



LPGA Drive On Championship

Superstition Mountain Golf & Country Club | Gold Canyon, AZ | Mar. 23-26, 2023

Final-Round Notes

Mar. 26, 2023

Media Contacts: [Emily Carman](#) +1 (714) 742-8301; [Sarah Kellam](#) +1 (386) 212-8826

Course Setup: 36-36—72; 6,443 yards

Scoring Average: R1-70.503; R2-70.600; R3- 68.617; R4- 70.054

Weather: Mostly sunny, becoming partly cloudy late in the day with highs of 66F. Variable winds with few gusts of 12-15 mph

Race to CME Globe Points: 500 (winner)

Purse: \$1.75 million (winner's portion: \$262,500)

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

QUICK LINKS

- [Interview Transcripts](#)
- [LPGA Tour Online Media Center](#)
- [LPGA Statistical Database](#)
- [Stats Box](#)
- [Tournament Photo & Video](#)
- [Tournament Website](#)

LEADERBOARD			
		To par	Score
1	Celine Boutier*	-20	69-66-65-68 – 268
2	Georgia Hall	-20	68-67-68-65 – 268
3	Ayaka Furue	-19	68-69-67-65 – 269
4	Narin An	-18	67-67-69-67 – 270
T5	Ally Ewing	-17	71-67-66-67 – 271
T5	Jin Young Ko	-17	70-65-68-68 – 271

*won in playoff

CELINE BOUTIER BATTLES HER WAY TO THIRD VICTORY AT LPGA DRIVE ON CHAMPIONSHIP

After coming up just short so many times the last few seasons, Frenchwoman **Celine Boutier** finally got the job done in Gold Canyon, Ariz., defeating major champion **Georgia Hall** in a one-hole playoff to capture the LPGA Drive On Championship title and her third career LPGA Tour victory. The 29-year-old began the day at 16-under, holding a one-shot lead over **Hae Ran Ryu**, **Alison Lee** and **Moriya Jutanugarn** and got off to a fast start, carding back-to-back birdies on the second and third holes to move to 18-under. She dropped a shot on the par-4, sixth hole, a pivotal moment in her round, and then proceeded to par the next four before grabbing another birdie on No. 11.

The clubhouse lead of 19-under had already been posted by **Ayaka Furue** after the Japanese native fired a 7-under, 65, and Hall was working on a 65 of her own, going birdie-birdie-eagle to move to 18-under and sit one back of Furue. Boutier tied Furue's lead after draining a lengthy birdie try on the par-5, 13th, but Hall wasn't about to be left out of the conversation, making birdie on the 15th and 18th holes to post the new clubhouse lead, 20-under. Boutier parred her next four holes and came to No. 18 needing a birdie to force a playoff with Hall, ultimately getting up-and-down for birdie and sending the pair back to the tee to play 18 again. Both players found the short grass with their drives, but differed in strategy with their approach shots. Boutier bailed out to the right while Hall went right at it, ultimately finding the bunker behind the flag. Both players had tricky third shots that they had to hit close.

Boutier played a bump-and-run that skidded out to just about six feet while Hall's bunker shot went well by, leaving her with an uphill 12-footer for birdie. Hall's putt just skirted the edge of the cup, giving Boutier the advantage. Boutier's relief was palpable when her putt found the bottom of the cup, a long-awaited third career win finally in her grasp and history made as she became the winningest French player in the history of the LPGA Tour.

"It's definitely very gratifying. I think it's very much a little bit of a relief because I've been trying to win for few years now. I guess it's been two years. Was definitely feeling a little bit down at times and a little bit frustrated thinking, can I actually do it? To be able to do to this week with this strong of a field is definitely very good for confidence," said Boutier, whose last win came at the 2021 ShopRite LPGA Classic presented by Acer. "I feel like my game was good enough for the past couple years for sure. I just wasn't able to win. I feel like it's something you need to learn. I definitely had a bunch of opportunities last year and wasn't able to do it, so to be able to do it this early in the season this year is definitely very satisfying."

While losing in a playoff is always disappointing, Hall walked away with her head held high. Her 7-under 65 was her lowest round since the final day of the 2022 LPGA MEDIHEAL Championship and considering she began the day three shots back of the lead in a 12-way tie for seventh, she was incredibly pleased and proud of her Sunday effort. "Obviously, fantastic to get to the position I was in. I knew I had to shoot low today, and obviously gutted about the playoff. I had a lot of adrenaline on my second shot and it went a very long way," Hall said. "I played well, to be honest, every day this week. I'm proud of myself."

Furue ended up finishing alone in third at 19-under, with Korean **Narin An** one shot back in fourth at 18-under. Major champion **Jin Young Ko** and LPGA Tour winner **Ally Ewing** wound up tied for fifth and seven players finished in a tie for seventh at 16-under, including United States Solheim Cup captain **Stacy Lewis**, who carded all four rounds in the 60s. Defending champion **Leona Maguire** finished T23 at -13 overall.

A LOOK AT THE CHAMPION

CATEGORY	Celine Boutier
2023 Race to CME Globe Points List	1 (projected)
2023 LPGA Tour Wins	1
2023 LPGA Tour Top 10s (excludes wins)	1
2023 Season Earnings	\$392,792

Career LPGA Tour Wins	3
Career Ladies European Tour Wins	3
Career Epson Tour Wins	2
Career LPGA Tour Top 10s (excludes wins)	26
Career Money	\$4,143,690

ABOUT THE CHAMPION

Rolex Rankings No. 14, Celine Boutier (1, 69-66-65-68)

- Boutier won in a one-hole playoff against **Georgia Hall**
 - It was Boutier's first playoff on the LPGA Tour; her record is now 1-for-1
 - The first playoff hole was the par-5, 18th at Superstition Mountain Golf and Country Club's Prospector Course
- She hit 7 of 14 fairways and 11 of 18 greens with 25 putts
- Her four-day total of 268 is her third-lowest 72-hole score on the LPGA Tour
 - She has never shot a 268 on Tour
 - Her lowest 72-hole score is 263, which she shot at the 2022 Honda LPGA Thailand
- This is Boutier's third LPGA Tour victory
 - She previously won the 2019 ISPS Handa World Invitational and the 2021 ShopRite LPGA Classic presented by Acer
 - With her win, Boutier becomes the winningest French golfer in LPGA Tour history, surpassing **Patricia Meunier-Lebouc** and **Anne-Marie Palli**
- With the \$262,500 winner's check, Boutier surpasses the \$4 million mark in career earnings with \$4,143,690
- This is Boutier's fourth start of the 2023 LPGA Tour season
 - In addition to today's win, she finished 26th at the Hilton Grand Vacations Tournament of Champions, T4 at the Honda LPGA Thailand and T11 at the HSBC Women's World Championship
- This is Boutier's second appearance in the LPGA Drive On Championship
 - She finished T20 in the inaugural event at Crown Colony Golf and Country Club
- Boutier is in her seventh season on the LPGA Tour
 - She has three career wins and 26 additional career top-10s
 - She finished T44 at 2016 Q-Series to first earn LPGA Tour Membership for the 2017 season
- Boutier is a three-time winner on the Ladies European Tour; she most recently won the 2021 Lacoste Ladies Open de France
- She is a two-time winner on the Epson Tour, winning the 2017 Self Regional Healthcare Foundation Women's Health Classic and the 2017 Sioux Falls GreatLIFE Challenge
- She has represented Europe in two Solheim Cups (2019, 2021)
- She represented France in the 2020 Tokyo Olympics where she finished T34

THINGS TO KNOW

- With their 72-hole score of 268, **Celine Boutier** and **Georgia Hall** set the 72-hole tournament scoring record for the LPGA Drive On Championship
 - There has never been a 72-hole playing of the event
- **Gina Kim** made a hole-in-one on the par-3 No. 8 during the final round
 - She hit her 7-iron 127 yards
 - This is the second hole-in-one of her LPGA Tour; she made her first during the second round of the 2022 Meijer LPGA Classic for *Simply Give*
 - This is the first hole-in-one of the 2023 LPGA Tour season
 - With every hole-in-one made this season, CME Group will donate \$20,000 to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital as part of the CME Group Cares Challenge – Score 1 for St. Jude; the 2023 donation total is now \$20,000
- **Ariya Jutanugarn** (T16), **Amy Yang** (T16) and **Celine Borge** (T14) recorded the low rounds of the tournament and tied the tournament 18-hole scoring record on Saturday with 9-under 63s
- **Yuka Saso** made an albatross on the par-5 No. 2 during the second round
 - She hit her 19-degree hybrid from 217 yards
 - It was the first albatross on the LPGA Tour since **Lindsey Weaver-Wright** made one at the 2020 ShopRite LPGA Classic presented by Acer
- 76 players made the cut at 3-under after 36 holes
 - LPGA Tournaments with a 36-hole cut is the top-65 players and ties starting at the LPGA Drive On Championship; previously, the cut was made at the top-70 and ties
- Defending champion **Leona Maguire** finished T23 at -13

QUOTABLE

Celine Boutier on being in a playoff with former Solheim Cup teammate, Georgia Hall: "I was honestly not looking forward to it. It's a bittersweet feeling because you obviously want to win, but at the same time I really think she's an amazing player. I feel like she's a great person, too. She is a really good friend of mine. So I feel like it's not always easy, but I also I'm a little bit competitive so I feel like I definitely want to win as well. But it's not the greatest feeling."

Stacy Lewis on playing well this week and the potential of being a playing captain: "The last eight months haven't been very happy on the golf course, and just to put four rounds together, and was close every day to shooting something really low. For the most part, the rounds were clean and easy and stress-free golf, so I'm excited. Wish we were going to Palm Springs next week, but we'll keep on it next week in LA...I don't know. We need a few more weeks like this to even get into that conversation. I wouldn't say it's not possible. I think it's possible, but I hope there are 12 playing better than me, and our team is going to be in a really good spot if that's the case."

Gina Kim on her hole-in-one earning a \$20,000 donation for St. Jude Children's Research Hospital as part of the CME Group Cares Challenge – Score 1 for St. Jude: "It's bigger than me, you know. It's part of growing the game and helping the community around us, and to be able to give to such a great cause really warms my heart. I don't care whether there is a car out there or whatever, just the fact that I can help a kid in need, that makes me happy. It made my day knowing that."

Anne-Marie Palli on Celine Boutier's win: "Well, it's wonderful for her to win, and what's so fun, and I just made her aware, she won in Australia, she won in Atlantic City and here, and Atlantic City and here are the two tournaments I won as well, on tour. She's a hard worker. She's a great player. Yeah, and she's very nice. I'm very excited for her."

NOTABLE

[LPGA Drive On Championship Final Round Highlights](#)

[Celine Boutier Final Round Highlights | 2023 LPGA Drive On Championship](#)

[Celine Boutier's birdie putt on 18 to force a playoff!](#)

[An elevated fan experience at the LPGA Drive On Championship](#)

[FOR ALBATROSS!! Yuka Saso holes out from 217 yards at the LPGA Drive On Championship!](#)

TOURNAMENT SCORING RECORDS:

18 holes – 63, **Ariya Jutanugarn (R3, 2023), Celine Borge (R3, 2023), Amy Yang (R3, 2023)**, Xiyu Lin (R3, 2022)* and Aditi Ashok (R3, 2022)*

36 holes – 131, Leona Maguire (2022)* and Marina Alex (2022)*

54 holes – 198, Leona Maguire (2022)*

72 Holes – 268, **Celine Boutier (2023), Georgia Hall (2023)**

**at Crown Colony Golf & Country Club*