



**LOTTE Championship presented by Hoakalei**  
Hoakalei Country Club | Ewa Beach, Oahu, Hawaii | April 12-15, 2023

Third-Round Notes  
April 14, 2023

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

**Course Setup:** 36-36—72; 6,367 yards

**Scoring Average:** R1: 73.470; R2: 72.937; R3:  
71.821

**Weather:** ENE winds gusting up to 20mph and  
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
1	Yu Jin Sung	-9	68-68-71 – 207
T2	Grace Kim	-8	71-67-70 – 206
T2	Georgia Hall	-8	71-66-71 – 206
T2	Linnea Strom	-8	70-67-71 – 206

**SUNG HANGS ON TO LEAD AT LOTTE CHAMPIONSHIP PRESENTED BY HOAKALEI**

While the wind continued to blow on Friday at Hoakalei Country Club, sponsor invite **Yu Jin Sung** hung on for dear life, grinding out a gritty 1-under 71 to retain the lead at -9 with 18 holes to play at the LOTTE Championship presented by Hoakalei. It was a steady day three for the 22-year-old, who made birdie right out of the gate on the par-5 first hole. She parred the next eight holes to turn in 35 and notched three more on holes 10, 11 and 12. Sung finally made another birdie on the par-4 13th, but dropped a shot on the very next hole, bogeying No. 14. The KLPGA winner then parred her way into the clubhouse, posting at 9-under overall to hold a one-shot heading into the final round, with a shot at LPGA Tour Membership on the line.

“I haven't really thought about the winning part. There is still a day left in this tournament. Again, not really thinking about winning but just trying to show my best golf game,” said Sung, who won the 2022 LOTTE Open on the KLPGA Tour. “Wouldn't say it was difficult per se today. It's just that my game, just I didn't play my best game. Our group, there were a lot of ups and downs and wasn't the smoothest, so that was a little bit tough. But the course condition was great.”

Three players sit in a tie for second, one shot back of Sung at 8-under: Australian rookie **Grace Kim**, Epson Tour graduate **Linnea Strom** and major champion **Georgia Hall**. Hall, the veteran of the trio, is coming off back-to-back runner-up finishes at the LPGA Drive On Championship, where she lost to **Celine Boutier** in a playoff, and the DIO Implant LA Open, where she missed a short birdie putt on the last to fall one short of **Ruoning Yin**. Eager to get the monkey off her back, Hall, who made four birdies and three bogeys on Moving Day, is leaning on her mental game as she looks to break through for the third time on the LPGA Tour.

“I think it's just like the last year or two have of just hard work and consistency. It didn't happen overnight. I think that's what a lot of players know, and especially me. I've been working harder than normal the past year, especially on my game and my clubs. It's just paying off now,” said Hall, whose last LPGA Tour victory was the 2020 Portland Classic. “Just got to stay patient out there. My mentality on the golf course is my strongest part of me as a player, my strongest part of my game. I just want to keep that going.”

Four players sit in a tie for fifth at 7-under, including six-time LPGA Tour winner **Nasa Hataoka** and American **Christina Kim**, who is looking for her first victory in more than eight years. An international fivesome are tied for ninth at 6-under, including 13-time LPGA Tour winner **Brooke Henderson** and Epson Tour winner **Bailey Tardy**. Tardy shot the low round of the tournament so far on Friday, firing a bogey-free, 7-under 65. Defending champion **Hyo Joo Kim** is in a tie for 47th after carding rounds of 68-78-71.

## WITH A WIN

### Yu Jin Sung

- Sung would be the first sponsor invite to win an event since **Lydia Ko** won the 2013 CP Women's Open
- Sung would be the first non-Member to win an LPGA Tour event since **Maja Stark** won the 2022 ISPS Handa World Invitational
  - Sung would have the option to accept immediate LPGA Tour Membership, becoming a 2023 LPGA Tour rookie; her money and points earned from the win would then become official
  - She could also defer accepting LPGA Tour Membership until the 2024 season
- Sung would be the second player from the Republic of Korea to win this season, joining **Jin Young Ko** (HSBC Women's World Championship)

### Grace Kim

- Kim would be the first Australian to win on the LPGA Tour since **Minjee Lee** won the 2022 U.S. Women's Open at Pine Needles Lodge and Golf Club
- Kim would be the 12th different player from Australia to win on the LPGA Tour
- Kim would be the first rookie of the 2023 season to win on Tour and would be the first player to win in their rookie season since **Atthaya Thitikul** captured her second 2022 victory at the Walmart NW Arkansas Championship presented by P&G last September
- Kim would become the third Rolex First-Time Winner of the 2023 season, joining **Lilia Vu** (Honda LPGA Thailand) and **Ruoning Yin** (DIO Implant LA Open)

### Georgia Hall

- Hall would earn her third LPGA Tour victory and first since the 2020 Portland Classic
  - She became a Rolex First-Time Winner and major champion at the 2018 AIG Women's Open
- Hall would become the fourth English golfer with three or more wins on the LPGA Tour, joining **Laura Davies** (20), **Alison Nicholas** (four) and **Trish Johnson** (three)
- Hall would surpass the \$4 million mark in career earnings with the \$300,000 winner's check (\$4,462,040)
- Hall would earn her third consecutive top-five finish of the 2023 LPGA Tour season, following her runner-up results at the DIO Implant LA Open and the LPGA Drive On Championship
  - She finished T10 at the Honda LPGA Thailand and T14 at the HSBC Women's World Championship

#### **Linnea Strom**

- Strom would be the fourth Epson Tour winner to win on the LPGA Tour this season, alongside **Brooke Henderson**, **Lilia Vu** and **Celine Boutier**
- Strom would be the first Swedish LPGA Tour winner since **Maja Stark** won the 2022 ISPS Handa World Invitational
- Strom would be the 14th different player from Sweden to win on the LPGA Tour
- Strom would become the third Rolex First-Time Winner of the 2023 season, joining **Lilia Vu** (Honda LPGA Thailand) and **Ruoning Yin** (DIO Implant LA Open)

#### **Lauren Hartlage**

- Hartlage would become the third Rolex First-Time Winner of the 2023 season, joining **Lilia Vu** (Honda LPGA Thailand) and **Ruoning Yin** (DIO Implant LA Open)
- Hartlage would become the first alumna of the University of Louisville to win on the LPGA Tour

#### **Christina Kim**

- Kim would earn her fourth career LPGA Tour victory and first since the 2014 Lorena Ochoa Invitational
  - It would be her first win in 8 years, 4 months and 30 days, or 3,072 days
- Kim would be the second winner from the United States this season, joining **Lilia Vu** (Honda LPGA Thailand)
- Kim would move from 59th to 56th on the Career Money List with \$6,442,110

#### **Nasa Hataoka**

- Hataoka would earn her seventh career LPGA Tour victory and first since the 2022 DIO Implant LA Open
  - It would be her third consecutive winning season on the LPGA Tour
- Hataoka would pass the \$7 million mark in career earnings with the \$300,000 winner's check (\$7,039,907)

#### **Natthakritta Vongtaveelap**

- Vongtaveelap would become the third Rolex First-Time Winner of the 2023 season, joining **Lilia Vu** (Honda LPGA Thailand) and **Ruoning Yin** (DIO Implant LA Open)
- Vongtaveelap would become the seventh different Thai player to win on the LPGA Tour

- Vongtaveelap would be the first player to win in their rookie season since **Atthaya Thitikul** captured her second 2022 victory at the Walmart NW Arkansas Championship presented by P&G last September
  - She would also be the first Thai player to win on Tour since Thitikul's Walmart NW Arkansas victory

#### A LOOK AT THE LEADER

CATEGORY	Yu Jin Sung
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 KLPGA Wins	1
Career LPGA Tour Top 10s	0
Career Money	N/A

#### ABOUT THE LEADER

##### Rolex Rankings No. 135 Yu Jin Sung (1, 68-68-71)

- Sung hit 10 of 14 fairways and 13 of 18 greens, with 29 putts
- This is her first appearance at the LOTTE Championship and only her third career start on the LPGA Tour
  - Sung competed in the 2020 U.S. Women's Open (MC) and the 2021 BMW Ladies Championship (T36)
- She is competing as one of five sponsor invites this week
- Sung is the only player to shoot two consecutive rounds in the 60s at Hoakalei Country Club
- She won the 2022 LOTTE Open on the KLPGA Tour, where she primarily competes

#### THINGS TO KNOW

- Epson Tour winner and 2023 LPGA Tour rookie **Bailey Tardy** fired the low round of the week on Friday, carding a bogey-free, 7-under 65
  - Tardy made the first cut of her LPGA Tour career this week
  - The 65 is her lowest career round on the LPGA Tour
- Defending champion **Hyo Joo Kim** currently sits in a tie for 47th at +1 after carding rounds of 68-78-71
- LOTTE ambassador **Hye-Jin Choi** is currently T18 at -3
- A total of 73 players made the cut at +2
- Past champions **Brooke Henderson** and **Cristie Kerr** are T9 and T72, respectively, heading into the final round
  - Henderson is the only two-time winner of the LOTTE Championship (2018, 2019)
  - Kerr won the 2017 edition of the event
- Three of the 31 LPGA Tour rookies in the field are in the top 10: **Grace Kim** (T2, -8), **Natthakritta Vongtaveelap** (T5, -7) and **Bailey Tardy** (T9, -6)

- Sponsor invites **Yu Jin Sung** (1, -9), **Youmin Hwang** (T18, -3) and **Erika Hara** (T47, +1) made the cut
- Monday qualifier **Siyun Liu** heads to the final day in a tie for ninth at -6
  - Only two Monday qualifiers have won an LPGA Tour event: **Laurel Kean** (2000 State Farm LPGA Classic) and **Brooke Henderson** (2015 Portland Classic)
- Hawaiian locals **Allisen Corpuz** and **Mariel Galdiano** both missed the cut
  - Corpuz followed her 1-under 71 in the first round with a 4-over 76 in the second round
  - Galdiano followed her 4-over 76 in the first round with a 3-over 75 in the second round
- **Vicky Hurst** (injury, first round), **Ruixin Liu** (illness, following first round), **Teresa Lu** (illness, prior to second round), **Haru Nomura** (injury, second round) and **Alana Uriell** (injury, second round) have all withdrawn from this week's event

### CHEVRON CHAMPIONSHIP QUALIFICATION

After the second-round cut, there are now 28 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

**Georgia Hall on what leader Yu Jin Sung will experience in the final round:** *"I have heard she's a very good player and very nice girl. I'm sure we'll have a lot of fun out there. I think it's a great experience for her to be in the final group on the final day, final round, because it is different. It's not just like a normal round. There is a lot of people watching. Obviously you guys (media), TV camera crews. So it would be a great experience for her nonetheless."*

**Bailey Tardy on feeling confident:** *"I'm pretty confident. Just being able to play well in 20- to 30-mile-an-hour winds means I know how to hit golf shots, not just how to hit the perfect shot. Really the placement out here is so important and you can't really be on the wrong side of the hole or it's a bogey at best. So, yeah, I don't know, from my practice, my chipping, and just going with that and, yeah, it builds my confidence."*

**Siyun "Swing" Liu on the confidence she is gaining this week:** *"Last year it's kind of embarrassing, but I couldn't even keep my Epson Tour card last year and I had to go back to Q-School to regain my status on the Epson Tour. So I entered this year with zero confidence, but like couple weeks ago like I shot like a 7-under on the final round, and I feel like that really helped me like trust my skills again. Like I used to have like a big weakness in my short game but I think I fixed it. So, yeah, I feel a lot more confidence in my game now. Like playing with Nasa and Lauren, I can see they don't make the random mistakes I do like stuffing a 120 yard from the fairway into the water. But like, yes, they are a lot more I guess like diligent on all of their shots versus for me, I feel like sometimes mine wanders places and that might lead to big trouble. So that's going to be something I work on in the future."*

### NOTABLE

[Minjee Lee Inspires Brother Min Woo](#)

[Sometimes Caddies Have to Chase Birds](#)

[LPGA Now: LOTTE Championship Round 2](#)

[LOTTE Championship Second-Round Highlights](#)

[Brooke Henderson On-Course Interview LOTTE Championship Second Round](#)

[Solheim Cup Assistant Captain Angela Stanford interviews Captain Stacy Lewis in round two](#)

[Dani Holmqvist Flying in Hawaii](#)

[Highlights of Mel Reid Mic'd Up](#)

[LPGA Now: 2023 LOTTE Championship Round 1](#)

[LOTTE Championship First-Round Highlights](#)

[Drive On: LPGA All Access Episode 2](#)

#### **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