



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

Wednesday Pre-Tournament Notes
September 27, 2023

MEDIA AVAILABILITY SCHEDULE

(All times are CT and subject to change)

Thursday, September 28

10:00 a.m. – Brooke Matthews (i)
11:30 a.m. – Stacy Lewis
12:00 p.m. – Maria Fassi
2:30 p.m. – Georgia Hall

THINGS TO KNOW ABOUT THE WALMART NW ARKANSAS CHAMPIONSHIP

- This is the 17th playing of the Walmart NW Arkansas Championship presented by P&G
 - Since the tournament's inception in 2007, it has been held at Pinnacle Country Club
- The inaugural tournament, won by then-amateur and Razorback senior **Stacy Lewis**, is not official as it was reduced to 18 holes due to rain delays
- Four past champions that are in the field this week include **Atthaya Thitikul** (2022), **So Yeon Ryu** (2017), **Lydia Ko** (2016) and **Lewis** (2007, 2014)
 - Thitikul enters the week having placed in the top-10 a total of nine times in the 15 official events she has played in the 2023 LPGA Tour season
 - She also helped to represent Thailand in the Hanwha LIFEPLUS International Crown
 - Last year during her second round, she tied the 18-hole scoring record of 61 previously set by **So Yeon Ryu** in 2017
 - Ryu also set the 36-hole record in 2017 (126)
 - Lewis just finished her first Solheim Cup as the 2023 United States team captain
- There are six players in the field that competed in the 2023 Solheim Cup last week
 - **Emily Kristine Pedersen**, **Leona Maguire** and **Georgia Hall** all represented Team Europe and helped the team retain the cup
 - On day two, Pedersen hit the second ever hole-in-one recorded at the Solheim Cup
 - Team Europe has won or retained the Solheim Cup three straight events for the first time in team history
 - **Danielle Kang**, **Cheyenne Knight** and **Lexi Thompson** all represented the United States
 - Knight went undefeated (2-0-1) in her first ever appearance at the Solheim Cup
- There are five University of Arkansas Razorbacks in the 2023 field
 - Four graduates in Lewis, **Maria Fassi**, **Gaby Lopez** and **Brooke Matthews**, and one current student, senior **Miriam Ayora Gomez (a)**
- There are four sponsor invites in the field this week
 - **Brooke Matthews** has made 15 starts on Tour, making four cuts
 - In 2022, she recorded a season-best finish at the Dow Great Lakes Bay Invitational, a tie for 10th, her rookie year
 - At Arkansas, she earned 2021 First Team All-SEC honors and was named to the SEC All-Freshman Team in 2019; she was also a member of the 2021 Curtis Cup and Arnold Palmer Cup teams
 - **Brittany Lang** is a two-time LPGA Tour winner and has an additional 55 top-10 finishes throughout her career
 - Her two wins came at the 2012 Manulife Financial LPGA Classic and the 2016 U.S. Women's Open
 - **Miriam Ayora Gomez** is a current senior at Arkansas
 - The Spaniard is currently ranked 13th in scoring average (74.35) all-time at the University of Arkansas and was named SEC Golfer of the Week once last season
 - **Lilly Thomas** is a graduate student at the University of Tulsa and a native of Bentonville, Ark.

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QUICK LINKS

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

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 is a three-time All-Conference selection and has competed in 37 collegiate events with nine top-10 finishes
- Two players will play this week after qualifying on Monday
 - **Gurleen Kaur** has appeared in four LPGA Tour events since 2021
 - On Monday, she shot a 68 to place first in the Monday qualifier
 - The Baylor University graduate had her best finish (T62) at another three-day event, the 2023 ShopRite LPGA Classic
 - **Hannah Levi-Armour** competed as a senior at Mississippi State University this past spring
 - Levi-Armour defeated **Ji Eun Baik** and **Megan Osland** in a playoff after all three players shot a two-under par on Monday
 - She was named a WCGA Academic All-American in 2019

2023 SEASON-LONG STATISTICS

Statistical Leaders

Official Money: Allisen Corpuz, \$2,952,832

Scoring Average: Hyo Joo Kim, 69.831

Birdies: Nasa Hataoka, 269

Eagles: Jennifer Kupcho, 12

Holes in One: In Gee Chun, 2

Greens in Regulation: Minjee Lee, 74.2%

Average Driving Distance: Polly Mack, 279.570

Award Leaders

Rolex Player of the Year		
1	Lilia Vu	154 points
T2	Celine Boutier	133 points
T2	Ruoning Yin	133 points

Louise Suggs Rolex Rookie of the Year		
1	Hae Ran Ryu	625 points
2	Grace Kim	512 points
3	Rose Zhang	358 points

#AonRiskReward Challenge		
1	Atthaya Thitikul	-0.929
2	Angel Yin	-0.923
3	Hye-Jin Choi	-0.853

Race to the CME Globe		
1	Celine Boutier	2,412.650 points
2	Ruoning Yin	2,389.870 points
3	Lilia Vu	2,154.718 points

[Race to CME Globe Update:](#)

The 2023 Race to the CME Globe is quickly coming to a close, with only seven official events remaining during which players can earn points and fight for their spot in the season ending CME Group Tour Championship. The Race continues this week at the Walmart NW Arkansas Championship, with 500 points on the line for the winner. Three major champions sit atop the leaderboard in the Race, with three-time 2023 Tour winner champion **Celine Boutier** (2,412.650 points) in front, followed by two-time 2023 winner **Ruoning Yin** (2,389.870 points) and two-time major champion and three-time season winner **Lilia Vu** (2,154.718 points). None of these players are in the field this week at the Walmart NW Arkansas Championship as well as **Jin Young Ko** (4th place), giving current 5th place **Hyo Joo Kim** a good chance to earn points and move up the leaderboard.

All players on the fringe of the top-60 from 58th to 65th in the Race are in the field except for 2023 Solheim Cup participant **Gemma Dryburgh** (62nd). Other notable players in the field this week that are outside of the top-60 include last year's Race to the CME Globe Champion **Lydia Ko** (93rd) and 11-time LPGA Tour winner **Lexi Thompson** (138th), who moved up 24 places in the rankings since last week.

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, the CME Group Tour Championship. The player who wins the CME Group Tour Championship is named the "Race to the CME Globe Champion." The top 60 points earners and ties earn a spot into the season finale with the entire field competing for a \$7 million purse highlighted by a \$2 million winner's check, which ties the largest single prize in the history of women's golf.

[AON Risk Reward Challenge:](#) No. 14, par 5

The 14th at Pinnacle CC is a par five, dogleg left that can play dramatically different depending on how the hole is set up. In 2022, the tee was back in the first two rounds, leading to just 1% of the field going for the green with their second shot. That number leapt to 56% on Sunday with the tee box moved up more than 70 yards. Regardless of where the tee is, don't miss this fairway: it's the most costly miss among the par 5s on the course.

Last season's Louise Suggs Rolex Rookie of the Year **Atthaya Thitikul** maintained her position at the top of the Aon Risk Reward Challenge leaderboard headed into this week's Walmart NW Arkansas Championship where she looks to defend her title. The Thai superstar's average score under par on Aon Risk Reward Challenge holes is -0.929 this season, just ahead of 2023 Chevron Championship runner-up **Angel Yin** with a -0.923 score under par. In third is Tour sophomore **Hye-Jin Choi**, followed by People's Republic of China golfer **Xiyu Lin** and Japanese player **Yuka Saso**.

[CME Group Cares Challenge – Score 1 for St. Jude Update:](#)

The CME Group Cares Challenge is a season-long charitable giving program that turns aces into donations. CME Group donates \$20,000 for each hole-in-one made on the LPGA Tour in 2023, with a minimum guaranteed donation of \$500,000 to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, which is leading the way in how the world understands, treats and defeats childhood cancer and life-threatening diseases. There have been 16 holes-in-one this season, bringing the 2023 donation total to \$320,000 thus far. There was one hole-in-one recorded at last week's Solheim Cup.

2023 Wins by Country (23 tournaments, 10 countries)

9 – United States (Allisen Corpuz, Megan Khang, Cheyenne Knight, Alexa Pano, Elizabeth Szokol, Lilia Vu (3), Rose Zhang)
3 – France (Celine Boutier (3))
3 – Australia (Hannah Green, Grace Kim, Minjee Lee)
2 – People's Republic of China (Ruoning Yin (2))
2 – Republic of Korea (Jin Young Ko (2))
2 – Thailand (Pajaree Anannarukarn, Chanettee Wannasaen)
1 – Canada (Brooke Henderson)
1 – Ireland (Leona Maguire)
1 – South Africa (Ashleigh Buhai)
1 – Sweden (Linn Grant)

2023 Wins by Player (23 tournaments, 18 players)

3 – Celine Boutier (LPGA Drive On Championship, Amundi Evian Championship)
3 – Lilia Vu (Honda LPGA Thailand, The Chevron Championship, AIG Women's Open)
2 – Jin Young Ko (HSBC Women's World Championship, Cognizant Founders Cup)
2 – Ruoning Yin (DIO Implant LA Open, KPMG Women's PGA Championship)
1 – Pajaree Anannarukarn (LPGA Bank of Hope LPGA Match-Play presented by MGM Rewards)
1 – Ashleigh Buhai (ShopRite LPGA Classic presented by Acer)
1 – Allisen Corpuz (U.S. Women's Open)
1 – Linn Grant (Dana Open)
1 – Hannah Green (JM Eagle LA Championship presented by Plastpro)
1 – Brooke Henderson (Hilton Grand Vacations Tournament of Champions)
1 – Megan Khang (CPKC Women's Open)
1 – Cheyenne Knight (Dow Great Lakes Bay Invitational)
1 – Grace Kim (LOTTE Championship presented by Hoakalei)
1 – Minjee Lee (Kroger Queen City Championship)
1 – Leona Maguire (Meijer LPGA Classic for Simply Give)
1 – Alexa Pano (ISPS Handa World Invitational)
1 – Elizabeth Szokol (Dow Great Lakes Bay Invitational)
1 – Chanettee Wannasaen (Portland Classic)
1 – Rose Zhang (Mizuho Americas Open)

Average Age of 2023 Winners: 25.120

Youngest Winner: Alexa Pano (19 years)

Oldest Winner: Ashleigh Buhai (34 years, 1 month)