



**This Week on the LPGA Tour
LPGA Drive On Championship**

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

Tuesday Pre-Tournament Notes
Mar. 21, 2023

MEDIA AVAILABILITY SCHEDULE

All times are local and subject to change

Wednesday, Mar. 22

1:15 p.m. – Jin Young Ko

1:30 p.m. – Anna Nordqvist

THINGS TO KNOW ABOUT THE LPGA Drive On Championship

- This is the second official playing of the LPGA Drive On Championship and the first year it's been held at Superstition Mountain Golf & Country Club
 - In 2022, the tournament was contested at Crown Colony Golf and Country Club in Fort Myers, Florida
 - The tournament will be played on the Prospector Course at Superstition Mountain G&CC. The club has two courses, Prospector and Lost Gold
 - The Drive On Championship was created in 2020 to give LPGA Tour Members playing opportunities in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. In 2022, the event was added to the schedule with event history building in 2023 and beyond
- Superstition Mountain was the venue for the 2004-2008 Safeway International, with a Hall-of-Fame list of winners in **Annika Sorenstam** (2004, 2005), **Juli Inkster** (2006) and **Lorena Ochoa** (2007, 2008)
 - The 2023 competition at Superstition Mountain marks the return of the LPGA Tour to the greater Phoenix area. The LPGA Tour's history in the area spans from the 1953 Phoenix Weathervane to the 2019 Cognizant Founders Cup
- This is the LPGA Tour's only event in Arizona this season
- In 2022, the LPGA Drive On Championship was played as a 54-hole event
 - 70.833 was the tournament scoring average across three rounds
 - There is no 72-hole scoring record for the event, meaning it will be set by the 2023 champion
- Ireland's **Leona Maguire** became a Rolex First-Time Winner at the 2022 LPGA Drive On Championship at Crown Colony
 - Maguire won by three strokes (-18) over major champion **Lexi Thompson** (-15)
 - Maguire set both the 36-hole (131, -13) and 54-hole (198, -18) tournament scoring records in 2022
 - In addition to her victory, Maguire finished in the top 10 seven more times last season, including a solo-second finish at the season finale CME Group Tour championship
 - She finished T4 at the AIG Women's Open which was her best finish in a major
- **Xiyu Lin** and **Aditi Ashok** both set the LPGA Drive On Championship 18-hole scoring record in 2022 with third-round 63s (-9)
- **Celine Herbin** and **Yaeeun Hong** qualified for the 2023 LPGA Drive On Championship via the Monday qualifier
 - Herbin shot a 7-under 65 on the Prospector Course to qualify
 - Hong shot a 5-under 67, then defeated **Mi Hyang Lee** in a three-hole playoff to qualify
- There are three past Drive On champions in the field this week: Maguire and Americans **Ally Ewing** and **Danielle Kang**
 - Kang won the inaugural LPGA Drive On Championship in August 2020 at Inverness Club in Toledo, Ohio by one stroke over **Celine Boutier**
 - Ewing won the second playing of the event in October 2020 at Reynolds Lake Oconee in Greensboro, Georgia by one stroke over defending champion Kang
- This is the fourth event of the 2023 LPGA Tour season
 - All three 2023 LPGA Tour champions are in the LPGA Drive On Championship field: **Brooke Henderson**, **Jin Young Ko** and Rolex First Time Winner **Lilia Vu**
 - There are two players in the field who have recorded at least 88% of their rounds below 70 to start the 2023 LPGA Tour season. **Nelly Korda** (11 of 12, 92%) and **Charley Hull** (7 of 8, 88%) have combined for 18 of 20 rounds in the 60s
 - Korda has a season-long scoring average of 68.50 with three top-10 finishes and Hull has a season-long scoring average of 69.13 with one top-10 finish

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

TOURNAMENT INFORMATION

Course: Prospector Course

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

AON Risk Reward Challenge Hole: No. 18, par 5

Purse: \$1,750,000 million; winner's portion is \$262,500

Whiteline Par and Yardage: 36-36 –72, 6,690 yards (subject to change through the start of the tournament)

SOCIAL MEDIA: #DRIVEON

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

TV TIMES

(all times EST on Golf Channel)

Thursday, March 23 – 9:00-11:00 p.m. (Tape Delayed)

Friday, March 24 – 9:00-11:00 p.m. (Tape Delayed)

Saturday, March 25 – 7:00-9:00 p.m.

Sunday, March 26 – 7:00-9:00 p.m.

STREAMING TIMES

(all times EST on golfchannel.com.

NBCSports.com, and the NBC Sports App)

Thursday, March 23 – 6:00-9:00 p.m.

Friday, March 24 – 6:00-9:00 p.m.

Saturday, March 25 – 6:00-7:00 p.m.

Sunday, March 26 – 6:00-7:00 p.m.

- Nearly half (eight of 17) of the events played since the 2022 Trust Golf Women’s Scottish Open in July have been won by a Rolex First-Time Winner on the LPGA Tour
 - The average age of winners since the 2022 Women’s Scottish Open is 26.4 years old with the last seven players winning between the ages of 24 to 29 years old
- There are six players in the top 10 of the Rolex Women’s World Golf Rankings playing this week
 - This is No. 2 Korda’s fourth event of the 2023 season
 - She has recorded a top-10 finish in every event so far with a season-best second-place result at the HSBC Women’s World Championship
 - Ko, currently No. 3 in the rankings, is playing in her third event of the year
 - She successfully defended her title at the 2023 HSBC Women’s World Championship last month after recording a T6 finish at the Honda LPGA Thailand the week before
 - Ko has won in seven consecutive seasons on Tour, including the 2023 season
 - World No. 4 **Atthaya Thitikul** is playing in her third event this season
 - She has two top-10 finishes in 2023; a third-place finish at the Honda LPGA Thailand and a tenth-place result at the HSBC Women’s World Championship
 - No. 6 **Lexi Thompson** will be making her first start of the 2023 LPGA Tour season
 - This is No. 7 **Brooke Henderson’s** fourth start of the 2023 season
 - Henderson won the season-opening Hilton Grand Vacations Tournament of Champions in what was her third wire-to-wire victory on Tour
 - **In Gee Chun**, No. 8, will record her third start of the season
 - She recorded T24 and T27 results at the HSBC Women’s World Championship and Honda LPGA Thailand respectively

2023 Season-Long Statistics

Statistical Leaders

Official Money: Jin Young Ko, \$317,079

Scoring Average: Natthakritta Vongtaveelap, 66.75

Birdies: Nelly Korda, 57

Eagles: Nelly Korda, Maria Fassi, Jennifer Kupcho, Yuka Saso and Hinako Shibuno, 3

Holes in One: 0

Greens in Regulation: Hyo Joo Kim and Jin Young Ko, 86.1%

Average Driving Distance: Emily Kristine Pedersen, 285 yards

Strokes Gained Total – Per Round: Atthaya Thitikul, 2.780

Award Leaders

Rolex Player of the Year		
1	Jin Young Ko	35 points
T2	Brooke Henderson	30 points
T2	Lilia Vu	30 points

#AonRiskReward Challenge		
1	Frida Kinhult	-1.500
2	Moriya Jutanugarn	-1.167
T3	17 players	-1.000

Race to the CME Globe		
T1	Nelly Korda	597.5 points
T1	Jin Young Ko	597.5 points
3	Lilia Vu	552 points

Aon Risk Reward Challenge Hole: No. 18, par 5

The par-5, 18th hole at Superstition Mountain Golf and Country Club presents a good opportunity for birdie. Finding the fairway with a drive from the front tee provides players with a clear green light on the decision to go for the green in two. Those who hit an accurate tee shot with the forward tees in play are expected to go for the green 92% of the time. From the back tees, players are expected to go for the green 47% of the time. That number jumps to 84% with the front tee in play – with the expected scoring average dipping to 4.39.

Race to CME Globe Update:

The 2023 Race to the CME Globe continues at the LPGA Drive On Championship. Eight-time LPGA champion Nelly Korda has earned three top-10 finishes in three starts, including a solo-second finish at the HSBC Women’s World Championship, to tie the lead in the race with 597.5 points. She shares the position with HSBC champion, **Jin Young Ko**, who successfully defended her title in Singapore to make 2023 her seventh consecutive season with a win on the LPGA Tour. Rolex First Time Winner **Lilia Vu** (552 points) holds the third-place position thanks to her win at the Honda LPGA Thailand. **Brooke Henderson** (517.8), who won the first event of the season at the Hilton Grand Vacations Tournament of Champions, sits in fourth with six-time LET winner **Maja Stark** (443.250) just behind, rounding out the top five.

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.

Wins by Country (three tournaments, three countries)

1 – Canada (Brooke Henderson)

1 – Republic of Korea (Jin Young Ko)

1 – United States (Lilia Vu)

Wins by Player (three tournaments, three players)

1 – Brooke Henderson (Hilton Grand Vacations Tournament of Champions)

1 – Jin Young Ko (HSBC Women's World Championship)

1 – Lilia Vu (Honda LPGA Thailand)

Average Age of Winners: 25.66

Youngest Winner: Brooke Henderson and Lilia Vu (25 years, 4 months, 12 days)

Oldest Winner: Jin Young Ko (27 years, 7 months, 26 days)

Team USA Solheim Cup Standings:

1 – Nelly Korda, 316 points

2 – Lexi Thompson, 258 points

3 – Lilia Vu, 250 points

4 – Danielle Kang, 240.5 points

5 – Jennifer Kupcho, 196 points

6 – Andrea Lee, 181 points

7 – Megan Khang, 154 points

8 – Jessica Korda, 148 points

9 – Ryann O'Toole, 129.5 points

10 – Allisen Corpuz, 123.5 points

[Team USA Solheim Cup standings](#)