming in after already having a major championship win this season*

- This will be Vu's ninth start in the 2023 LPGA Tour season
    - She has already claimed two wins this year, including her first major victory at The Chevron Championship in April
    - Her other win came at the Honda LPGA Thailand event in February where she finished with a career-low 72-hole score, 266
    - She's missed two cuts in eighth total starts in 2023
    - In events where she has made the cut, Vu has not finished outside the top-20
- Vu will make her second-career start at the KPMG Women's PGA Championship
    - In 2022, she finished with a 288 and a tie for 10th
- This is Vu's fifth season on Tour
    - In addition to her two wins, she has nine top-10 Tour finishes in her career
- Vu comes into this major ranked in the top five in scoring average on Tour
    - She's recorded 13 rounds this season in the 60s, including three in her major win
- According to KPMG Performance Insights, Vu is ranked in the top-20 this season in both strokes gained off-the-tee and strokes gained putting per round.

Lilia Vu – Strokes Gained Ranks This Season		
	Per Round	LPGA Tour Rank
SG: Off the Tee	0.51	20th
SG: Approach Green	0.44	36th
SG: Around Green	-0.10	84th
SG: Putting	1.09	10th

- Her strokes gained putting has improved significantly since 2022 per KPMG Performance Insights, going from 0.63 (19th) in 2022 to 1.09 (10th) in 2023
- In her first major win, Vu ranked seventh or better in strokes gained

Lilia Vu Strokes Gained in Win at The Chevron Championship	
Strokes Gained	Field Rank
Tee to Green	7th
Off the Tee	4th
Approach	7th
Putting	7th

LEONA MAGUIRE (Rolex Rankings No. 12)
"Yeah, I feel like my confidence has been few weeks case of getting it all to come together and the goal was to be coming into good form heading into Baltusrol and Pebble, so we've peaked a week early, which is nice, so hopefully we can continue that run of form." – *Maguire on her confidence heading into the rest of the season after winning the Meijer LPGA Classic for Simply Give*

- This is Maguire's 11th tournament this season
    - She is making her second major start of the year after winning the Meijer LPGA Classic for Simply Give last week
        - The last player to win the KPMG Women's PGA Championship after winning the week before was Nelly Korda in 2021
    - She has had three straight top-10 finishes in her last three starts and has five top-10 finishes this season
    - In her Sunday round at the Meijer LPGA Classic for Simply Give, Maguire finished a round bogey-free for the 15th straight time since last season
        - Only three players have more in that timeframe; Ayaka Furue (19), Lydia Ko (18) nd Hye Jin Choi (16)
- Maguire is set to make her fifth start at the KPMG Women's PGA Championship
    - She has missed the cut only once and her best finish came in 2021 where she tied for 15th
- This is Maguire's fourth year on the LPGA Tour
    - She has two career victories and an additional 19 top-10 finishes
    - She became the first the first native of Ireland to win on the LPGA Tour when she won the 2022 LPGA Drive On Championship
    - Maguire was a member of the 2021 European Solheim Cup Team; she was the first Irishwoman to play in a Solheim Cup, and broke the all-time rookie points record in either the Solheim Cup or Ryder Cup with a total of 4.5 points
- Maguire has gained a stroke and a half per round on the field in her last two starts which has led to more than five birdies-or-better per round in that span

Leona Maguire – Stroke Play Tournaments This Season		
	First 7 Starts	Last 2 Starts
Top 10 Finishes	2	2
SG: Approach	+0.26	+1.50
Birdies or Better	3.58	5.13

IN GEE CHUN (Rolex Rankings No. 16)
"I'm so excited to be back here as the defending champion. I know it's a little bit more pressure than other tournaments, but at the same time, it's more fun. I think I'm ready to enjoy this week." – *Chun on what it's like to be back at the KPMG Women's PGA Championship as the defending champion*

- The defending KPMG Women's PGA Championship winner is making her eighth start of the 2023 season
    - She has missed the cut twice, most recently, at the LPGA Meijer Classic for Simply Give last week
    - Her best finish of the year was a T18 finish at The Chevron Championship

- She withdrew from the DIO Implant L.A. Open in April
- She is one of six players in 2023 to record a hole-in-one
  - She did so at The Chevron Championship on hole No. 17

- This Chun's seventh KPMG Women's PGA Championship and the first time entering as defending champion
  - She has missed the cut once
  - Prior to her win, has not finished lower than T23
  - Her lowest 18-hole score came in 2022 in her first round (64)
    - Her 64 first round tied for the lowest opening round in KPMG Women's PGA Championship history since 2006
    - Chun's opening round was also the single-best round in the championship's history by strokes gained total over the last 15 years

Most Strokes Gained Total in Round KPMG Women's PGA Championship Last 15 Years		
	Round	SG: Total
2022: In Gee Chun	First	11.37
2021: Nelly Korda	Second	9.52
2018: Nasa Hataoka	Final	9.32
2018: Lydia Ko	Second	9.25
2017: Kelly Shon	Second	9.08

- This is Chun's 11th year on Tour
  - She has four official career victories, including two major championship titles
  - Chun also has 40 career top-10 finishes
    - She has not finished in the top-10 so far this season

ROSE ZHANG (Rolex Rankings No. 64)
"I definitely did not expect myself to be in that position at all going into Mizuho and that entire week. But the fact that -- it was more just validation for myself to say that, hey, I can compete at the highest level, and as long as I do what I need to, as long as I perform as well as I can, I'll be able to be in contention week in and week out. Ideally the LPGA life is the dream life where you can come out here, play the sport as your profession, and just have a good time with friends out on Tour. It's just really cool to see how I was able to just go right into it and start out my career." – *Rose Zhang on the affirmation she got from her win at the Mizuho Americas Open*

- The KPMG Women's PGA Championship will be Zhang's second start of the 2023 season and first start as an LPGA Tour Member
  - Zhang made her professional debut as a sponsor invite at the Mizuho America's Open, which she won
    - Zhang became the first player to win while making their professional debut on the LPGA Tour since Beverly Hanson did so in 1951
  - Zhang accepted immediate LPGA Tour membership following her win at the Mizuho America's Open
  - She is just the fourth sponsor invite to win on Tour, joining Lydia Ko (2013 & 2013 CPKC Women's Open), Lexi Thompson (2011 Navistar LPGA Classic) and Hee Kyung Seo (2010 JTBC Classic Presented by Barbasol)
  - Zhang is the first non-Member to win on the LPGA Tour since Maja Stark won the 2022 ISPS Handa World Invitational
  - She became 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)
  - Zhang is the only player in history to win an NCAA Division I individual title & LPGA Tour event in the same season
- In her win at the Mizuho Americas Open, Zhang's tee-to-green game was so good, she lost strokes to the field on the greens and still won the tournament
  - Zhang was fourth in strokes gained off-the-tee, leading the field in driving accuracy
  - Her short game was exceptional, as she ranked second in strokes gained around the green

Rose Zhang – Strokes Gained Ranks In Mizuho Americas Open Win	
Off the tee	4th
Approach	11th
Around the green	2nd
Putting	47th

*Among players to make the cut

- This will be Zhang's debut in the KPMG Women's PGA Championship
- Before the Mizuho America's Open, Zhang made 13 previous starts on Tour including eight major championships
  - Her best finish on tour as an amateur was a T11 result at The Chevron Championship, where she earned the low amateur honors
- Zhang had off one of the most successful amateur careers in history having earned two NCAA Women's Golf Championship Individual Championship titles (2022, 2023), back-to-back ANNIKA Awards (2022, 2023) and a win at the 2023 Augusta National Women's Amateur, among many other accolades
  - Her eight wins in 2023 tied Tiger Woods for the most by a Stanford player in school history
  - Zhang won 12 times in just 20 starts in her incredible Stanford career, more than any other man or woman including Woods
  - Zhang spent 141 weeks as the number one ranked amateur in the world, most of any player

ROLEX RANKINGS WORLD NO. 1 PROJECTIONS – KPMG WOMEN'S PGA CHAMPIONSHIP
Three players have a chance to surpass current Rolex Rankings No. 1 **Jin Young Ko** based on their finish at the KPMG Women's PGA Championship. There may be additional possibilities with tie scenarios.

Win
Solo second and have Jin Young Ko finish solo fourth or worse and Lydia Ko does not win
Solo third and have Jin Young Ko finish solo eighth or worse and have Lydia Ko finish solo fourth or worse
Solo fourth and have Jin Young Ko finish solo 22nd or worse and have Lydia Ko finish solo third or worse and Lilia Vu does not win
Solo fifth and have Jin Young Ko miss the cut and have Lydia Ko finish solo third or worse and Lilia Vu does not win
World No. 3 Lydia Ko
Win and have Jin Young Ko finish solo third or worse
Solo second and have Jin Young Ko finish solo eighth or worse and have Nelly Korda finish solo third or worse
Solo third and have Jin Young Ko miss the cut and have Nelly Korda finish solo sixth or worse and Lilia Vu does not win
World No. 4 Lilia Vu
Must win and have Jin Young Ko finish solo 12th or worse and have Nelly Korda finish solo fourth or worse and have Lydia Ko finish solo third or worse
World No. 2 Nelly Korda
- Win
- Solo second and have Jin Young Ko finish solo fourth or worse and Lydia Ko does not win
- Solo third and have Jin Young Ko finish solo eighth or worse and have Lydia Ko finish solo fourth or worse
- Solo fourth and have Jin Young Ko finish solo 22nd or worse and have Lydia Ko finish solo third or worse and Lilia Vu does not win
- Solo fifth and have Jin Young Ko miss the cut and have Lydia Ko finish solo third or worse and Lilia Vu does not win

World No. 3 Lydia Ko
- Win and have Jin Young Ko finish solo third or worse
- Solo second and have Jin Young Ko finish solo eighth or worse and have Nelly Korda finish solo third or worse
- Solo third and have Jin Young Ko miss the cut and have Nelly Korda finish solo sixth or worse and Lilia Vu does not win

World No. 4 Lilia Vu
- Must win and have Jin Young Ko finish solo 12th or worse and have Nelly Korda finish solo fourth or worse and have Lydia Ko finish solo third or worse

ON LPGA.COM
Players to Watch: KPMG Women's PGA Championship
After a Short Break, Nelly Korda Happy to be Back at Baltusrol
Lilia Vu Returns to Tour Ready and Rested After Adjusting to Major Champion Lifestyle
Field Breakdown: KPMG Women's PGA Championship
KPMG Performance Insights Program Launches New Web Portal
Five Things to Know About the KPMG Women's PGA Championship

SOCIAL SNAPSHOT
Swing Collection at KPMG
Featured Groups
Ayaka Furue's Last Couple of Tournament Results
Inbee Park has had long putts and an even longer history of winning
The Six LPGA Pros That are Teeing Off a the KPMG Women's PGA Championship This Week