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Buick LPGA Shanghai

Qizhong Garden Golf Club | Shanghai, People's Republic of China | Oct. 10-13, 2024

Final-Round Notes

October 13, 2024

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Course Setup: 36-36 – 72; 6,558

Scoring Average: R1: 70.962; R2: 71.198; R3: 70.889; R4: 70.864

Weather: Mostly cloudy skies throughout the morning with cloud cover increasing throughout the day; easterly winds are expected much of the day with gusts breaching 20-22 mph (32-35 kph) and highs reaching the lower 80s F (27 C)

Race to CME Globe Points: 500 points (winner)

Purse: \$2.1 million USD; \$315,000 winner's portion

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LEADERBOARD			
	Player	To Par	Score
1	Ruoning Yin	-25	70-66-63-64 – 263
T2	Sei Young Kim	-19	62-70-69-68 – 269
T2	Mao Saigo	-19	68-65-65-71 – 269
4	Yealimi Noh	-18	68-67-68-67 – 270

RUONING YIN WINS FOURTH CAREER VICTORY IN HER OWN BACKYARD

Shanghai native **Ruoning Yin** earned her fourth career victory in dominating fashion at Qizhong Garden Golf Club shattering the 72-hole tournament scoring record that was first set in 2019 by **Danielle Kang**.

Playing in front of her hometown crowd, Yin teed off in the final group of the day trailing one stroke to 2024 LPGA Tour rookie **Mao Saigo**. Yin would be the first to strike recording a birdie on the first hole to knot it up at the top of the leaderboard at 18-under. Her only other birdie on the front nine came on No. 5 to push herself to the solo-lead at 19-under heading into the turn. The back nine is when Yin really began to step up her game carding an insurance birdie on the first par-3 of the back, No. 11. Holes 13-15 were the difference makers with Yin sinking three-straight birdies pushing her lead among the rest of the field even further. With her fourth victory in sight, Yin all but sealed the deal with back-to-back birdies on the last to holes of the course to get to 25-under 263, her career-best 72-hole score.

"Yeah, so the first day my tee shot wasn't very good," Yin said about her performance this week. "Just I had a call with my coach, Holton Freeman. He's in LA right now. He fixed my tee shot, so I think this course especially I'm feeling good with my iron shots right now. If I can put my ball on the fairway it's just going to make easier for myself. So I think I just putt really well and my approach shot is pretty good and tee shot is really good. I pieced everything together."

The third-round leader Saigo had a much different round than Yin. She recorded just two birdies and a bogey to finish runner-up for the second time this season. Saigo's seventh top-10 finish of the season is now tied for the most top-10 finishes in 2024 without a win. She shares that with Canada's **Brooke Henderson** and U.S. Solheim Cup Team member **Sarah Schmelzel**. Round one's leader **Sei Young Kim** began her day three shots back of the leader and did everything she could to help get her back near the top. She carded six birdies and two bogeys to help her finish tied for second with Saigo and earn her third top-five finish at the Buick LPGA Shanghai and her fourth of the season.

Yealimi Noh had her best finish of the season and lowest since 2021 finishing solo fourth. The 2021 U.S. Solheim Cup Team member recorded 36-holes of bogey-free golf to bring her total of bogey-free rounds this season to five. **Hye-Jin Choi** had the round of the day, besting even Yin's, tying the 18-hole tournament scoring record first set by Kim earlier in the week. She jumped from T26 to T5, earning her best finish of the season. Yin's winning partner at the Dow Championship **Jeeno Thitikul** finished T5 as well. Defending Champion **Angel Yin** made a push in the fourth round to become the second player to defend as champion but ran out of holes trying to catch Yin. She turned in a bogey-free eight birdie performance to finish solo-seventh.

A LOOK AT THE CHAMPION

CATEGORY	Ruoning Yin
2024 Race to CME Globe Rank	10
2024 LPGA Tour Wins	2
2024 LPGA Tour Top 10s	5
2024 Season Earnings	\$1,914,945
Career LPGA Tour Wins	4
Career Official LPGA Tour Top 10s	15
Had Career Money (LPGA)	\$5,064,762
Career CLPGA Tour Wins	3

ABOUT THE CHAMPION

Rolex Rankings No. 4 **Ruoning Yin**

- Yin hit 10 of 14 fairways, 15 of 18 greens with 26 putts
 - She hit 64 of 72 greens in regulation, tied for the most throughout the week
 - She had just 113 putts, tied for the fewest needed
- She recorded 26 birdies, the most among the field
 - Her 26 birdies tie the most she has recorded at a single event
 - She first set the mark in her win at the 2024 FIR HILL SERI PAK Championship
 - It is the first time she has had over 20 birdies in a single round this season
- Yin's 263 is a new career best 72-hole score
 - She beat her previous mark by four strokes set at the ANNIKA Driven by Gainbridge at Pelican in 2023
- Her 263 set the new 72-hole tournament scoring record by nine strokes
 - It was previous 272 set by **Danielle Kang** in her win in 2019
- Yin earns her second victory of the 2024 season
 - It is the second-straight year she won multiple times in a single season
- This is her first solo event win of the 2024 season and her first since the 2023 KPMG Women's PGA Championship
 - She won the Dow Championship with partner **Jeeno Thitikul** earlier this year
- Yin is the first player from the People's Republic of China to win the Buick LPGA Shanghai
- She is the second player to win in her hometown joining **Nelly Kora** who won at the 2024 LPGA Drive On Championship in Bradenton, Fla. earlier this year
- Yin is the second player not from the United States to win in her home country joining **Patty Tavatanakit** (Honda LPGA Thailand)
- She earns her fifth top-10 finish of the season and her 15th of her career
- This is her first win in China since she was on the CLPGA in 2020
- Yin joined the LPGA Tour in 2022
 - She has made 40 cuts in 52 starts with three wins and 11 additional top-10 finishes
 - She became a Rolex First-Time Winner at the 2023 FIR HILLS SERI PAK Championship and followed that with her first major championship at the 2023 KPMG Women's PGA Championship
 - In 2023, Yin became just the second player from the People's Republic of China to hold the No. 1 spot in the Women's World Golf Rankings
 - She first took the spot on September 11, 2023 and held it for four total weeks
 - She is just the second player from China to win multiple times on Tour joining **Shanshan Feng** who won 10 times
- She has represented the People's Republic of China twice in her short career
 - In 2023 she was part of Team China at the Hanwha LIFEPLUS International Crown and finished eighth

- This summer, she represented her country at the 2024 Paris Olympic Games and finished T10 in her first ever Games
- Before joining the LPGA Tour, Yin competed on the CLPGA
 - Yin became professional in 2020 and won her first three starts on the CLPGA Tour
 - She recorded six total top-10 finishes in 2020 as well

THINGS TO KNOW

- **Sei Young Kim** finished tied for second for the second time at the Buick LPGA Shanghai
 - She has finished inside the top-10 in three of her four starts at this event
 - Her T2 finish is her best finish of the 2024 season and her second-straight top-five finish
 - She finished third at the Walmart NW Arkansas Championship presented by P&G
 - Four of her five top-10 finishes this season are in the top-five
 - She recorded 22 birdies throughout the week, tied for the fifth-most among the field
 - She also had just five bogeys, tied for the fifth-fewest
- **Mao Saigo** earned her second runner-up finish of her rookie season
 - She has now finished inside the top-five in back-to-back starts after finishing T4 at the Walmart NW Arkansas Championship presented by P&G
 - She has seven top-10 finishes in her rookie season, tied for the most this season without a win
 - She joins **Brooke Henderson** and **Sarah Schmelzel**
 - She recorded just three bogeys throughout the week, tied for the second fewest among the field
 - Saigo earned another 80 points towards winning the Louise Suggs Rolex Rookie of the Year award bringing her total to 829 points
- **Yealimi Noh** recorded 36-holes of bogey-free to help her earn her first top-five finish of the season
 - She is now at five bogey-free rounds this season and her 18th overall
 - This is her best finish on Tour since the 2021 Amundi Evian Championship where she finished third
 - This is her first start at the Buick LPGA Shanghai and her first start in Asia this season
- **Hye-Jin Choi** tied the 18-hole tournament scoring record in her fourth round turning in a 62
 - She recorded eight birdies and an eagle to push her into the top 10
 - Her 62 is her career-best 18-hole score
 - It was previously 63 at the 2022 CPKC Women's Open
 - She finished T5, her fifth top-10 finish this season and also her best finish of the season
 - This is her second top-10 finish at this event after finishing T3 in 2023
- Defending champion **Angel Yin** finished solo-seventh
 - She recorded eight birdies in her final round, the most of the week for her
 - She finished with two eagles, tied for the most among the field
 - She recorded 116 putts, tied for the fifth-fewest among the field
- Epon Tour graduate **Jiwon Jeon** recorded her second career hole-in-one and of the season in the third round
 - She recorded the first ace in her career in the second round of the Portland Classic earlier this season
 - She hit a 5-iron 166 yards on the second par-3 of the front, No. 7
 - 2024 LPGA Tour rookie **Auston Kim** recorded her second ace of the year in her second round
 - She hit her nine iron 148 yards on the first par-3 of the front, No. 2
 - She recorded her first hole-in-one at the JM Eagle LA Championship presented by Plastpro
 - She and Jeon are the first players to record multiple hole-in-ones in a single season on Tour since **In Gee Chun** in 2023
 - CME Group donates \$20,000 for each hole-in-one made on the LPGA Tour in 2024, 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
 - The donation total is now \$420,000

QUOTABLES

Yealimi Noh (-18, 4) on her week at Qizhong Garden Golf Club

"Yeah, very solid week. My best finish of the year, so it's been really nice. I just hit it really well which was really surprising and I was grateful for because I had some back problems coming into the week. Hit it really good and made a few putts. I think actually first time 36 hole bogey-free round, so that was nice."

Angel Yin (-14, 7) on if she drew back on her win last year to help her end her week strong

"No. I mean, obviously everyone has been talking about defending and then potentially successfully defending, which I was quite close until Saturday's round came about. I just wanted to go out and play golf and try to finish up high, like a good performance of last year. Yeah, just wanted to play some good golf because I know that Saturday wasn't quite right. Just wanted to make myself feel better since there is two more tournaments afterwards."

Jeeno Thitikul (-16, T5) on her top-five performance this week

"Yeah, to be honest, I'm not really feel confident with my irons this week. I mean, like I struggling with the irons. And then also that's why I think I miss a lot of chances to make it closer to make a birdie. And also like I mean, Top 5, Top 10, which is really good, amazing round for me as well. Like I've been in contention for week in, week out, which is really nice. Just hoping for a nicer time. You know, like starting with no confident but getting to Top 5 is what I could can make it better than now."

[ON LPGA.COM](#)

[Ruoning Yin Chasing Lead and History on Sunday at Buick LPGA Shanghai](#)

[Mao Saigo Seeking First LPGA Tour Title at Buick LPGA Shanghai](#)

[Jiwon Jeon Makes Hole-In-One During Third Round of Buick LPGA Shanghai](#)

SOCIAL SNAPSHOT

[Cheers to the Champion Ruoning Yin](#)

[Ruoning Yin's Final Putt of the Buick LPGA Shanghai](#)

[Ruoning Yin is Unstoppable](#)

[Hye-Jin Choi Ties the 18-Hole Scoring Record](#)

[Sei Young Kim Inches From an Ace](#)

TOURNAMENT SCORING RECORDS:

18 holes – 62, Sei Young Kim (R1, 2024)

36 holes – 132, Sei Young Kim (2024)

54 holes – 198, Mao Saigo (2024)

72 holes – 263, Ruoning Yin (2024)