



CPKC Women's Open

Earl Grey Golf Club | Calgary, Alberta, Canada | July 25-28, 2024

First-Round Notes

July 25, 2024

Media Contact: [Carly Lyvers](#) +1 (386) 214- 9105; [Emily Carman](#), +1 (714) 742-8301

Course Setup: 35-37 – 72; 6,719 yards

Scoring Average: R1: 74.481

Weather: Hazy skies and cool temperatures persisted throughout the day, with small showers easing in the afternoon as sunshine broke through the clouds; Northernly winds reached 8-15 mph with some gusts of 35 mph

Race to CME Globe Points: 500 (winner)

Purse: \$2.6 million; winner's portion is \$390,000

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LEADERBOARD			
	Player	To par	Score
1	Lauren Coughlin	-4	68
T2	Hannah Green	-3	69
T2	Ariya Jutanugarn	-3	69
T2	Jennifer Kupcho	-3	69
T2	Minjee Lee	-3	69
T6	Six players	-2	70

LAUREN COUGHLIN CLAIMS FIRST-ROUND LEAD AT CPKC WOMEN'S OPEN

American **Lauren Coughlin** is having the best season of her LPGA Tour career. So far this year, she has earned four top-10 finishes, including career-best finishes of T3 and solo fourth at two of the season's major championships, The Chevron Championship and The Amundi Evian Championship, respectively. Continuing that run of strong play, Coughlin claimed the first-round lead at the CPKC Women's Open with a 4-under 68. This is the third time she has held an opening-round lead on Tour, and it's her second time doing so this season, following her hot start at The Chevron Championship.

"Pretty much ever since Evian, I've been hitting the ball extremely well," said Coughlin when asked if she has carried her good momentum into this week in Canada. "To keep it going even in an off week felt really good. It's just trying to be myself and have fun and then see what I shoot."

Shooting the best round of the day, Coughlin battled tough conditions and a difficult setup at Earl Grey Golf Club – the first-round scoring average was 74.481 overall – to come out on top after Thursday play. Starting on the 11th hole, the 31-year-old made eight straight pars before sinking her first birdie after the turn. Taking advantage of the par 5s, Coughlin made birdies on holes one and four, adding another on the par-3 5th. Her lone bogey of the day came on six, but she made up for it and then some with two more birdies on eight and nine. She ended the day as she started, with a final par on No. 10.

"I think I was just super patient. Got a little, I would say, a little impatient to start. I started out with a lot of pars there to start," Coughlin laughed. "But my caddie just said to me, 'It's playing tough. They'll come.' So just stuck in there. I started making a bunch of 12-, 15-footers. That's always good."

After Coughlin took the clubhouse lead early in the day, several players tried to catch up but were hindered by increasing crosswinds and fluctuating temperatures. At the end of the day, four players are tied for second at 3-under, including multi-time LPGA Tour winners **Hannah Green**, **Jennifer Kupcho**, **Minjee Lee** and **Ariya Jutanugarn**, the last of whom is a past CPKC Women's Open champion. In fact, Jutanugarn won the 2016 playing of the event, which was also held in Calgary.

"I would say I always have great memory from Canada, so I love to be in Canada. Of course, I won in 2016. I feel like I couldn't remember because so long ago. That moment is just always in my best memory because that year I won five tournaments, and that was my fifth tournament," said Jutanugarn, reflecting on her 2016 victory. "I remember that week is after the Olympics, so I kind of a bit struggle because I didn't play well at the Olympics. When I came to Canada, I feel so much better.

"That week, I think I don't expect anything. I just want to play some good golf. When you don't have expectations, I think the outcome is just surprise you."

Three-time CPKC Women's Open winner **Lydia Ko** sits in a tie for sixth after the first round, alongside American **Alison Lee** and the Korean contingent of **Jenny Shin**, **Hye-Jin Choi** and **Haeran Ryu**, who is coming off a runner-up finish at last week's Dana Open.

Several Canadian players had solid rounds on Thursday, the best of which came from LPGA Tour rookie **Savannah Grewal** and Tour veteran **Maude-Aimee Leblanc**, who both posted 1-under 71s. Fan favorite **Brooke Henderson** shot even par to open her week at Earl Grey Golf Club.

A LOOK AT THE LEADER

CATEGORY	Lauren Coughlin
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2024 Race to CME Globe Rank	15
2024 LPGA Tour Wins	0
2024 LPGA Tour Top 10s	4
2024 Season Earnings	\$1,152,352
Career LPGA Tour Wins	0
Career LPGA Tour Top 10s	7
Career Money (LPGA)	\$2,019,549
Career LET Wins	0
Career Epson Tour Wins	0

ABOUT THE LEADER

Rolex Rankings No. 38 Lauren Coughlin

- Coughlin recorded five birdies and one bogey in her first round
 - She made nine straight pars from her starting hole (No. 11) through No. 18
 - Her five birdies ties for the most across the field on Thursday with three other players (Cheyenne Knight, Hira Naveed and Ariya Jutanugarn)
 - Coughlin only had 26 putts across 18 holes; according to KPMG Performance Insights, she is averaging over a full stroke gained more on the greens this season than her past two seasons
 - 2022: -0.47 (strokes gained putting), ranking 111th
 - 2023: -0.58 (strokes gained putting), ranking 123rd
 - 2024: +0.55 (strokes gained putting), ranking 20th
- This is Coughlin's third first round lead or co-lead in her LPGA Tour career
 - Since her last first round lead/co-lead at The Chevron Championship (2024), Lauren has:
 - Moved up 21 spots in the Race to the CME Globe
 - Earned three top-10 finishes (The Chevron Championship, The Amundi Evian Championship)
 - Amassed an additional \$1 million in 2024 season earnings
 - Passed \$2 million in career earnings
 - Acquired 630.5 in U.S. Solheim Cup points
- This is her fourth start at the CPKC Women's Open
 - Her first-round 68 is her lowest opening round at the tournament
 - In 2023, she made her first cut in the event and earned her third career top-10 finish (T6)
 - In her 2018 and 2022 starts, she missed the cut
- Read more about her round here: [Lauren Coughlin picking up where she left off at the CPKC Women's Open](#)
- She was on the LPGA Podcast earlier this week; [Episode 9 | Ohhh Canada ft. the Trending Lauren Coughlin](#)
- This is Coughlin's 17th start of the 2024 season
 - This is her best season on the LPGA Tour to date; amassing more than 57% of her career earnings since January 2024
 - She has four top-10 finishes this season including at two major championships (Ford Championship presented by KCC, T8; The Chevron Championship, T3; ShopRite LPGA Classic presented by Acer, T9; Amundi Evian Championship, 4th)
 - She has missed four cuts this season (FIR HILLS SERI PAK Championship, Cognizant Founders Cup, U.S. Women's Open presented by Ally, Dow Championship)
- Coughlin is in her seventh season on the LPGA Tour
 - She finished T7 at the 2017 LPGA Final Qualifying Tournament to first earn LPGA Tour status for 2018
 - She played primarily on the Epson Tour in 2019, making only one start on the LPGA Tour that year
 - She played on both the Epson Tour and LPGA Tour in 2020 and 2021, but has played mostly on the LPGA Tour since 2022
 - She played collegiately at the University of Virginia
 - Her husband, John Pond, is caddying for Gina Kim this week

THINGS TO KNOW

- Four players sit in a tie for second after shooting 69 in the first round
 - **Hannah Green** scrambled well during round one, hitting just four of 14 fairways and making over 150'0" in putts
 - This is Green's fifth start at the CPKC Women's Open
 - Her best finish (T4) occurred last year
 - Green has won twice this season, the HSBC Women's World Championship and the JM Eagle LA Championship presented by Plastpro
 - According to KPMG Performance Insights, Green's first rounds this season have been her weakest in strokes gained:
 - Round one: 0.56 (strokes gained)
 - Round two: 2.10 (strokes gained)
 - Round three: 1.27 (strokes gained)
 - Round four: 2.39 (strokes gained)
 - She is representing Australia in the 2024 Paris Olympics
 - **Ariya Jutanugarn** recorded five birdies and two bogeys in round one
 - Jutanugarn is making her 10th start at the CPKC Women's Open this week
 - She is a past champion of the event, winning in 2016 at Priddis Greens Golf & Country Club the last time the CPKC Women's Open was in Calgary
 - She has one additional top-10 finish at the event in 2019 (9th)
 - **Jennifer Kupcho** scored just one bogey in her first round
 - This is Kupcho's fourth start at the CPKC Women's Open
 - She has never finished higher than T36 in the event
 - She has also never missed the cut in her last three playings
 - She has only missed one cut this season, at the U.S. Women's Open presented by Ally
 - Kupcho has three top-10 finishes, most recently at the Dow Championship alongside partner Ally Ewing (2nd)
 - The two-time U.S. Solheim Cup team member (2021, 2023) currently ranks 11th on the U.S. Solheim Cup standings
 - **Minjee Lee** recorded four birdies and a bogey on Thursday
 - She averaged 20'0" on approaches from 150-175 yards today; the LPGA Tour average is 31'0"
 - This is Lee's eighth start at the CPKC Women's Open
 - Her best finish at the event is T4 in 2018
 - Lee is making her 13th start of the 2024 season this week

- According to the KPMG Pre-Tournament Performance Insights, she ranks in the top-five on the LPGA Tour this season in strokes gained approach (2nd), proximity to the hole (3rd) and proximity on approach shots from 125 to 150 yards (4th)
 - She has finished in the top-10 three times this season, most recently at the U.S. Women's Open presented by Ally (T9)
 - Lee will be representing Australia in the 2024 Paris Olympics alongside Hannah Green
 - Her brother, Min Woo, is also representing Australia in the men's competition
 - Read more about the siblings in Paris [here](#)
- **Savannah Grewal** and **Maude-Aimee Leblanc** are T12 (-1) and recorded the lowest score across all Canadians in the field
 - Grewal is a 2024 LPGA Tour rookie from Mississauga, Ontario
 - She is making her 14th start of the season
 - Grewal recorded her first top-10 finish at the Blue Bay LPGA (T4)
 - She is looking to make her first cut since the FIR HILLS SERI PAK Championship
 - Leblanc is from Sherbrooke, Quebec and has been a Member of the LPGA Tour since 2012
 - She has four career top-10s and is making her 14th LPGA Tour start of the season this week
- **Lydia Ko** was the only player to record a bogey-free round on Thursday
 - Today's round was her 131st bogey-free round since the beginning of 2014 (more of any other player)
 - Ko has won the CPKC Women's Open three times (2012, 2013, 2015)
 - She is one LPGA Tour win away from qualifying for the LPGA Tour Hall of Fame
 - Ko is only one point short of the minimum threshold of 27 points for LPGA HOF induction
 - LPGA HOF criteria can be found [here](#)
- **Lizette Salas** withdrew prior to her first round due to injury; **Emma Talley** replaced her in the field
 - Talley is making her sixth start on the LPGA Tour this season
 - She shot even par on Thursday
 - This season, she has split her time between the Epson and LPGA Tours
 - At last week's Dana Open, she made her first cut on the LPGA Tour since the 2023 Buick LPGA Shanghai
- Due to the course routing at Earl Grey Golf Club, players are starting on holes 1 and 11 this week
- The [Audi Precision Award](#) will be presented to the player with the most greens in regulation across four rounds of competition
 - After the first round, **Gurleen Kaur** has hit the most greens in regulation (16/18)

QUOTABLE

Brooke Henderson on playing in Canada

"I mean, Canadians follow my round where every I am which is really amazing. It's just a little bit louder and a little bit more fun playing at home on home soil. And they were definitely behind me the whole time. Like I said, hopefully I can just go out tomorrow and give them a little bit more to cheer about and hear some of those louder cheers again. Just so grateful for all the support out there. Yeah, just the excitement level from them is really cool."

Minjee Lee on the opening ceremony for the 2024 Olympic Games

"Well, I think my brother is going to do the opening. So I don't know what the time difference is, I don't know if I can catch it or not, but I'll try and see him on the boat. I don't know if I will be able to see him on like any of the later coverage or anything. But, yeah, my mind -- some of my mind is over there as well. I'm looking forward to when we get over there and start playing, too."

Lauren Coughlin talking about the rough at Earl Grey Golf Club

"It's tough. Just depends on the lie you're going to get. I got a little lucky on a couple of them that they weren't too bad, but then like on the last hole it wasn't easy because it was sitting up a good few inches, so you can go under it really easy and hit really high on the face. So just trying to judge how I was coming out. Luckily you can bounce stuff short and it runs up, so that made it a little bit easier. But it's just all the dependant on the lie."

Ariya Jutanugarn, the winner of the 2016 CPKC Women's Open in Calgary, on her expectations this week

"I would say I don't have a good year yet, like starting my first tournament until this event. And when I play the practice round Tuesday and play the pro-am on Wednesday, I feel like this course so hard. Like the rough is so long. The fairway so small. Green is so firm. So today just play no expectation because like it's really windy when we start. Especially like first 12 hole is so hard. I think when I play without expectations, so everything start to get better."

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[Defending champ feeling like royalty this week](#)

TOURNAMENT SCORING RECORDS

18 holes – 62, Paula Reto (R1, 2022), Lindy Duncan (R2, 2022), Mo Martin (R4, 2018), Song Hee-Kim (R2, 2009)

36 holes – 129, Narin An (2022), So Yeon Ryu (2014)

54 holes – 196, So Yeon Ryu (2014)

72 holes – 262, Jin Young Ko (2019)