



**Tuesday Pre-Tournament Notes  
Buick LPGA Shanghai**

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

**MEDIA AVAILABILITY SCHEDULE**

(All times are local and subject to change)

**Wednesday, Oct. 9**

Hanna Green, Xiyu Lin, Angel Yin, Ruoning Yin and Rose Zhang – 10 a.m.

**THINGS TO KNOW ABOUT THE 2024 BUICK LPGA SHANGHAI**

- This is the fourth playing of the Buick LPGA Shanghai
  - This event was not contested in 2020, 2021 and 2022 due to the COVID-19 Pandemic
- Qizhong Garden Golf Club has played host to this event since its inception
  - The club was founded in 1995 and officially opened in the fall of 1999
    - In 2011, the club underwent renovations and did not reopen until July 2013
  - The club was named one of the top 100 golf courses in China in 2020-2021 by Golf Digest
  - In 2015 and 2016, the Buick Championship was played at Qizhong Garden Golf Club as a co-sanctioned event by the Ladies European Tour and the CLPGA
    - **Shanshan Feng** won both years
- The Buick LPGA Shanghai is the first event of the Tour's fall Asia swing of events
  - The Tour goes to South Korea for the BMW Ladies Championship, Malaysia for the Maybank Championship and Japan for the TOTO Japan Classic before returning back to the United States to finish out the 2024 the season
- The field consists of 81 players including 62 LPGA Tour players, 15 CLPGA Tour players and four sponsor invites
  - Both defending champions are in the field
    - **Angel Yin** defeated **Lilia Vu** on the first hole of a playoff in 2023 to earn her first career victory
    - **Danielle Kang** won in 2018 and 2019, her second and third win of her career
      - Kang is in the field this year as a sponsor invite
  - Eight winners from this season are also in the field
    - **Bailey Tardy** won in China during the spring Asia swing at the Blue Bay LPGA earlier this season
    - **Ruoning Yin**, playing in her home country, won the Dow Championship with **Jeeno Thitikul**, who is also teeing it up this week
  - **Celine Boutier** is coming off her sixth LET victory at the Aramco Team Series presented by PIF – Shenzhen
    - She beat out **Xiyu Lin** by two strokes after the two shared a lead heading into the final round
    - Both Boutier and Lin are competing at this week's event
  - There are also 11 LPGA Tour rookies in the field this week
    - **Mary Liu** (Xi'an) and **Liqi Zeng** (Nanchang) are the only two rookies from the People's Republic of China in the field
- The four sponsor invites this week are **Muni He**, **Danielle Kang**, **Menghan Li** (a) and **Zi Ge (Rebecca) Wang**
  - He has been on the LPGA Tour since 2019
    - She has three career top-10 finishes including a career best T5 finish at the 2022 Walmart NW Arkansas Championship presented by P&G
    - She is making her third start at this event and finished T38 (2019) and T64 (2023)
  - Kang is a two-time winner of this event
    - She defeated seven players by two strokes in 2018 to earn her second career victory and defeated **Jessica Korda** by one stroke in 2019 for her third career victory
    - Last season, she finished T17
    - Kang has won six times on Tour since joining in 2012 including one major championship
      - She became a Rolex First-Time Winner at the 2017 KPMG Women's PGA Championship
      - She has 57 career top-10 finishes as well over her career
  - Li is a 15-year-old amateur who has made two starts on the CLPGA this season
    - She has career-best finish of T5
    - She has seven starts overall on the CLPGA since 2022
    - This is her first start at the Buick LPGA Shanghai
  - Wang is a 16-year-old who has made three starts on the CLPGA
    - She has a career best finish of 14 at the Beijing Ladies Challenge in 2022
    - This season, she finished T15 at the Beijing Women's Challenge
    - This is her first start this event

**Tournament Scoring Records:**

18 holes – 63, Madelene Sagstrom (R4, 2023)

36 holes – 133, Brooke Henderson (2019)

54 holes – 201, Jessica Korda (2019)

72 holes – 272, Danielle Kang (2019)

**2024 Statistical Leaders**

Official Money: Nelly Korda, \$3,676,930

Scoring Average: Nelly Korda, 69.92

Birdies: Haeran Ryu, 291

Eagles: Gabriela Ruffels and Lexi Thompson, 10

Hole-in-Ones: 16 LPGA Tour players, 1

Greens in Regulation: Jeeno Thitikul, 75.66%

Average Driving Distance: Natthakritta Vongtaveelap, 291.19

**2024 Award Standings**

Rolex Player of the Year		
1	Nelly Korda	244 points
2	Lydia Ko	144 points
3	Ayaka Furue	124 points

Louise Suggs Rolex Rookie of the Year		
1	Mao Saigo	749 points
2	Jin Hee Im	671 points
3	Gabriela Ruffels	494 points

Rolex ANNIKA Major Award		
1	Nelly Korda*	84 points
2	Ayaka Furue	70 points
T3	Amy Yang	60 points
T3	Lydia Ko	60 points

**LPGA ON-SITE COMMUNICATIONS TEAM**

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**QUICK LINKS**

- [Interview Transcripts](#)
- [LPGA Tour Online Media Center](#)
- [LPGA Statistical Database](#)
- [Stats Box](#)
- [Media Assets](#)
- [Tournament Website](#)

**SOCIAL MEDIA**

**LPGA Tour:** @LPGA, @LPGAMedia (X), @lpga\_tour (Instagram, TikTok)  
**Tournament:** @buicklpgashanghai2024 (Instagram); #BuickLPGAShanghai

**TV/STREAMING TIMES** (All times EST)

**Wednesday, October 9:** 11:00 p.m. – 4:00 a.m. (Golf Channel)  
**Thursday, October 10:** 11:00 p.m. – 4:00 a.m. (Golf Channel)  
**Friday, October 11:** 11:00 p.m. – 4:00 a.m. (Golf Channel)  
**Saturday, October 12:** 11:00 p.m. – 4:00 a.m. (Golf Channel)

T3	Yuka Saso	60 points
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\**clinched*

#AonRiskReward Challenge		
T1	Lilia Vu	-0.885
T2	Ruoning Yin	-0.885
3	Jeeno Thitikul	-0.875

Vare Trophy (Scoring Average)		
1	Nelly Korda	69.92
2	Ayaka Furue	70.06
3	Jeeno Thitikul	70.07

Race to the CME Globe Points		
1	Nelly Korda	3,735.819 points
2	Lydia Ko	2,500.258 points
3	Ayaka Furue	2,303.277 points

[Aon Risk Reward Challenge](#): No. 17, par 5

Coming down the stretch, the 17th hole at Qizhong Garden Golf Club provides a scoring opportunity for the field, given players can avoid the water off the tee. Players who find the fairway are twice as likely to find the putting surface in two. This hole played a critical role for contenders in 2019, with top-10 finishers gaining nearly half-a-stroke on the field at hole 17 alone. Players must decide what club to hit off the tee, with the left side of the fairway running out about 240 yards from the tee. Ending short of the water will leave around 200 yards into the green. Laying up can prove difficult as the third shot is a tough, blind shot with several plateaus.

Two players find themselves atop the leaderboard of the Aon Risk Reward Challenge heading into the fall Asia swing. **Lilia Vu** and **Ruoning Yin** both have an -0.885 score under par. Yin has an advantage this week being the only one of the two in the field this week in Shanghai. **Jeeno Thitikul** is right behind the two in third with an -0.875 score under par and is also teeing it up at the LPGA Buick Shanghai. **Haeran Ryu** (-0.861) and **Natthakritta Vongtaveelap** (-0.833) are fourth and fifth on the leaderboard, respectively. Vongtaveelap however, must compete in 14 more rounds on Tour this season to qualify for the prize.

The Aon Risk Reward Challenge is a unique, season-long competition on the LPGA Tour that highlights the game's best players as they navigate some of the most strategically challenging holes on tour. Players will take their best two scores from each Aon Risk Reward Challenge hole, with the winners having the best average score to par at the end of the regular season. The winner will take home the Aon trophy and a \$1 Million prize.

[Race to CME Globe Update](#):

The Race to the CME Globe heads into the final stretch of the season with just seven events remaining in the 2024 season. Only the top-60 players on Tour this year will gain entry into the CME Group Tour Championship, the LPGA Tour's season finale that boasts the largest winner's prize in women's golf.

**Nelly Korda** has led the way since the end of March and will be tough to catch as the season winds down. Korda has 3,735.819 points and is 1,200 points ahead of **Lydia Ko** (2,500.258) who has had an impressive season of her own after winning her third event in 2024 at the Kroger Queen City Championship presented by P&G. The rest of the leaderboard is filled out by major champion **Ayaka Furue** with 2,303.277 points, FM Championship winner **Haeran Ryu** with 2,259.392 points and two-time 2024 winner **Lauren Coughlin** with 2,033.563 points.

Some big movers on the Race to the CME Globe points list following the Walmart NW Arkansas Championship presented by P&G:

- Following her win, **Jasmine Suwannapura** went from 75th to 27th, one of the biggest jumps of the season
- After falling in the playoff, **Lucy Li** also made a big splash going from 60th to 32nd
- **Sei Young Kim** jumped into the top-20 after her third place finish at Pinnacle Country Club

The Race to the CME Globe is a season-long points competition with LPGA Tour Members accumulating points in every official LPGA event to qualify for the season-ending tournament, the CME Group Tour Championship. The player who wins the CME Group Tour Championship is named the "Race to the CME Globe Champion." The top 60 points earners and ties earn a spot into the season finale with the entire field competing for a \$11 million purse, increased from \$7 million last season, and is highlighted by a \$4 million winner's check, which is the largest single prize in the history of women's golf.

[CME Group Cares Challenge – Score 1 for St. Jude Update](#):

The CME Group Cares Challenge is a season-long charitable giving program that turns aces into donations. 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 last holes-in-one were made at the Portland Classic. Three holes-in-one were made that week, bringing the 2024 donation total to \$380,000 with 19 total aces recorded so far. The Tour is just one hole-in-one away from matching last year's total of \$400,000 (20 aces).

#### 2024 Wins by Country (26 tournaments, 8 countries)

11 – United States of America (Nelly Korda (6), Bailey Tardy, Lilia Vu, Rose Zhang, Lauren Coughlin(2))  
5 – Thailand (Moriya Jutanugarn, Jasmine Suwannapura, Patty Tavatanakit, Jeeno Thitikul, Chanettee Wannasaen)  
3 – New Zealand (Lydia Ko)  
2 – Australia (Hannah Green (2))  
2 – Japan (Yuka Saso, Ayaka Furue)  
2 – Republic of Korea (Haeran Ryu, Amy Yang)  
1 – Sweden (Linnea Strom)  
1 – People's Republic of China (Ruoning Yin)

#### 2024 Wins by Player (26 tournaments, 18 players)

6 – Nelly Korda (LPGA Drive On Championship, FIR HILLS SERI PAK Championship, Ford Championship presented by KCC, T-Mobile Match Play presented by MGM Rewards, The Chevron Championship, Mizuho Americas Open)  
3 – Lydia Ko (Hilton Grand Vacations Tournament of Champions, AIG Women's Open, Kroger Queen City Championship presented by P&G)  
2 – Hannah Green (HSBC Women's World Championship, JM Eagle LA Championship presented by Plastpro)  
2 – Lauren Coughlin (CPKC Womens Open, ISPS HANDA Women's Scottish Open)  
1 – Ayaka Furue (The Amundi Evian Championship)  
1 – Moriya Jutanugarn (Portland Classic)  
1 – Jasmine Suwannapura (Walmart NW Arkansas Championship presented by P&G)  
1 – Haeran Ryu (FM Championship)  
1 – Yuka Saso (U.S. Women's Open presented by Ally)  
1 – Linnea Strom (ShopRite LPGA Classic presented by Acer)  
1 – Bailey Tardy (Blue Bay LPGA)  
1 – Patty Tavatanakit (Honda LPGA Thailand)  
1 – Atthaya Thitikul (Dow Championship)  
1 – Lilia Vu (Meijer LPGA Classic for Simply Give)  
1 – Chanettee Wannasaen (Dana Open)  
1 – Amy Yang (KPMG Women's PGA Championship)  
1 – Ruoning Yin (Dow Championship)  
1 – Rose Zhang (Cognizant Founders Cup)

**Average Age of 2024 Winners:** 25.815

Youngest Winner: Chanettee Wannasaen (20 years, 3 months, 5 days)

Oldest Winner: Amy Yang (34 years, 10 months, 26 days)