



Blue Bay LPGA

Jian Lake Blue Bay Golf Course | People's Republic of China | March 7-10, 2024

Final-Round Notes

March 10, 2024

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Course Setup: 36-36 – 72; 6,472 yards

Scoring Average: R1: 72.299; R2: 73.238; R3: 71.271; R4: 71.045

Weather: Partly cloudy with east to southeast winds blowing 8-18 mph and temperatures reaching into the low 80s F

Race to CME Globe Points: 500 (winner)

Purse: \$2.2 million (winner's portion is \$330,000)

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LEADERBOARD

	Player	To par	Score
1	Bailey Tardy	-19	68-70-66-65 – 269
2	Sarah Schmelzel	-15	66-69-69-69 – 273
3	Ayaka Furue	-14	69-70-70-65 – 274
T4	Savannah Grewal	-13	69-74-64-68 – 275
T4	Minjee Lee	-13	65-72-70-68 – 275
T4	Lydia Ko	-13	68-72-70-68 – 275

TARDY BECOMES ROLEX FIRST-TIME WINNER AT BLUE BAY LPGA

After four days of play at Jian Lake Blue Bay Golf Course, **Bailey Tardy** walks away victorious with a four-shot victory at the 2024 Blue Bay LPGA. Tardy earned her first LPGA Tour victory with 72-hole total of 15-under par to become a Rolex First-Time Winner, the first of the 2024 season and the first since **Angel Yin** at the 2023 Buick LPGA Shanghai.

Tied for the lead at the start of the day, Tardy stayed silent for most of the front nine, making seven straight pars and falling behind then-leader **Sarah Schmelzel**. Something clicked for Tardy on the par-5 8th hole where she made a 51-foot eagle putt to kickstart her round. From there, she birdied hole 9 to turn in a bogey-free, three-under 33 on the first nine holes. A bogey on No. 10 moved her back one shot, but she quickly got back to 15-under par with a birdie on the 11th. She made two more birdies in a row to reach 17-under par, and four shots clear of any competitor. Tardy made two more birdies on the par-4 15th and par-4 17th to reach 19-under par and break the 72-hole scoring record by a total of six shots.

"I got off to a little slow start on the front nine, and then just really stayed patient out there. I can't say that I woke up today knowing I was going to shoot 65 or knowing I needed to go that low to win," said Tardy, who became the second American to win in the 2024 season. "I just knew it was going to be a tough day. I thought that everybody was going to play really well. The leaderboard was stacked and the conditions were windy, so just really proud of myself and how I handled myself."

With her final putt, she claimed her first win in just her second season on the LPGA Tour, and first professional win since the 2021 Copper Rock Championship on the Epson Tour. The 27-year-old turned professional in 2019, foregoing her last season of eligibility at the University of Georgia. She played on the Epson Tour until 2022, when she finished second at LPGA Q-Series to gain LPGA Tour Membership for the 2023 season. The highlight of her rookie year came at the U.S. Women's Open at Pebble Beach, where she finished tied for fourth.

"Last year is a great example. I missed a bunch of cuts early in the season. It's expensive being out here. I wasn't making any money. I'm 27, so it's kind of like either you make it or you go get a job. And so there is just so many nights where you think -- especially when things are going bad, it's like you can't take a week off because that's an opportunity to make money, but then you need to work on your game," said Tardy, who became the third player to earn their first LPGA Tour victory at the Blue Bay LPGA. "So it's a very fine line of whether or not you stay on the road and you push through or take a week off and try to fix things. I struggled with that a lot last year. So, yeah, it's a life that's not for everybody. You have to really love being out here and love golf, and that's what I do."

Fellow American Schmelzel finished second and four shots behind Tardy. She started her day strong, making three birdies in her first three holes to sit at 15-under par for the tournament through the first three holes. Schmelzel would battle on the rest of the front nine, making three bogeys in her last six holes. She made two birdies on holes 14 and 18 to turn in her fourth consecutive round in the 60s for the week. Schmelzel is projected to move into the top 10 in the Race to the CME Globe as she earned her second top-10 finish in the last two weeks.

Ayaka Furue shot a final-round 65 to move six spots up the leaderboard after tying with Tardy for the lowest round of the day. After this week, Furue has earned four top-10 finishes in her first five starts of the 2024 LPGA Tour season. 2024 LPGA Tour Rookie **Savannah Grewal**, 2016 Blue Bay LPGA champion **Minjee Lee** and 20-time LPGA Tour winner **Lydia Ko** finished in a tie for fourth place at 13-under par.

Next, the LPGA Tour heads to the Fir Hills Seri Pak Championship in Palos Verdes Estates, Calif., for the sixth event of the 2024 season.

A LOOK AT THE WINNER

CATEGORY	Bailey Tardy
2024 Race to CME Globe Rank	-
2024 LPGA Tour Wins	1

2024 LPGA Tour Top 10s	1
2024 Season Earnings	\$330,000
Career LPGA Tour Wins	1
Career LPGA Tour Top 10s	2
Career Money (LPGA)	\$911,491
Career LET Wins	0
Career Epsom Tour Wins	1

ABOUT THE WINNER

Rolex Rankings No. 169 Bailey Tardy

- Tardy hit 8 of 14 fairways and 16 of 18 greens with 28 putts
 - She had an eagle on No. 8, and six additional birdies
 - She was one of six players to record an eagle in the final round and tied for first among the field for the most eagles this week
 - With her four-day total of 269, she set the new 72-hole scoring record at Blue Bay LPGA
 - **Minjee Lee** previously set the record in 2016 with her win
- She earns her first victory on the LPGA Tour and becomes a Rolex First-Time Winner
 - She would become the third winner of the Blue Bay LPGA to earn their first LPGA Tour victory here, joining **Lee-Anne Pace** (2014) and **Gaby Lopez** (2018)
- She is the first Rolex First-Time Winner of the 2024 season, and first since **Angel Yin** at the 2023 Buick LPGA Shanghai
- She becomes the sixth different winner of the Blue Bay LPGA
- She is the first American to win the Blue Bay LPGA
- She is projected to jump into the top-10 in the Race to the CME Globe
- She becomes the season's fifth different winner
- She becomes the second American winner this season, joining **Nelly Korda** (LPGA Drive On Championship)
- This was her second start of the 2024 LPGA Tour season
 - She missed the cut at the LPGA Drive On Championship
- This was her first time playing in the Blue Bay LPGA
- She is in her second season on the LPGA Tour
 - In 2023, she played in 21 events, making 12 cuts and having one top-10 finish at the U.S. Women's Open
 - She was a rookie on the LPGA Tour last year
 - She finished second at LPGA Q-Series in 2022 to earn LPGA Membership
 - She is an Epsom Tour graduate, earning one victory at the 2021 Copper Rock Championship
 - She played collegiate golf at the University of Georgia

THINGS TO KNOW

- **Sarah Schmelzel** finished in second place at 15-under par
 - In her second round, she hit 10 of 13 fairways and 11 of 18 greens with 26 putts
 - This was her best finish on the LPGA Tour, besting her previous 3rd place finish at the 2022 LPGA Drive On Championship
 - She also broke the 72-hole scoring record previously set by Minjee Lee in 2016
 - This was her fourth start of the 2024 LPGA Tour season
 - She finished T8 at the HSBC Women's World Championship last week
 - Schmelzel finished T31 at the Honda LPGA Thailand
 - Her first event of the season was the LPGA Drive On Championship where she missed the cut at one-over par
 - This was her first time playing in the Blue Bay LPGA
 - She is projected to move to No. in the Race to the CME Globe after her runner-up finish
 - Schmelzel is in her sixth season on the LPGA Tour
 - She has amassed over \$1 million in career earnings
 - In 2023, she played in 27 events, making 16 cuts and having two top-10 finishes
 - She ranked first as playing in the most events in 2023
 - Her rookie year on the LPGA was in 2019
 - She finished 3rd in the inaugural Q-Series to earn her card
 - She was collegiate golfer at the University of South Carolina
- **Ayaka Furue** finished in third place with a final-round 65
 - This was her first time playing in the Blue Bay LPGA
 - Her final round 65 ties for her third lowest score in the final round, last shot in the last round of the 2023 KPMG Women's PGA Championship
 - The Blue Bay LPGA is her fifth LPGA Tour event of 2024
 - She has now had four top-10 finishes in 2024
 - The only tournament she did not place in the top 10 was the Honda LPGA Thailand (T23)
 - She had back-to-back T4 finishes at the Hilton Grand Vacations Tournament of Champions and the LPGA Drive On Championship
 - This is her third season on the LPGA Tour
 - She has one win, at the 2022 Women's Scottish Open
 - She has eight wins on the JLPGA
 - She was the 2020-2021 JLPGA Player of the Year
 - As an amateur, she won the 2019 Fujitsu Ladies and turned pro shortly after
- Four players finished in a tie for fourth including **Minjee Lee**, **Savannah Grewal** and **Lydia Ko**
 - Lee shot a final-round 68
 - This is Lee's best finish on Tour since her win at the 2023 BMW Ladies Championship
 - This was Lee's fourth start at the Blue Bay LPGA
 - She won the event in 2016 after shooting 13-under par
 - Her 2016 win was her third LPGA Tour career victory
 - In 2017, she finished T25 and in 2015, she finished T14
 - She holds one scoring record at Blue Bay LPGA
 - Lee holds the 36-hole scoring record (132) from her win in 2016
 - The Blue Bay LPGA was her second start of the 2024 LPGA Tour season
 - Grewal also shot a final-round 68
 - She had five birdies and a bogey
 - She hit 11 of 14 fairways and 13 of 18 greens with 28 putts

- Grewal shot an eight-under 64 on Saturday, breaking the 18-hole course record
- This was just her second start on the LPGA Tour as a professional
- This is her best finish on the LPGA Tour, and she finished as the lowest scoring 2024 rookie in the field
- She is a 2024 LPGA Tour Rookie
 - She turned professional after qualifying for LPGA Q-Series last year, foregoing her last year of eligibility
 - She was a collegiate golfer at Clemson University
- She previously made three starts on the LPGA Tour as an amateur
 - She played alongside college teammate Annabelle Pancake at the 2022 and 2023 Dow Championship
 - She also played in the 2022 CPKC Women's Open
- Ko shot one-under par on Sunday
 - She hit 12 of 14 fairways and 9 of 18 greens with 26 putts
 - She had four birdies and three bogeys in her final round
 - This was 19th time in her career that she had led or co-led after the third round
 - She has now finished in the top-5 nine of those times
 - This was her fourth start of the 2024 LPGA Tour season
 - She now has three top-5 finishes including her runner-up finish at the LPGA Drive On Championship, and her win at the Hilton Grand Vacations Tournament of Champions
 - This was her third time playing in the Blue Bay LPGA
 - She finished in the top-10 in both 2015 (T8) and 2014 (T7)
 - She is projected to stay in the No. 1 position in the Race to the CME Globe
 - Ko is in her 11th season on the LPGA Tour
 - She has won 20 times including two majors
 - She has won 10 LPGA Awards across her career
 - She represented New Zealand in both the 2016 and 2020 Olympics, earning silver and bronze medals respectively
- **Ruixin Liu** finished in solo seventh place
 - She was the lowest scoring player from the People's Republic of China
 - This is her 2024 season debut on the LPGA Tour
 - She hit 12 of 14 fairways and 10 of 18 greens with 26 putts
 - She was a rookie on the LPGA Tour in 2019, earning two top-10 finishes since then
 - She is an Epson Tour graduate, claiming three wins on the Tour including the Island Resort Championship, IOA Golf Classic and Epson Tour Championship in 2018
- Defending champion **Gaby Lopez** finished in T12 with a 69 in the last round
 - She had five birdies and two bogeys
 - She hit 12 of 14 fairways, and 13 of 18 greens with 29 putts
 - Lopez became a Rolex First-Time Winner at Blue Bay LPGA in 2018

QUOTABLE

Ruixin Liu on playing in front of fans in her native country

"It's been amazing week for me. You know, the crowd is amazing, super supportive, and every putt I sink they went crazy. So I totally enjoyed it. I'm a little exhausted after coming back from three months break. You know, it gives me a lot of confidence moving forward since I'm not full status. We're going to see how reshuffle going to take me after this week."

Savannah Grewal on what her finish does for her confidence

"Yeah, I think this just honestly proved to myself that I'm good enough to be out here and good enough to come out here and not just try to survive and make the cut, but come out here and compete with the best players in the world. Definitely feel like I can take a lot of confidence and excited for the rest its season especially because this is just the beginning."

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TOURNAMENT SCORING RECORDS

18 holes – **64, Savannah Grewal (R3, 2024)**

36 holes – 132, Minjee Lee (2016)

54 holes – 200, Lee-Anne Pace (2014)

72 holes – **269, Bailey Tardy (2024)**

TOURNAMENT HISTORY

2019-2023 – Tournament was not played

2014-2018 – Played at Jian Lake Blue Bay Golf Course

