



LOTTE Championship presented by Hoakalei

Hoakalei Country Club | Ewa Beach, Oahu, Hawaii | April 12-15, 2023

Partial First-Round Notes

April 12, 2023

Please find attached the PARTIAL first-round statistics. Complete statistics will be sent Thursday morning upon the conclusion of round one. Play was suspended due to darkness at 6:55 p.m. with one player left to finish her round. She will resume her round Thursday at 7:30 a.m. The second round will begin as scheduled at 7 a.m.

Media Contact: [Sarah Kellam](#) +1 (386) 212-8826,
[Christina Lance](#) +1 (908) 963-1691

Course Setup: 36-36—72; 6,447 yards

Scoring Average: R1: N/A

Weather: Sunny skies and winds gusting up to 28mph with temps peaking in the low 80s

Race to CME Globe Points: 500 (winner)

Purse: \$2 million (winner’s portion: \$300,000)

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

Quick Links:

- [Leaderboard](#)
- [Transcripts](#)
- [Online Media Center](#)
- [Statistical Database](#)
- [KPMG Performance Insights](#)
- [Stats Box](#)

LEADERBOARD			
	Player	To par	Score
T1	Natthakritta Vongtaveelap	-6	66
T1	Frida Kinhult	-6	66
T3	Bailey Tardy	-4	68
T3	Nasa Hataoka	-4	68
T3	Hyo Joo Kim	-4	68

VONGTAVEELAP, KINHULT SHINE ON DAY ONE AT LOTTE CHAMPIONSHIP PRESENTED BY HOAKALEI

On a blustery Thursday at Hoakalei Country Club in Ewa Beach, Oahu, Hawaii, it was Thailand’s **Natthakritta Vongtaveelap** and Sweden’s **Frida Kinhult** who found their strides, firing a pair of 6-under 66s to share the 18-hole lead at the LOTTE Championship presented by Hoakalei. Kinhult was the first in the clubhouse with a 66, notching one bogey and seven birdies. Her card included four birdies in a six-hole stretch on the front nine, which played as her back nine on day one. It’s the first time in her LPGA Tour career that she’s held the 18-hole lead/co-lead in a stroke-play event, and despite bogeying her final hole after a flubbed chip, the 23-year-old was pleased with her performance in the challenging conditions.

“It was very solid. Nothing crazy really happened. Just throughout the day tried to hit some fairways, and then I think I hit most greens, which is helpful in this wind,” said Kinhult, who hit 15 of 18 greens. “Just tried to stay patient out there shot by shot for real in this wind. A lot of math in my head, so probably going to fall asleep pretty good tonight. Super happy with the start and pumped for the rest of the week.”

Vongtaveelap, a 2023 LPGA Tour rookie, vaulted up the leaderboard late in the day on her final nine, the front nine at Hoakalei Country Club. She turned in 34 after making birdies on holes 12 and 18, and grabbed another on the par-4 third hole. Parring the next, Vongtaveelap made the only eagle of the day on the par-5 fifth hole to move to 5-under and one back of Kinhult. She went three-for-three with pars on the next three holes, chipping in on the par-3 ninth hole to post a bogey-free, 6-under 66, the second-lowest round of her LPGA Tour career.

“So my round today, bogey-free. My tee shot was super perfect today. My putt goes today, so my score is great,” said Vongtaveelap, who finished just her fifth career LPGA Tour round after making her debut with a runner-up finish at the Honda LPGA Thailand in February. “I feel great for myself and hope the next three days I will play the same as today.”

A quartet of players sit in a tie for third at 4-under: rookie **Bailey Tardy**, six-time LPGA Tour winner **Nasa Hataoka**, defending LOTTE champion **Hyo Joo Kim** and sponsor invite **Yu Jin Sung**. Kim made eight birdies and four bogeys on Thursday, saying that making bogey on her first hole of the day really jump-started the rest of her round. “I started out at the 10th hole today and started with a bogey, so I had the mindset of I got to really get my head straight,” Kim said. “The putter worked really well, and that led to a low score. Swings were good. I actually made a lot of mistakes, but I actually had the thought that I should make more birdies to cover for that.”

Four players round out the top 10 in a tie for seventh at 3-under, most notably major champion and 2022 LOTTE Championship runner-up **Hinako Shibuno**. Hawaiian local **Allisen Corpuz** and Rolex Women’s World Golf Rankings No. 7 **Brooke Henderson** both carded 1-under 71s and are in a share of 21st.

A LOOK AT THE LEADERS

CATEGORY	Natthakritta Vongtaveelap
2023 Race to CME Globe Points List	N/A
2023 LPGA Tour Wins	0
2023 LPGA Tour Top 10s	1
2023 Season Earnings	\$0
Career LPGA Tour Wins	0
Career Ladies European Tour Wins	0
Career Epson Tour Wins	0
Career LPGA Tour Top 10s	0
Career Money	\$0

CATEGORY	Frida Kinhult
2023 Race to CME Globe Points List	77
2023 LPGA Tour Wins	0

2023 LPGA Tour Top 10s	0
2023 Season Earnings	\$19,116
Career LPGA Tour Wins	0
Career Ladies European Tour Wins	0
Career Epson Tour Wins	1
Career LPGA Tour Top 10s	2
Career Money	\$329,400

ABOUT THE LEADERS

Rolex Rankings No. 86 Natthakritta Vongtaveelap (T1, 66)

- Vongtaveelap hit 10 of 14 fairways and 17 of 18 greens, with 31 putts
- Vongtaveelap is a 2023 LPGA Tour rookie; she earned LPGA Tour Membership for 2023 after finishing in a tie for 28th at 2022 LPGA Q-Series
- This is Vongtaveelap's first start in the LOTTE Championship
- This is her second event of 2023; she finished second in her LPGA Tour debut at the Honda LPGA Thailand, where she was competing as a sponsor exemption
- She turned professional in November 2022
- Vongtaveelap advanced through all three stages of LPGA Qualifying; she tied for second in Stage I and tied for seventh in Stage II, playing as an amateur in both stages
- She finished runner-up in the 2021 and 2022 Women's Amateur Asia-Pacific Championship
- She is a two-time winner of the SINGHA Thailand Amateur Open (2021, 2022) and won the 2021 Singha Thailand Ladies Amateur Open
- Vongtaveelap is a two-time winner of the SINGHA Thailand Amateur Match Play Championship, with victories in 2021 and 2022
- Goes by "Sim" and her nickname is "Sim 300" because she "can hit it 300 yards"

Rolex Rankings No. 152 Frida Kinhult (T1, 66)

- Kinhult hit nine of 14 fairways and 15 of 18 greens, with 26 putts
- Her first-round 66 is tied for the second-lowest round of her LPGA Tour career; she has two 65s and has shot 66 on three previous occasions
- She is in her third year on the LPGA Tour; her best finish is a tie for seventh at the 2022 Dana Open
- She finished fourth on the 2020 Epson Tour money list and won the 2020 Epson Tour Championship to earn LPGA Tour Membership for the 2021 season
- This is Kinhult's second start in the LOTTE Championship; she finished 72nd in 2022
- This is her fourth event of 2023; she has not yet missed a cut, with a best finish of T34 at the DIO Implant LA Open
- She played collegiate golf at Florida State University; she was an All-American in 2019 and won three individual titles during her tenure
- Kinhult reached No. 1 in the World Amateur Golf Ranking in June 2019, a position she held for seven weeks
- Her older brother, Marcus Kinhult, won the DP World Tour's 2019 Betfred British Masters

THINGS TO KNOW

- **Hyo Joo Kim** opened her LOTTE Championship title defense with a 4-under 68 and sits tied for third
 - She opened her win in 2022 with a 5-under 67

- Hawaiian locals **Allisen Corpuz** and **Mariel Galdiano** fired rounds of 71 (-1) and 76 (+4), respectively
- Five of the 31 LPGA Tour rookies in the field are in the top 15, led by **Natthakritta Vongtaveelap** (T1, -6)
 - Vongtaveelap is joined by **Bailey Tardy** (T3, -4), **Valery Plata** (T11, -2), **Kum-Kang Park** (T11, -2), **Hae Ran Ryu** (T11, -2)
- Two-time LOTTE Championship winner **Brooke Henderson** is currently T21 after opening with a 1-under 71
 - Henderson made four birdies, one bogey and one double bogey on Thursday
 - She hit 10 of 14 fairways and 11 of 18 greens with 27 putts
- Japan's **Hinako Shibuno**, who finished runner-up at the 2022 LOTTE Championship, opened with a 3-under 69
 - She made six birdies, including three consecutive on Nos. 1, 2 and 3, and a triple bogey on the par-4 seventh hole
 - Shibuno hit 9 of 14 fairways and 15 of 18 greens with 29 putts
- Sponsor invite **Yu Jin Sung** is tied for third at 4-under, alongside defending champion Kim, Tardy and **Nasa Hataoka**
- **Vicky Hurst** withdrew during the first round with an injury

CHEVRON CHAMPIONSHIP QUALIFICATION

There are 75 players in the LOTTE Championship presented by Hoakalei field who could play their way into next week's Chevron Championship. For a full list of those players, please contact [LPGA Tour Communications](#).

QUOTABLE

Bailey Tardy on the windy events she played on the Epson Tour and how it's helped her this week:

"There are definitely two or three tournaments I could name that definitely have this kind of wind, and then you add cold and rain into it. So, this is beautiful I think. It obviously gets gusty out there and you just kind of maybe wait for the gusts to go by. But, yeah, I feel like I'm pretty used to playing in the wind. Living down in Florida in the off-season was quite windy as well, so it's just kind of playing to my advantage this week."

Haylee Harford on the differences between her rookie year and this year: *"Playing my rookie year on Epson Tour and then a rookie year out here I definitely have gone through the learning curves. My boyfriend caddies for me and has been with me throughout it all. We've just totally taken all the bad experiences and learned from it. Coming out this year feels like a clean slate. You know the courses that you're playing, which helps tremendously. How to navigate your way through the week, where to stay, where to eat. It all makes a huge difference. So coming out here already knowing the layout of the course is a huge difference for sure."*

Allisen Corpuz on Mariel Galdiano, the other Hawaii local in the field this week: *"Mariel is another great player from Hawaii, and it's just really awesome that both of us are out here representing, like you said, Punahou. We go way back from like playing junior golf since we were like seven, eight years old, so really awesome, and hope that she also has a really good week."*

NOTABLE

[LOTTE Championship First-Round Highlights](#)
[Drive On: LPGA All Access Episode 2](#)

[Mel Reid Mic'd Up](#)

TOURNAMENT SCORING RECORDS

18 holes: 62 (-10), Lizette Salas, final round, 2013; Cristie Kerr, third round, 2017

36 holes: 128 (-16), Yuka Saso, 2021

54 holes: 195 (-21), Lydia Ko, 2021

72 holes: 260 (-28), Lydia Ko, 2021