



Walmart NW Arkansas Championship presented by P&G
Pinnacle Country Club | Rogers, Arkansas | September 29-October 1, 2023

Thursday Pre-Tournament Notes
September 28, 2023

NOTABLES IN THE FIELD

Atthaya Thitikul (Rolex Rankings No. 11)

- Thitikul is returning to the Walmart NW Arkansas Championship to defend her title
 - Last year, she tied the 18-hole tournament scoring record (61, R2) that **So Yeon Ryu** set in 2017
 - According to KPMG Performance Insights, Thitikul shot a second round 61 here last year in her win, the lowest round shot on the LPGA Tour all season. Only two other winners in 2022 shot scores of 62 or lower at any point during the week

Lowest Rounds by Tournament Winner Last Season on LPGA Tour			
	Round	Score	Tournament
Atthaya Thitikul	2	61	Walmart NW Arkansas
Paula Reto	1	62	CP Women's Open
Ayaka Furue	4	62	Trust Scottish Open

- Her win at Pinnacle Country Club was the second of her LPGA Tour career
 - She also won the JTBC Classic presented by Barbasol in 2022
- Of her 15 official starts this season, she's made 12 cuts with nine top-10 finishes
 - She also represented Thailand at the 2023 Hanwha LIFEPLUS International Crown and won
- In her first two years on the LPGA Tour, she has won twice with an additional 23 career top-10 finishes
- She also sits at the top of the leaderboard of the Aon Risk Reward Challenge
 - The Aon Risk Reward Challenge is a unique, season-long competition across the PGA TOUR and LPGA that highlights the game's best players as they navigate some of the most strategically challenging holes on tour
 - The winner from both the PGA TOUR and the LPGA will take home the Aon trophy and an equal \$1 million prize

Lydia Ko (Rolex Rankings No. 10)

- Ko is making her 11th start at the Walmart NW Arkansas Championship
 - She won this event in 2016 and has five additional top-10 finishes
 - Last year, she finished T5
- This is her 16th start of the season
 - She has made four cuts with one top-10 finish
 - Her lone top-10 finish came at the Honda LPGA Thailand event earlier this season
- This is her 10th season on Tour
 - She has 19 career victories with an additional 83 top-10 finishes
- With KPMG Performance Insights, Lydia Ko was the best putter on the LPGA Tour last season, leading the circuit in strokes gained per round on the greens. She's outside the top-90 in that metric this season

Lydia Ko – Strokes Gained Putting – Last 2 Seasons		
	Per Round	LPGA Rank
Last season	+1.42	1st
This season	-0.24	96th

Hyo Joo Kim (Rolex Rankings No. 6)

- This will be Kim's fifth start at Pinnacle Country Club

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SOCIAL MEDIA: #DRIVEON

Tournament - @NWACHampionship (X), @NWACHampionship (Instagram)

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

TV TIMES

(all times ET)

Friday, September 29

Round 1

2:00-5:00 p.m. – Golf Channel

Saturday, September 30

Round 2

2:00-5:00 p.m. – Golf Channel

Sunday, October 1

Round 3

4:00-7:00 p.m. – Golf Channel

Live Coverage can also be found on Digital:

NBC – NBC Sports
App/NBCSports.com/golfchannel.com

- She had a T2 finish in her last start at the event, and missed the cut once in 2017
- This is her 16th start of the 2023 season
 - She has not missed a cut this year and has eight top-10 finishes
 - She has finished as a runner-up twice this year at the ShopRite LPGA Classic presented by Acer and the FREED GROUP Women's Scottish Open presented by Trust Golf
 - According to KPMG Performance Insights, Hyo Joo Kim continues to lead the LPGA Tour this season in strokes gained total per round:

Most SG: Total Per Round LPGA Tour This Season	
Hyo Joo Kim	2.24
Ruoning Yin	2.10
Jin Young Ko	2.08
Xiyu Lin	1.88

**Among qualified players*

- This is Kim's ninth season on Tour
 - She is a five-time winner, with one major championship victory, and an additional 47 top-10 finishes
 - Her last win came at the 2022 LOTTE Championship presented by Hoakalei
 - She won the 2014 Evian Championship as a non-member

Georgia Hall (Rolex Rankings No. 18)

- This is Hall's fourth start at this event
 - She has never missed a cut in Arkansas, but has not finished inside the top-30 in her previous three starts
 - She finished T32 last year
- This is her 19th start of the 2023 LPGA Tour season
 - She has made 16 cuts with five top-10 finishes
 - Her best finish of the season came at the LPGA Drive On Championship at Superstition Mountain and the DIO Implant LA Open, both runner-up finishes
 - In her last three starts, she has finished inside the top-20
 - According to KPMG Performance Insights, Georgia Hall is one of just two players on the LPGA Tour this season gaining at least three-quarters of a stroke per round both tee-to-green and putting

0.75 or More SG Per Round Tee to Green and Putting – This Season		
	Tee to Green	Putting
Atthaya Thitikul	0.77	0.87
Georgia Hall	0.76	0.77

- Hall is coming off her fourth appearance at the Solheim Cup representing Team Europe
 - She went 1-2-1 in the four sessions she appeared in and is 9-7-1 overall
 - Her one win was a 1-up victory over **Lexi Thompson** and **Lilia Vu** in fourball with partner **Leona Maguire**
 - Team Europe retained the cup for the third-straight playing of this event
- This is her sixth season on the LPGA Tour
 - She has won twice with an additional 18 top-10 finishes
 - Her last win came at the 2020 Portland Classic

Danielle Kang (Rolex Rankings No. 35)

- Kang is making her 12th start at the Walmart NW Arkansas Championship
 - She has missed the cut three times and has three top-10 finishes
 - She has finished as runner-up twice
 - Danielle Kang lost to Atthaya Thitikul in a playoff here last year. According to KPMG Performance Insights, she relied heavily on her approach play, gaining more than ten strokes – a season high

Danielle Kang Most SG: Approach in Event – 2022 Season		
	Total	Tournament Finish
Walmart NW Arkansas	10.10	2nd
Tournament of Champions	8.76	Won
Honda LPGA Thailand	8.45	T8
CP Women's Open	8.03	T17

- This is her 16th start of the 2023 season
 - She has made 13 cuts with three top-10 finishes
 - Her best finish of the year was a T3 finish at the HSBC Women's World Championship
- Last week, Kang made her fourth appearance at the Solheim Cup

- She went 2-2 in her four sessions and is 7-9 overall
- This is Kang's 12th season on Tour
 - She has won six times, with one major championship, with an additional 51 top-10 finishes
 - Her last win came at the 2022 Hilton Grand Vacations Tournament of Champions

ON LPGA.COM

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[#LPGALookBack with Danielle Kang from last year's Walmart NW Arkansas Championship](#)

[KPMG Insights of Strokes Gained Leaderboard](#)

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