



BUICK LPGA SHANGHAI

Buick LPGA Shanghai

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

Second-Round Notes

October 11, 2024

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Course Setup: 36-36 – 72; 6,517

Scoring Average: R1: 70.962; R2: 71.198

Weather: Partly cloudy skies throughout the day with northeasterly winds increasing steadily between 7-14 mph (11-23 kph) and highs reaching the upper 70s F (26 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	-12	62-70 – 132
T2	Mao Saigo	-11	68-65 – 133
T2	Lucy Li	-11	65-68 – 133
4	Minjee Lee	-10	67-67 – 134
5	Yealimi Noh	-9	68-67 – 135

SEI YOUNG KIM HOLDS LEAD AFTER SECOND ROUND OF BUICK LPGA SHANGHAI

For the third time this season, **Sei Young Kim** holds the lead of a LPGA Tour event after 36 holes of play.

A stark contrast to yesterday's round, Kim recorded just three birdies and a bogey in her second round of play. Through the first 15 holes of her round, the only action on Kim's scorecard was a birdie on No. 5 to push her lead to three strokes at the time. No. 16 would be the next hole the 12-time Tour winner added any sort of mark to her card, adding just her second bogey of the week on the last par-3 of the course. Trailing at this point in the round, Kim had work to do to stay near or take back over the top spot and she did just that with back-to-back birdies to retake the solo lead. Her second round saw another record being set for the Buick LPGA Shanghai, setting the new 36-hole scoring record with a 132, beating the previous record by one stroke, first set by **Brooke Henderson** in 2019.

"I mean, it wasn't like yesterday," Kim said about her round. "Kind of a little struggle with my putting, but trying to keep the -- to make the birdie but I wasn't able to couple par-5. But, yeah, I tried to -- I made last two holes strong finish. I'm very happy with that. So, yeah, I'll practice a little bit and looking forward to next two days."

Behind her sit a pair of rising players on the LPGA Tour, both looking to capture their first career victory. American **Lucy Li** began her day third on the leaderboard and thanks to a bogey on the first hole, looked like her hot play may have begun to go cold. Just one birdie on the front nine got Li back to 7-under, where she began her day. Her back nine told a different story, recording five birdies in her final nine holes to propel herself towards the top, even taking the solo lead at one point at 12-under. Another bogey on No. 18 dropped the 2023 Tour rookie down to a tie for second place but still in prime position.

"Yeah, I got off to a little bit of a slow start on the front nine. I was hitting it good but the putts just weren't going in," Li said about her round. "So it was nice to get a putt to fall on 10. That was a pretty tough putt. Then hitting some good shots and putts coming in. A little tough putt there on 18 but otherwise I feel pretty good with how I played today. Yeah, so I wasn't hitting my driver that well today. Kind of got it under control a little bit and hit the fairway I needed to hit. But I hit it good out of the rough. Just my irons were good, wedges were good and that really saved me."

Louise Suggs Rookie of the Year points leader **Mao Saigo** had a much-improved day, recording the lowest round of the day at 7-under. Eight birdies and a bogey helped the 2024 rookie jump from a tie for 15th into a tie for second with Li as play heads into the weekend. Aussie **Minjee Lee** leapt to solo-fourth thanks to a solid 5-under round and American **Yealimi Noh** finds herself in solo-fifth thanks to a 5-under round as well. Defending champion **Angel Yin** is right in the mix at T6 and hometown favorite **Ruoning Yin** and CLPGA Tour member **Haruka Morita** are both in the running for the lowest player from the People's Republic of China in a tie for sixth as well.

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 Tour Wins	5

ABOUT THE LEADER

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

- Kim hit 11 of 14 fairways, 13 of 18 greens in regulation with 30 putts
 - She had just three birdies and a bogey in her second round
- Through 36 holes, she is in the top five in multiple statistical categories including:
 - Eagles: 1; T1
 - Birdies: 12; T5
 - Bogeys: 2; T4
 - Putts: 55; T1
- Her 132 is her lowest 36-hole score of the season
 - She recorded a 134 at the Walmart NW Arkansas Championship presented by P&G
- Her 132 sets the new 36-hole scoring record for the Buick LPGA Shanghai
 - It was first set by **Brooke Henderson** in 2019 (133)
- This is the 17th time in her career she has led or co-led after the second round of play and her third time this season
 - She has gone on to win nine of those previous 16 times she has led after the second round
- 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
- 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

- **Mao Saigo** and **Lucy Li** are tied for second
 - Saigo had the lowest round of the day going 7-under
 - She recorded eight birdies and a bogey in her second round
 - She began her day T15 after going 4-under in round one
 - Through 36 holes, Saigo has 13 birdies, the fourth-most among the field
 - Li recorded six birdies and two bogeys in her second round
 - She has 14 total birdies through two days of play, tied for the most among the field
 - Li has also only needed 57 putts, tied for the fifth-fewest of the week
 - She has only missed four greens in regulation through two rounds
 - In her second round, she hit 15 of 18 greens in regulation, tied for the most
- **Minjee Lee** is in solo-fourth
 - Lee recorded seven birdies and two bogeys
 - Through 36 holes, Lee has 14 birdies, tied for the most among the field
 - She is making her fourth start at this event
 - She has two top-15 finishes
 - Her best finish came last season, T13
- **Yealimi Noh** is in solo-fifth
 - She carded seven birdies and two bogeys
 - Noh has just two bogeys through two rounds, tied for the fourth-lowest
 - She also has hit 32 of 36 greens in regulation, tied for the third-most
 - Noh is making her first start at this event
- Defending champion **Angel Yin** is one of nine players to be tied at sixth
 - She recorded six birdies and three bogeys in her second round of play
 - She is looking to be the second player to win back-to-back starts at this event
 - **Danielle Kang** won in 2018 and 2019
- 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 is the first player to record multiple hole-in-ones in a single season on Tour since **In Gee Chun** in 2023
 - It is the first ace on Tour since the Portland Classic
 - 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 \$400,000

QUOTABLES

Lucy Li (T2, -11) on if it would be special to win for the first time in her career in China

"Yeah, obviously I would love to win here. It's really important not to get ahead of myself. It has to be every shot at a time. I think I did a really good job of that today, getting off to that really slow start and not thinking about that too much. Just giving my best every shot and that's really all you can do."

Mao Saigo (T2, -11) on how much winning Louise Suggs Rookie of the Year is on her mind

"I'm very happy to have the chance to play this year, my rookie year. I focus however on what's ahead of me. Of course it would be quite an honor to be able to be in the race for Rookie of the Year."

Auston Kim (T21, -5) on her second ace of her career

"It was 148 pin and I was looking for a 140 shot; pulled a 9; hit a pretty good shot. I mean, it stayed pretty straight on the hole the entire time. Got a good bounce, bounced forward, and went in. I had no idea. My caddie told me it went in. He was looking through his RangeFinder and he was like, oh, it went in. It was a really good surprise."

Ruoning Yin (T6, -8) on her round today

"Yeah, this morning was pretty quiet and then the green was smooth and fresh. I was able to make a couple putts on the front nine, but back nine I would say I play some really quality golf today and just didn't make it on the back nine."

ON LPGA.COM

[Celine Boutier in Contention at Buick LPGA Shanghai Fresh Off LET Victory](#)

[Leona Maguire's Hard Work Pays Off in Buick LPGA Shanghai Debut](#)

[Yahui Zhang Earns 2024 Gaele Truet Rookie of the Year Honors](#)

SOCIAL SNAPSHOT

[Stylish Finish for Mao Saigo](#)

[Great Bunker Shot from Ruixin Liu](#)

[Perfect Read from Gaby Lopez](#)

[Long Range from Angel](#)

[The Fans Love Ronni](#)

TOURNAMENT SCORING RECORDS:

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

36 holes – **132, Sei Young Kim (2024)**

54 holes – 201, Jessica Korda (2019)

72 holes – 272, Danielle Kang (2019)