



BUICK LPGA SHANGHAI

Buick LPGA Shanghai

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

First-Round Notes

October 10, 2024

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

Course Setup: 36-36 – 72; 6,672

Scoring Average: R1: 70.962

Weather: Partly cloud to mostly sunny skies throughout the day with northerly winds developing and sustained between 5-10 mph (8-16 kph) with highs reaching the mid-70s F (24 C)

Race to CME Globe Points: 500 points (winner)

Purse: \$2.1 million USD

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LEADERBOARD

	Player	To par	Score
1	Sei Young Kim	-10	62
2	Celine Boutier	-8	64
3	Lucy Li	-7	65
T4	Four Players	-6	66

SEI YOUNG KIM LEADS PACKED LEADERBOARD AFTER DAY ONE AT BUICK LPGA SHANGHAI

12-time winner **Sei Young Kim** wasted no time making her presence known at Qizhong Garden Golf Club setting a pair of records, the 9-hole and 18-hole tournament scoring records. Kim shot a 28 on the back nine, beating the previous record of 30 set by defending champion **Angel Yin** in 2018 and last done by **Madelene Sagstrom** in 2023. Taking that momentum, Kim went on to set the new 18-hole scoring record, last done by Sagstrom in the fourth round of 2023 as well.

“After turn the nine hole I'm kind of, oh, I shoot 8-under. I never play like that, so I was a little bit of nervous,” Kim said about what she was thinking when she realized how well she was playing. “I don't know. Then I try to calm down but after that my body reaction a little bit like tight, and then after couple holes I keep par and after bogey one hole, and I realize, okay, I just keep going what I did is front nine, and I able to knock three birdies and strong finish.”

Starting on No. 10, Kim fired off five-straight birdies to catch up to the early leaders who teed off before her. An eagle on No. 17 and a final birdie on No. 18 helped propel her over those leaders and made the turn with a comfortable lead. Kim started the front with five pars before carding her first and only bogey of the day on No. 6 to give those below her a fighting chance to catch the 12-time Tour winner. Feeling the pressure, Kim found her groove again and ended her round with three-straight birdies, setting her lowest 18-hole opening round of her career and the new 18-hole tournament scoring record.

“Not really because I played the pro-am yesterday and I just enjoyed with the pro-am guest,” The major champion said about if she expected this today. “And then I can see the greens are a little softer than last couple years, so, yeah, I need more like aggressive play be better than like avoid the pin. Yeah, it worked. It was fun, to play like 8-under the front nine, yeah.”

Frenchwoman **Celine Boutier** is looking to win in China for the second week in a row after taking home her sixth Ladies European Tour victory at the Aramco Team Series – Shenzhen. She did just that going bogey-free with eight birdies including seven-straight from hole No. 9 to hole No. 14. Another player is trying to keep her momentum going in Shanghai with **Lucy Li** finding herself in solo third with eight birdies and a bogey in her opening round. Li is coming off a runner-up finish at the Walmart NW Arkansas Championship presented by P&G.

“Yeah, I think definitely the time change and traveling, just the week ahead, it definitely helped me to fight the jet lag and just being able to get accustomed to the time zone and the temperature, everything around here,” Boutier said about if her win last week helped her in her opening round. “And then just having also a solid week last week has definitely helped feeling more confident this week.”

Four players find themselves tied for fourth including Team Europe Solheim Cup member **Leona Maguire**, 2024 Olympian **Peiyun Chien**, 2024 Dana Open champion **Channettee Wannasaen** and sponsor invite **Muni He**. Defending champion Yin is in the mix once again looking to be the second player to win back-to-back years at this event. She sit at 5-under T8 after the first round of play thanks to a bogey-free round.

A LOOK AT THE LEADER

CATEGORY	Sei Young Kim
2024 Race to CME Globe Rank	47
2024 LPGA Tour Wins	0
2024 LPGA Tour Top 10s	4
2024 Season Earnings	\$802.5K
Career LPGA Tour Wins	12
Career Official LPGA Tour Top 10s	69
Career Money (LPGA)	\$13.5M
Career KLPGA Wins	5

ABOUT THE LEADER

Rolex Rankings No. 16 **Sei Young Kim**

- Kim hit 11 of 14 fairways, 16 of 18 greens with 25 putts
 - She recorded an eagle, nine birdies and a bogey in her opening round
 - Her nine birdies were the most among the field
 - Her 25 putts were tied for the fewest putts needed among the field
- Kim set the new 18-hole tournament scoring record with her opening round 62
 - Her 62 ties her second-lowest career round and is her lowest 18-hole score of her career
 - This is the first time she has shot a round of 62 since the fourth round of the HSBC Women's World Championship in 2018
 - The previous 18-hole record was set by **Madelene Sagstrom** in the fourth round in 2023, 63
- Her 62 is her lowest 18-hole opening round score of her career
 - She has shot two opening rounds of 63 at the 2016 Cognizant Founders Cup and the 2018 Thornberry Creek LPGA Classic
 - She went on to win both of those tournaments
 - Her lowest opening round score is 65 at the JM Eagle LA Championship presented by Plastpro
- Her 28 on the back-nine is the fifth time a player has had a 9-hole score of 28
 - Previously, the 9-hole scoring record at the Buick LPGA Shanghai was a 30 first set in 2018 by **Angel Yin** in the second round on the back-nine and then by Sagstrom last season in the fourth round on the back-nine
 - Her 28 is a new career-low 9-hole score
- This is her fourth start at the Buick LPGA Shanghai
 - She has two top-10 finishes including a T2 finish in 2018
 - She finished sixth in 2019 and withdrew after the first-round last season
- This is Kim's 21st start of the 2024 season
 - She has made 15 cuts with four top-10 finishes
 - She is coming off a season-best finish of third at the Walmart NW Arkansas Championship presented by P&G
 - She finished T3 at the T-Mobile Match Play presented by MGM Rewards and Honda LPGA Thailand earlier this season as well

- This is her fourth start in Asia this season
 - She finished inside the top-20 in all of the spring Asia swing events
- Kim joined the LPGA Tour in 2015
 - She has made 187 cuts in 221 with 12 wins and 57 additional top-10 finishes
 - She earned three wins in her rookie season and became a major champion at the 2020 KPMG Women's PGA Championship
 - She earned the 2015 Louise Suggs Rolex Rookie of the Year and Kia Most Compelling Performance Award and was named the 2020 Rolex Player of the Year
 - She has represented the Republic of Korea three times in her career
 - She was part of Team Korea at the 2016 Hanwha LIFEPLUS International Crown
 - She also has appeared in two Olympic Games; 2016 Rio (T25) and 2020 Tokyo (T9)
 - She has earned \$13,539,353 throughout her career and is the 13th-highest earning player in Tour history and the third-highest earning player from the Republic of Korea
 - She sits behind **Inbee Park** (\$18,262,344) and **Amy Yang** (\$15,664,571)

THINGS TO KNOW

- **Celine Boutier** is in solo second after an opening round bogey-free 64
 - Her 64 opening round ties her career-best opening round, first set at the 2019 Cognizant Founders Cup
 - It is her lowest first round score since the 2024 Ford Championship presented by KCC, 65
 - Her 64 is her second-lowest 18-hole score overall as well
 - She has recorded a round of 64 eight times in her career now
 - She last did so at the 2024 HSBC Women's World Championship in the second round
 - She was one of six players to go bogey-free in her opening round
 - Boutier is playing her second-straight week in China after winning last week's LET Aramco Team Series – Shenzhen, her sixth win on the LET
- **Lucy Li** is in solo third thanks to a first round 65
 - She recorded just one bogey and eight birdies in her opening round
 - Li is making just her second start at the Buick LPGA Shanghai
 - She finished T55 last season
 - Li is making her 22nd start of the season
 - She has made 12 cuts with three top 10 finishes
 - She is coming off a runner-up finish at the Walmart NW Arkansas Championship presented by P&G
- Four players are tied at T4, 6-under
 - **Muni He** was one of six players to go bogey-free in their opening round
 - He carded six birdies during her third start at this event
 - She finished T38 in 2019 and T64 in 2023
 - He is also the lowest player from the People's Republic of China
 - **Leona Maguire** recorded her third-straight opening round in the 60s
 - She carded seven birdies and one bogey at Qizhong Garden Golf Club
 - This is Maguire's first ever start at this event but her third start in Asia this season
 - She finished T31 at the Honda LPGA Thailand and T34 at the HSBC Women's World Championship in Singapore
 - **Peiyun Chien** ended her round with her lowest opening round since the Ford Championship presented by KCC
 - She recorded seven birdies and a bogey in her first round
 - Chien is making her third start at this event
 - She finished T26 2018 and T31 in 2023
 - **Chanettee Wannasaen** recorded eight birdies and two bogeys in her first round
 - This is her first opening round in the 60s since the Portland Classic earlier this season
 - This is just her second start at this event
 - She finished T50 last season
- Defending champion **Angel Yin** sits at T8, 5-under
 - She is one of six players to go bogey-free in their opening round
 - She recorded three birdies and an eagle

QUOTABLES

Leona Maguire (-6, T4) on how this course brings out her strengths

"Yeah, I think it's a little different. Usually when we come to Asia getting used to the grasses can be quite tricky for me. Coming to bermuda it's a little bit more similar to what we're used to, but it is -- it's that sort of almost...bermuda. It is tricky. Sometimes you're on the fairway but you may not have the best of lies, so it's just sort of reading the lie and picking your shots. There is a lot of 9-woods and hybrids for me, which I quite like. Yeah, just felt like played really solid today."

Lucy Li (-7, 3) on what has been working so well for her these last couple of tournaments

"I'm just hitting the ball good again. Been working hard on my putting, and so I have been seeing some results. I still need to be putting better, but just being able to hit it well again is good. I think just having a good mindset. Like I said one shot at a time. That's really important."

Muni He (-6, T4) on what it is like playing back in China

"It's so good to be back home in China, especially these past years after COVID. The support has been tremendous, and having a lot of familiar faces and just friendly support means a lot. So it's nice to be back."

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TOURNAMENT SCORING RECORDS:

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

36 holes – 133, Brooke Henderson (2019)

54 holes – 201, Jessica Korda (2019)

72 holes – 272, Danielle Kang (2019)