



BMW LADIES CHAMPIONSHIP

BMW Ladies Championship

Seowon Hills at Seowon Valley Country Club | Gyeonggi-do, Republic of Korea | Oct. 17-20, 2024

First-Round Notes

October 17, 2024

LPGA Tour Media Contacts: [Matt Jesus](#), +1 (402) 957-4674

Course Setup: 36-36 – 72; 6,488

Scoring Average: R1: 69.373

Weather: Partly cloudy skies in the morning giving way to mostly sunny skies and pleasant conditions expected; light east to southeast winds developing throughout the day and highs reaching into the mid-70s F (24 C)

Race to CME Globe Points: 500 points (winner)

Purse: \$2.2 million USD

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LEADERBOARD

	Player	To par	Score
T1	Ashleigh Buhai	-8	64
T1	Hannah Green	-8	64
T1	Jenny Shin	-8	64
4	Haeran Ryu	-7	65

THREE PLAYERS HOLD NARROW LEAD AFTER FIRST ROUND AT BMW LADIES CHAMPIONSHIP

After **Ashleigh Buhai** solo-led after the first round of the BMW Ladies Championship last season, she once again finds herself in familiar footing in 2024. This time, the two-time winning South African is joined by two others after the opening round at Seowon Hills at Seowon Valley Country Club. First to enter the clubhouse after her round, Buhai began her day strong with birdies on four of the first five holes before making the turn. On the back-nine, she recorded two more birdies on holes 11 and 12 before adding her final two of the round on Nos. 15 and 17 to stand alone atop the leaderboard once again.

“Yeah, this course it does suit me. Last year in the first here I shot 10-under, so I clearly like the first rounds at this golf course,” Buhai said. “The conditions were perfect. It was a little cold when we teed off so the ball was traveling like one club less. But on the back nine it was beautiful. Yeah, I just hit it into good areas, and like I said, made some really good putts.”

Meanwhile, **Hannah Green** began her ascent up the leaderboard. After a slow start of three-straight pars, the two-time winner this season picked up the pace recording four birdies on the final six holes of the front and made the turn down four strokes. The Aussie carried her momentum of the front-nine into the back picking up birdies on Nos. 12 and 14 before ending her day with back-to-back birdies and a clean, bogey-free scorecard.

“When I actually played in the Pro-Am a couple days ago, I had the same score,” the Aussie said. “It was nice to play some simple golf. Last week in China, I just had a very mixed scorecard, made some bigger numbers, and just to go bogey-free was really nice but it also helps when you hit 18 greens. I think I only missed one fairway. So it was nice to be really stress-free out there and obviously see a few putts go.”

Last but certainly not least, Korea’s own **Jenny Shin** made her presence known quickly registering four birdies on the back-nine, which was her front on Thursday. The cluster of birdies including three-straight from holes 14-16 before she made the turn at 4-under. Eyeing the top of the leaderboard, the Seoul native added another birdie on No. 2, back-to-back birdies on Nos. 5 and 6 before coming to the final two holes. Trailing the leaders by a stroke, Shin added her eighth birdie on No. 8 with a hole to go and a chance at the solo lead. She parred the hole, but finds herself leading in her home country.

“I don’t know,” Shin said about what worked well for her today. “I usually struggle on Korean golf courses but I think I -- I don’t know. I think I let go of that expectation of being a Korean and needing to show a certain result. I think I’ve always had a very high expectation of that. But yeah, I think I just stayed patient and let myself shine without trying so hard.”

2023 Louise Suggs Rookie of the Year **Haeran Ryu** stands alone in solo-fourth with a lone bogey standing in the way of her and leading with the others. Six players are tied for fifth at 6-under including 2024 Tour rookies **Yu Jin Sung** and **Mao Saigo**. Saigo leads the Tour in top-10 finishes this season without a win after earning her seventh in last week’s Buick LPGA Shanghai. Koreans **Eun-Hee Ji** and **Hye-Jin Choi** are also in the mix after they both went bogey-free. Europeans **Gemma Dryburgh** and **Celine Boutier** are also tied for fifth and just two shots back of the leaders. Defending champion **Minjee Lee** is just on the outside of that cluster at 5-under and tied for 11th after going bogey-free with five birdies on Thursday.

A LOOK AT THE LEADERS

CATEGORY	Hannah Green	Jenny Shin	Ashleigh Buhai
2024 Race to CME Globe Rank	8	33	81
2024 LPGA Tour Wins	2	0	0
2024 LPGA Tour Top 10s	4	3	0
2024 Season Earnings	\$1.6M	\$834.7K	\$468.9k
Career LPGA Tour Wins	5	1	2
Career Official LPGA Tour Top 10s	26	44	19
Career Money (LPGA)	\$6.1M	\$7.0M	\$5.1M
Career LET Wins	0	0	5
Career Epson Tour Wins	3	1	0

ABOUT THE LEADERS

Rolex Rankings No. 8 Hannah Green

- Green hit 13 of 14 fairways, all 18 greens with 28 putts
 - She went bogey-free with eight birdies, tied for the most in the round
 - She is one of 10 players to hit all greens in regulation
 - Her 28 putts were tied for the fourth-fewest needed
- Green is making her fifth start at the BMW Ladies Championship
 - She has one top-10 finish, T10 in 2022
 - Last season at Seowon Hills at Seowon Valley Country Club she finished T22
- This is her 17th start of the 2024 season
 - She has made 13 cuts with two wins and two additional top-10 finishes
 - Before last week’s start at the Buick LPGA Shanghai, she had not made a start on Tour since the FM Championship
 - She won the HSBC Women’s World Championship earlier this season in Singapore and defended her title at the JM Eagle LA Championship presented by Plastpro
- This is her seventh season on the LPGA Tour
 - She is a five-time Tour winner with 21 additional top-10 finishes
 - She won her first major championship at the 2019 KPMG Women’s PGA Championship
 - She was on Team Australia in the 2023 Hanwha LIFEPLUS International Crown
 - She represented Australia at the 2020 Tokyo Olympics and the 2024 Paris Olympics
- Green is an Epson Tour graduate; in 2017, she was the Gaelle Truet Rookie of the Year after three victories and 12 total top-10 finishes
- As an amateur, she received the Karrie Webb Scholarship in 2015 and was a member of the Australian National Team

Rolex Rankings No. 54 Jenny Shin

- Shin hit all 14 fairways, 17 of 18 greens with 27 putts
 - She recorded eight birdies with no bogeys
 - She is one of 15 players to hit all 14 fairways
 - Her 27 putts were tied for the second-fewest needed in the first round
- Her opening round 64 is her best opening round and 18-hole score since the 2023 ShopRite LPGA Classic presented by Acer, 63
- Her 64 is also her 18-hole score at the BMW Ladies Championship
 - Previously it was a 67 done twice (R4, 2023 and R3, 2022)
 - It is just the fifth round in the 60s she has posted at this event

- Shin is making her 21st start on Tour and first since the Walmart NW Arkansas Championship presented by P&G
 - She has made 17 cuts with three top-10 finishes
 - Her best finish came at the CPKC Women's Open, T3
- This is Shin's 14th season on the LPGA Tour
 - She has one victory at the 2016 Ascendant benefiting Volunteers of America
 - She has 43 additional top-10 finishes

Rolex Rankings No. 59 **Ashleigh Buhai**

- She hit 13 of 14 fairways, all 18 greens with 28 putts
 - She went bogey-free with eight birdies
- This is her second tournament this season that she begun her round with a 64
 - She shot a 64 in the first round of the Walmart NW Arkansas Championship presented by P&G and went on to finish sixth
- This is the second-straight season she has led after the first round of play at this event
 - Last season, she shot a 10-under 62, setting the 18-hole tournament record at Seowon Hills at Seowon Valley Country Club
 - Her 62 is her career-low 18-hole score on Tour
- This is her fifth start at the BMW Ladies Championship
 - Last season she finished T13, her best finish at this event
 - Prior to last season, her best finish was T59
- This is Buhai's 20th start of the 2024 season
 - She has made 16 cuts and has a season-best finish of sixth at the Walmart NW Arkansas Championship presented by P&G
 - She has not missed a cut since the Cognizant Founders Cup earlier this season with one top-10 finish
- Buhai has been on Tour since 2008
 - She has made 164 cuts in 266 starts with two wins and 18 additional top-10 finishes
 - She is a two-time LPGA Tour winner including a major championship victory at the 2022 AIG Women's Open
 - Her most recent victory came last season at the ShopRite LPGA Classic presented by Acer
- She won five times on the Ladies European Tour, most recently at the 2023 Investec South African Women's Open
- She has represented South Africa at two Olympic Games
 - She finished 50th in 2016 and finished T13 in 2024

THINGS TO KNOW

- **Haeran Ryu** sits alone in fourth place at 7-under
 - Recorded eight birdies and a bogey in her opening round
 - Her first round 65 is her best to a tournament this season
 - It is her best opening round since this event last season, also a 65
 - She needed just 26 putts in her first round, the fewest among the field
 - This is her third total start at this event
 - She finished T16 last season and T7 in 2021 as a non-member
- There are six players that are tied for fifth
 - **Celine Boutier** went bogey-free with an eagle and four birdies
 - She hit all 14 fairways and all 18 greens in her opening round
 - She is making her third start in Asia after winning the Aramco Team Series – Shenzhen on the Ladies European Tour and finished T9 at last week's Buick LPGA Shanghai
 - **Gemma Dryburgh** recorded seven birdies and a bogey in her first round
 - This is Dryburgh's best start to a tournament since The Amundi Evian Championship, also a 64
 - **Hye-Jin Choi** went bogey-free as well with six birdies
 - She hit all 18 greens in regulation
 - She is coming off setting a new personal best 18-hole score at the Buick LPGA Shanghai (62, R4)
 - **Eun-Hee Ji** carded six birdies in her first round
 - Ji recorded her best opening round score and tied her lowest 18-hole score of the season (64, Portland Classic, R4)
 - **Yu Jin Sung** turned in seven birdies and a bogey in her first round
 - Sung is a 2024 LPGA Tour rookie
 - She recorded her best opening round score of the season
 - **Mao Saigo** recorded seven birdies and a bogey to start the week
 - Saigo is also a 2024 Tour rookie and is coming off a T2 finish at last week's Buick LPGA Shanghai
 - She recorded her seventh top-10 finish this season, the most among the Tour for those without a win
 - Her opening round 64 is the lowest of her season
- Defending champion **Minjee Lee** is just outside the cluster of T5s at T11
 - She went bogey-free with five birdies
 - In her win last season, she also began the week with an opening score of 64
 - Dating back to last season, at the BMW Ladies Championship, Lee has recorded a round in the 60s in four of her last five rounds

QUOTABLES

Haeran Ryu (-7, 4) on getting to play in front of Korean fans today

"The LPGA Tour is a huge stage, but women's golf in Korea has a huge presence. And so today's first round, it's a Thursday, so I didn't expect so many people to turn up, and I had a fan club there, so that really goes to my morale and just overall being in Korea and being able to speak Korean, I had a lot of things going for me that helped calm me."

Celine Boutier (-6, T5) on how this course suits her strengths

"It's a good course. You definitely have to be accurate off the tee, and you have to be also accurate with your approach shots because the greens are very sloped and quite big. So you have to be kind of smart about that. Thankfully today it wasn't too windy, but I feel like when the wind picks up, it also trickles from the tree and it's not really easy to see the direction. Today it wasn't too bad, but it's definitely a good course, and you have to play good. If you play smart, you have a lot of chances. I think it's a good test."

Hye-Jin Choi (-6, T5) on if her finish in Shanghai last week brought her some confidence into this week

"So I think in China the first two rounds, my shots were unstable, and there were parts I was a bit confused. But in the final round I gained confidence and that momentum continues today. I think overall, like hitting the greens really well was a strong part of my game, too."

Lydia Ko (-5, T11) on treating other players to dinner Monday night

"Yeah, Chella used to do that, give a little, I guess, experience to the LPGA staff and some of the players that came over for this event. You know, there was, I guess, kind of my thought behind it as well, especially I've had such a grateful year, a lot of positives. I think one of the fortunate things for me is I've gotten a lot of support from my fellow competitors and players who play on the LPGA. As much as we are playing against each other and we want to be the one that finishes at the top of the leaderboard every week, they have been super supportive and some of them are girls that I've just known for a really long time. Korea is a very special place for me. It's where I'm born and it's something that it's -- it's a place that I'm very proud of. I know that a lot of the players are excited to eat Korean barbecue when they come. So I was hoping that would be kind of a nice way to start this week for them."

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TOURNAMENT SCORING RECORDS AT SEOWON HILLS AT SEOWON VALLEY COUNTRY CLUB:

18 holes – 62, Ashleigh Buhai (2023)

36 holes – 133, Minjee Lee (2023)

54 holes – 204, Minjee Lee and Ashleigh Buhai (2023)

72 holes – 272, Minjee Lee and Alison Lee (2023)

OVERALL TOURNAMENT SCORING RECORDS:

18 holes – 62, Ashleigh Buhai (2023) at Seowon Valley Country Club

36 holes – 132, Andrea Lee (2022) at Oak Valley Country Club

54 holes – 198, Hee Jeong Lim (2021) at LPGA International Busan

72 holes – 266, Jin Young Ko and Hee Jeong Lim (2021) at LPGA International Busan