



CME Group Tour Championship
Tiburón Golf Club | Naples, Fla. | Nov. 21-24, 2024

Tuesday Pre-Tournament Notes
November 19, 2024

MEDIA AVAILABILITY SCHEDULE

(Zoom link available upon request; all times are EST and subject to change)

Wednesday, November 20

1:00 p.m. – Amy Yang

2:00 p.m. – State of the Association address with LPGA Commissioner Mollie Marcoux Samaan

NEWS FROM THE LPGA TOUR

Featured Groups Starting on ESPN+, Live Coverage of LPGA Tour Season Finale, The CME Group Tour Championship.

ESPN+ and the LPGA Tour will announce featured groups before play begins on Thursday, November 21.

ESPN+ will stream live featured group coverage of the LPGA Tour’s season finale, the CME Group Tour Championship, where the top 60 athletes in the Race to the CME Globe will compete for \$4 million, one of the largest prizes in women’s sports.

THINGS TO KNOW ABOUT THE 2024 CME GROUP TOUR CHAMPIONSHIP

- This is the 11th playing of the CME Group Tour Championship and the 11th year it will be hosted by Tiburón Golf Club’s Gold Course
Between 2011-13, the season-ending event was played as the CME Group Title Holders
The tournament was played at Grand Cypress Golf Club in 2011 and TwinEagles Golf Club in 2012
The purse is \$11 million, with the winner receiving \$4 million, the largest prize in women’s golf
There are seven past champions in the field this week including Amy Yang (2023), Lydia Ko (2022, 2014), Jin Young Ko (2021, 2020), Sei Young Kim (2019), Lexi Thompson (2018), Ariya Jutanugarn (2017) and Charley Hull (2016)
Last season, Amy Yang won this event for the first time in her career, her fifth career victory
Since then, she added her sixth career win at the 2024 KPMG Women’s PGA Championship
It was her first career victory in the United States with her previous four wins coming in Thailand (3) and the Republic of Korea (1)
She became the fifth player from the Republic of Korea to win the season ending tournament
Nineteen of the 20 Tour winners are making starts this week
Lauren Coughlin and Bailey Tardy are two of this season’s three Rolex First-Time Winners who are making their debuts at the CME Group Tour Championship
Linnea Strom won for the first time in her career this season at the ShopRite LPGA Classic presented by Acer but is making her third start at the 2024 CME Group Tour Championship
Rio Takedo won the 2024 TOTO Japan Classic and is not competing this week
Nine players are making their CME Group Tour Championship debut, including four Tour rookies
Coughlin, Tardy, Nataliya Guseva, Jin Hee Im, Lucy Li, Gabriela Ruffels, Mao Saigo, Albane Valenzuela and Arpichaya Yubol are teeing it for the first time in Naples
Guseva, Im, Ruffels and Saigo are the four 2024 rookies that are competing this week
Nelly Korda earned the Rolex Player of the Year title on November 4, 2024
She is the second consecutive American to earn the Rolex Player of the Year, following Lilia Vu in 2023
It is the first time that Americans have won the award in back-to-back years since Betsy King (1993) and Beth Daniel (1994)
Korda is the 27th different player to earn the award since its inception in 1966
Korda also clinched the Rolex ANNIKA Major Award in 2024, with a win at The Chevron Championship and a runner-up result at the AIG Women’s Open
She finished first in the Race to the CME Globe (4,235.819 points) following the conclusion of the ANNIKA driven by Gainbridge at Pelican
The race for the Louise Suggs Rolex Rookie of the Year makes it way to the CME Group Tour Championship
With four rounds of golf to play, Mao Saigo leads Jin Hee Im by 66 points
If neither win this week’s CME Group Tour Championship, either would be the first player to win Rookie of the Year honors without a win since Moriya Jutanugarn in 2013
Jeeno Thitikul was announced at the 2024 Aon Risk Reward Challenge winner
She is the fifth winner of the year-long competition since it began in 2019
She joins Angel Yin (2023), Minjee Lee (2021) and Carlota Ciganda (2020)
In 2020, due to the global pandemic, the prize money was not awarded to an individual, but was reallocated to support the restart of the LPGA Tour season and the newly created LPGA Drive On Championship at Inverness Club
The Aon Risk Reward Challenge is season-long competition

TOURNAMENT SCORING RECORDS:

18 holes: 62, Lydia Ko (R2, 2016)

36 holes: 130, Celine Boutier (2021), Alison Lee and Nasa Hataoka (2023)

54 holes: 195, Amy Yang and Nasa Hataoka (2023)

72 holes: 261, Amy Yang (2023)

2024 Statistical Leaders

Official Money: Nelly Korda, \$4,164,430

Scoring Average: Jeeno Thitikul, 69.54

Birdies: Haeran Ryu, 367

Eagles: Carlota Ciganda and A Lim Kim, 12

Hole-in-Ones: Jiwon Jeon, 3

Greens in Regulation: Jeeno Thitikul, 77.26%

Average Driving Distance: Natthakritta Vongaveelap, 290.61

2024 Award Standings

Table with 3 columns: Rank, Name, Points. Row 1: 1, Nelly Korda, 244 points. Row 2: 2, Lydia Ko, 144 points. Row 3: 3, Ayaka Furue, 125 points.

*clinched

Nelly Korda Earns 2024 Rolex Player of the Year Award

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QUICK LINKS

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

SOCIAL MEDIA

LPGA Tour: @LPGA, @LPGAMedia (X), @lpga_tour (Instagram, TikTok)
Tournament: @CMEGroupLPGA (X), @cmegrouptourchamp (Instagram)

TV & STREAMING TIMES

Tuesday, November 19
4:30-5 p.m. – Road to the CME Group Tour Championship

Wednesday, November 20

4-5 p.m. – Golf Central

Thursday, November 21

Round 1
Approx. 8 a.m. - 4 p.m. – ESPN+ Featured Groups Streaming
11 a.m. - 12 p.m. – Golf Central Pregame
2-3 p.m. – Round 1 (NBCSports.com + App)
3-5 p.m. – Round 1 (GOLF Channel)
5-6 p.m. – Golf Central

Friday, November 22

Round 2
Approx. 8 a.m. - 4 p.m. – ESPN+ Featured Groups Streaming
11 a.m. - 12 p.m. – Golf Central Pregame
2-3 p.m. – Round 2 (NBCSports.com + App)
3-5 p.m. – Round 2 (GOLF Channel)
5-6 p.m. – Golf Central

Saturday, November 23

Round 3
Approx. 8 a.m. - 4 p.m. – ESPN+ Featured Groups Streaming
12-1 p.m. – Golf Central Pregame
2-5 p.m. – Round 3 (NBCSports.com + App)
7-8 p.m. – Golf Central

Sunday, November 24

Final Round
Approx. 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. – ESPN+ Featured Groups Streaming
12-1 p.m. – Golf Central Pregame
1-4 p.m. – Final Round (NBC and Peacock)
4-5 p.m. – Golf Central

Nelly Korda clinched the 2024 Rolex Player of the Year award following the conclusion of the TOTO Japan Classic. She is the second consecutive American to earn the Rolex Player of the Year, following Lilia Vu in 2023. It is the first time that Americans have won the award in back-to-back years since Betsy King (1993) and Beth Daniel (1994). Korda is the 27th different player to earn the award since its inception in 1966.

“Winning the Rolex Player of the Year means so much to me,” said Korda on receiving the award. “This season has had its highs and challenges, and I'm just really grateful for the people around me who have helped me get here. It's been a team effort, and I'm proud to share this moment with them.”

Korda had six LPGA Tour victories in 2024 before being named Player of the Year, and added a seventh victory last at The ANNIKA driven by Gainbridge at Pelican.

Louise Suggs Rolex Rookie of the Year		
1	Mao Saigo	934 points
2	Jin Hee Im	868 points
3	Gabriela Ruffels	556 points

Mao Saigo leads **Jin Hee Im** by 66 points for the title of Louise Suggs Rolex Rookie of the Year. There are several scenarios in which Saigo or Im could earn the title, including:

Mao Saigo

- If Saigo wins the CME Group Tour Championship, she wins the Louise Suggs Rolex Rookie of the Year
- If Saigo finishes second through 35th, she needs Im to finish second or worse
- If Saigo finishes 36th through 40th, Im to finish third or worse
- If Saigo finishes 41st through 60th, she needs Im to finish fourth or worse
- If Saigo withdraws or is disqualified, she needs Im to finish fifth or worse

Jin Hee Im

- Im must finish fourth or better to have a chance
- If Im wins the CME Group Tour Championship, she wins the Louise Suggs Rolex Rookie of the Year.
- If Im finishes second, she needs Saigo to finish 37th or worse
- If Im finishes third, she needs Saigo to finish 41st or worse
- If Im finishes fourth, she needs Saigo to withdraw or be disqualified

Tie Scenario

There is one tie scenario where each player would receive the Louise Suggs Rolex Rookie of the Year award. If Saigo finishes 36th and Im finishes second, each player would have 948 points. If they tie, Saigo and Im will share the title.

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

*clinched

Nelly Korda Wins Rolex ANNIKA Major Award

Following the conclusion of the AIG Women's Open, Nelly Korda clinched the 2024 Rolex ANNIKA Major Award with her T2 finish at the Old Course at St. Andrews. Earning her 12th career top-10 finish in a major championship, Korda becomes the third American to win the award since its inception in 2014, joining Michelle Wie West, who won the inaugural award, and Lilia Vu, who won last season.

#AonRiskReward Challenge		
1	Jeeno Thitikul*	-0.900
2	Ruoning Yin	-0.824
3	Nelly Korda	-0.821

*clinched

Jeeno Thitikul Wins \$1 Million Prize in 2024 Aon Risk Reward Challenge

Aon plc (NYSE: AON), a leading global professional services firm, and the LPGA Tour today announced **Jeeno Thitikul** as the winner of the 2024 Aon Risk Reward Challenge. As the champion of the season-long competition, Thitikul will receive both the Aon Trophy and a \$1 million prize in recognition of her exceptional decision-making on the most strategically challenging holes throughout the LPGA Tour season.

“I'm very proud to win the Aon Risk Reward Challenge and join the players who came before me in taking home the Aon Trophy,” says Jeeno Thitikul. “This competition celebrates the strategic decision-making that defines the game of golf, and it's great to be recognized for my performance this season.”

Vare Trophy - eligible players		
1	Haeran Ryu	69.98
2	Ayaka Furue	70.05
3	Ruoning Yin	70.22

Haeran Ryu is currently the highest-ranked player in scoring average who is eligible for the Vare Trophy. Ryu has 87 total rounds played with a 69.977 scoring average. Ryu is currently ahead of **Ayaka Furue** by a small margin of 0.070 strokes. Ryu can lower her current scoring average with a score of 9-under 279 or better.

Average strokes per round needed to pass Haeran Ryu current average

Ayaka Furue	68.488	15-under 273 or better
Ruoning Yin	65.842	25-under 263 or better
Hannah Green	65.092	28-under 260 or better

Jeeno Thitikul and **Nelly Korda** are not projected to meet the minimum requirement of 70 total official rounds needed to be eligible.

Scoring average leaders since 1992 who did not win the Vare Trophy because they did not complete enough rounds include:

- Nancy Lopez – 1993
- Laura Davies – 1996
- Annika Sorenstam – 2003
- Annika Sorenstam – 2004
- Sei Young Kim – 2020
- Nelly Korda – 2021

Race to the CME Globe Points		
1	Nelly Korda	4,235.819 points
2	Haeran Ryu	2,870.392 points
3	Lydia Ko	2,614.758 points

Race to CME Globe Update:

After 32 official tournaments in 10 different countries and 15 different states, the 2024 LPGA Tour season comes to a close at the CME Group Tour Championship at Tiburon Golf Club in Naples, Fla., where the top 60 athletes in the Race to the CME Globe standings compete over the next four days for the coveted blue jacket and a \$4 million prize, one of the largest prizes in women's sports.

The final field is led by our 2024 major champions including seven-time 2024 winner **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, The ANNIKA driven by Gainbridge at Pelican), **Yuka Saso** (U.S. Women's Open), **Amy Yang** (KPMG Women's PGA Championship), **Ayaka Furue** (The Amundi Evian Championship,) and three-time 2024 winner **Lydia Ko** (AIG Women's Open).

Players from both the U.S. and European Solheim Cup Teams are present in the field including Nelly Korda, Lauren Coughlin, Lilia Vu, Ally Ewing, Rose Zhang, Megan Khang, Jennifer Kupcho, Sarah Schmelzel, Andrea Lee, Allisen Corpuz and Lexi Thompson (U.S. Solheim Cup Team) and Celine Boutier, Maja Stark, Linn Grant, Charley Hull, Esther Henseleit, Albane Valenzuela, Madelene Sagstrom, Leona Maguire, Carlota Ciganda (European Solheim Cup Team).

There are four rookies that made their way into the top 60 this year including Nataliya Guseva, Gabriela Ruffels, as well as Jin Hee Im and Mao Saigo who are in the running for the Louise Suggs Rolex Rookie of the Year honor. There are an additional five players that are making their debuts at the CME Group Tour Championship including Rolex First-Time Winners Lauren Coughlin (CPKC Women's Open) and Bailey Tardy (Blue Bay LPGA), Lucy Li, Albane Valenzuela and Arpichaya Yubol.

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. There have been 29 holes-in-one made this season, bringing the 2024 donation total to \$580,000. The most recent hole-in-one was made at the ANNIKA driven by Gainbridge at Pelican by **Jiwon Jeon**, her third of the season.

2024 Wins by Country (32 tournaments, 8 countries)

12 – United States of America (Nelly Korda (7), Lauren Coughlin (2), Bailey Tardy, Lilia Vu, Rose Zhang,)
5 – Thailand (Moriya Jutanugarn, Jasmine Suwannapura, Patty Tavatanakit, Jeeno Thitikul, Chanettee Wannasaen)
3 – Australia (Hannah Green)
3 – Japan (Yuka Saso, Ayaka Furue, Rio Takeda)
3 – New Zealand (Lydia Ko)
3 – People's Republic of China (Ruoning Yin)
3 – Republic of Korea (A Lim Kim, Haeran Ryu, Amy Yang)
1 – Sweden (Linnea Strom)

2024 Wins by Player (32 tournaments, 20 players)

7 – 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, The ANNIKA driven by Gainbridge at Pelican)
3 – Hannah Green (HSBC Women's World Championship, JM Eagle LA Championship presented by Plastpro, BMW Ladies Championship)
3 – Lydia Ko (Hilton Grand Vacations Tournament of Champions, AIG Women's Open, Kroger Queen City Championship presented by P&G)
3 – Ruoning Yin (Dow Championship, Buick LPGA Shanghai, Maybank Championship)
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 – A Lim Kim (LOTTE Championship presented by Hoakalei)
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 – Jasmine Suwannapura (Walmart NW Arkansas Championship presented by P&G)
1 – Rio Takeda (TOTO Japan Classic)
1 – Bailey Tardy (Blue Bay LPGA)
1 – Patty Tavatanakit (Honda LPGA Thailand)
1 – Jeeno 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 – Rose Zhang (Cognizant Founders Cup)

Average Age of 2024 Winners: 25.576

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

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