



Mizuho Americas Open
Liberty National Golf Club | Jersey City, NJ | June 1-4, 2023

Second-Round Notes

June 2, 2023

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Course Setup: 36-36 –72; 6,537 yards

AJGA Setup: 36-36 – 72; 6,327 yards

Scoring Average: R1: 73.325; R2: 73.606

Weather: Clear to partly cloudy skies and dry conditions turned into a few showers and isolated thunderstorms in the afternoon. Higher rain and storm chances will arrive late this evening/overnight as a cold front moves through the region. Northerly to easterly to southeasterly winds as the sea breeze moves inland.

Race to CME Globe Points: 500 (winner)

Purse: \$2.75 million (winner's portion is \$412,500)

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

Quick Links:

- [Leaderboard](#)
- [AJGA Leaderboard](#)
- [Transcripts](#)
- [Online Media Center](#)
- [Statistical Database](#)
- [KPMG Performance Insights](#)
- [Stats Box](#)
- [Photo & Video Assets](#)
- [Tournament Website](#)

LEADERBOARD			
	Player	To par	Score
T1	Minjee Lee	-7	73, 64 = 137
T1	Cheyenne Knight	-7	69, 68 = 137
3	Lydia Ko	-6	69, 69 = 138
T4	Jin Young Ko	-5	73, 66 = 139
T4	Rose Zhang	-5	70, 69 =139
T4	Brooke M. Henderson	-5	69, 70 = 139
T4	Atthaya Thitikul	-5	68, 71 = 139
T4	Aditi Ashok	-5	67, 72 = 139

MINJEE LEE TAKES SHARE OF LEAD WITH ELECTRIFYING EIGHT UNDER ROUND

Though she finished her round well before a lighting delay suspended second-round play, **Minjee Lee** brought her own electricity to Liberty National Golf Club with a record-setting round of 64. The two-time major champion sank eight birdies in a bogey-free second round, including a string of birdies on holes 1, 2 and 3 and total of six in her first nine to go out in 30. She added two more on 10 and 12 before a string of steady pars brought her back in 34. After shooting a 1-over 73 on Thursday, her flatstick caught fire as she needed just 24 putts to take the 36-hole lead along with **Cheyenne Knight**.

"I holed some really great putts today. A couple -- a few long ones and a few mid-range. I don't think I had like any tap-in, so they were all really great putts," Lee said. "I feel like I've been probably not striking it as good, but I've been putting a little bit better and I holed a lot of great putts today. So I think a lot of confidence going into tomorrow."

Through rounds one and two, Knight shot a consistent 69 and 68 respectively, highlighted by 13 birdies overall, the most in the field. She started her second round with two birdies on 11 and 13 before evening things out with bogeys on 14 and 16. Then, back-to-back-to-back birdies on 1, 2 and 3 gave her the momentum she needed to finish the day bogey free, adding one more birdie on 9 to close out the round. Like Lee, her putting has been phenomenal this week. She needed just 24 putts on Thursday and 28 on Friday for a two-day total of 52, tied for second least in the field. Funnily enough, she credited her ball striking for her success this week, and her steady stream of good play this season.

"I think my ball striking has really come a long way. I've been hitting a lot of fairways and greens, and hence I have more birdie opportunities," said Knight. "Yeah, I think that's kind of been the key for me, is just not making a lot of the mistakes tee to green. When I do, I can usually save par, get up and down, so I think just overall managing my game well."

In solo third sits 19-time LPGA Tour winner **Lydia Ko**, whose twin 69s in the first and second rounds put her in a comfortable one-stroke deficit at -6 overall. She is followed closely by five players at -5, including recent Cognizant Founders Cup champion **Jin Young Ko**, former amateur sensation **Rose Zhang** and Indian golfer **Aditi Ashok**, who all sat through a nearly two-hour (1 hour and 47 minutes) delay of play due to dangerous weather conditions in the area.

Despite the delay, all LPGA Tour professionals finished their second-rounds with only the AJGA juniors left on the course. For the juniors, play was suspended due to darkness at 8:31 p.m. and will resume at 8:15 a.m. Saturday morning. The leading AJGA Junior is Yana Wilson, who also held the title after the first round. With one hole left to play on Saturday, the 16-year-old has 77 points total in the Stableford Scoring format, three more than juniors **Michelle Liu**, **Gianna Clemente** and **Sarah Im**, with Im being the only one with a hole left to play.

Sixty-two LPGA players made the cut at +2. New Jersey native **Marina Alex** was +8 after round one and shot an 8-under 64 on Friday to play her way into the cutline and set the tournament 18-hole scoring record along with Lee. A notable player to miss the cut is last week's Bank of Hope LPGA Match-Play champion **Pajaree Anannarukarn**, Englishwoman **Georgia Hall** and Liberty National GC member and sponsor invite **Megha Ganne**.

A LOOK AT THE LEADERS

CATEGORY	Minjee Lee
2023 Race to CME Globe Points List	27
2023 LPGA Tour Wins	0
2023 LPGA Tour Top 10s	1
2023 Season Earnings	\$329,301
Career LPGA Tour Wins	8
Career LPGA Tour Top 10s	66

Career LET Tour Wins	2
Career Money	\$12,542,469

CATEGORY	Cheyenne Knight
2023 Race to CME Globe Points List	22
2023 LPGA Tour Wins	0
2023 LPGA Tour Top 10s	3
2023 Season Earnings	\$308,359
Career LPGA Tour Wins	1
Career LPGA Tour Top 10s	10
Career Epson Tour Wins	0
Career Money	\$1,872,672

ABOUT THE LEADERS

Rolex Rankings No. 5 Minjee Lee

- Lee shot a bogey-free eight-under 64 on Friday, tying for the lowest round in Mizuho Americas Open history
 - With 10 of 14 fairways hit and 14 of 18 greens in regulation, she shot an impressive 30 on her front nine
 - Her score can be credited to the low number of her putts, with only 24 throughout the round
 - Her putting ranked T3 among the field during the second round
 - Her 64 ties for her second lowest score in a second round, tying with her second rounds at the 2022 Honda LPGA Thailand and the 2018 Toto Japan Classic
 - This is the tenth time in her career that she is a leader or co-leader after the second round
 - Of the times she has led or co-lead after the second round, she has won five times
- The Mizuho Americas Open is her seventh event of the 2023 LPGA Tour season
 - Previously, she played at the Cognizant Founders Cup where she lost in a playoff to **Jin Young Ko** on the first playoff hole
 - Her finish at the Cognizant Founders Cup has been her best result of the 2023 season thus far
 - Before the Cognizant Founders Cup, she had not placed within the top-40 at an event
 - This season she also represented Team Australia at the Hanwha LIFEPLUS International Crown, leading them to a runner-up finish behind Thailand
- The eight-time LPGA Tour winner has claimed two majors including the 2022 U.S. Women's Open presented by ProMedica and the 2021 Amundi Evian Championship
- This is her ninth season on the LPGA Tour
- She is currently ranked No. 27 in the Race to the CME Globe

Rolex Rankings No. 42 Cheyenne Knight

- Knight carded a 32 and 36 to shoot a four-under 68 on the second day of play
 - The American made six birdies on the day with just two bogeys
 - She hit 10 of 14 fairways, and 14 of 18 greens in regulation

- This is the ninth tournament of Knight's 2023 LPGA Tour season
 - Last week, she competed in the Bank of Hope LPGA Match-Play presented by MGM Rewards
 - Her best finish of the season so far came at the JM Eagle LA Championship presented by Plastpro, where she finished in a tie for sixth place
 - Of the eight tournament she has started in, she has made every cut and only been outside of the top-20 twice
- This is her fifth year on the LPGA Tour with her rookie year being in 2019 after finishing T27 at the inaugural LPGA Q-Series, where she earned Priority List Category 14 status headed into the 2019 season
 - In 2019, she won her first and only victory so far at the Volunteers of America Classic and she became the first player from the University of Alabama to win on Tour
 - The 2019 Volunteers of America Classic was also the last time she was the leader/co-leader after the second round

THINGS TO KNOW

- Play was suspended due to darkness at 8:31 p.m., with only AJGA juniors remaining on the course
 - All LPGA players completed the second round
 - The AJGA players will resume play at 8:15 a.m. on Saturday
 - The cut was made on Friday, with all 24 AJGA players to be added to the pairings once round two is concluded
- Second round play was suspended at 6 p.m. EDT due to dangerous weather conditions and resumed at 7:47 p.m. (1 hour and 47 minutes)
- Sixty-two players made the cut at +2 on Friday
 - Notable player to miss the cut are last week's Bank of Hope LPGA Match-Play champion **Pajaree Anannarukarn**, Englishwoman **Georgia Hall** and Liberty National GC member and sponsor invite **Megha Ganne**
- Recent Cognizant Founders Cup champion **Jin Young Ko** shot a six-under to place herself in a tie for fourth place
- New Jersey native **Marina Alex** tied the low score of the day with a 64, shooting her way up the leaderboard from T115 to T32
 - Alex now holds the 18-hole tournament scoring record along with Minjee Lee
- **Rose Zhang** makes the cut and is within the top-5 in her first LPGA Tour event as a professional
 - She shot rounds of 70 and 69 and is tied for fourth with four others
- Rolex AJGA Rankings No. 6 **Yana Wilson** is the low-scoring AJGA junior with one hole remaining for her second round
 - Wilson is at 36 points for her second round, in front of **Michelle Liu**, **Gianna Clemente** and **Sara Im** by five points
 - Im has one hole remaining in her second round, sitting at 36 points in her second round
 - She shot a bogey-free 67 on Thursday, highlighted by five birdies, to earn 41 points
 - AJGA players are using [Stableford Scoring](#) all four rounds
 - Wilson is 16-years-old
 - She has verbally committed to play golf at the University of Oregon
 - In 2022, she won the 73rd U.S. Girls Junior
 - Most recently, she finished third at the 2023 PING Heather Farr Classic
- Over the past two rounds, the par-4 No. 9 has ranked as the hardest hole with a 4.38 average

- World No. 3 **Lydia Ko** has a chance to return to No. 1 with a win only, and in the following scenarios:
 - Must win and have Jin Young Ko finish solo fifth or worse
 - Must win and have Jin Young Ko finish in a two-way tie for fourth
 - Must win and have Jin Young Ko finish in a five-way tie for third
 - Must win and have Jin Young Ko finish in an eight-way tie for second
- This is the inaugural playing of the Mizuho Americas Open
- Liberty National Golf Club is hosting the LPGA Tour for the first time
 - The course has hosted several professional events on the PGA Tour, including the 2019 and 2021 FedEx Cup Playoffs, and the 2017 President's Cup
- The Mizuho Americas Open is being played in a never-before-seen format on the LPGA Tour, with AJGA amateurs playing alongside LPGA Tour professionals
 - 120 LPGA Pros and 24 AJGA Juniors are playing two separate tournaments with AJGA using [Stableford Scoring](#) all four rounds and playing from different yardages
 - During Rounds 1 & 2, AJGA juniors will all be paired together
 - After 36 holes, LPGA will cut to low 50 and ties; there is no cut for the AJGA Juniors
 - During Rounds 3 & 4, one AJGA junior will play with two LPGA Tour pros with groupings made based on scores (ie. the AJGA player with the lowest score will play with the lowest scoring LPGA pros)
- **Lilia Vu** withdrew before the first round, giving no reason
- **A Lim Kim** withdrew from the field after the first round, citing illness
- **Min Lee & Julieta Granada** withdrew during round two, citing injury

QUOTABLE

Gianna Clemente on what is like to have a young audience looking up to her- "I absolutely love it. I was fortunate enough to play in three LPGA events last year and there were kids all over the place, and I loved every second of it. I loved signing the autographs. I love the media and all the press. So, yeah, it's really fun signing autographs. Hope I can keep doing it."

Brooke Henderson on playing with AJGA juniors during the weekend- "You know, I loved playing on the AJGA circuit. I always wanted to win one of those bags with the AJGA champion on it, so I was really pumped up when I was finally able to win one of those. So I think it's just such a unique and amazing opportunity for us and also for the girls to be paired together on a weekend in an LPGA Tour event. So I think it's just going to be a lot of fun and we'll see what happens."

Marina Alex on her shift from shooting 80 on Thursday to 64 on Friday- "Well, I played as horribly as I could play it yesterday, so I think I learned every place not to be and just -- it's a tricky course, and honestly, I just think that I -- it required on my end probably a little bit more prep going into yesterday. I made some dumb decisions off tees that cost me like a bunch of shots. I learned from that today and then I just kind of got off to a really good, solid start, and luckily the momentum just kept going in my favor."

NOTABLE

[Minjee Lee Muscles Way to 8-Under 64 on Friday at Mizuho Americas Open](#)
[New Jersey Native Marina Alex Fights Her Way Inside Cut Line With 64](#)
[Brooke Henderson Headed in Right Direction With 36 Holes to Play in Jersey City](#)
[Second Round Highlights | 2023 Mizuho Americas Open](#)

[Current LPGA Players Talk About the Growth of Girls Golf Since They Played The Larry O'Brien Trophy Stopped by the Mizuho Americas Open](#)
[Michelle Wie West Poses with the Mizuho Americas Open Trophy](#)
[Atthaya Thitikul Around the Top After Day One at Liberty National Golf Club](#)

Tournament Scoring Records*:

18 holes: 64, Marina Alex & Minjee Lee (second round, 2023)

36 holes: 137, Minjee Lee & Cheyenne Knight (2023)

**inaugural event*