

#### **CPKC Women's Open**

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

# Wednesday Pre-Tournament Notes July 24, 2024

#### NOTABLE PLAYERS IN THE 2024 CPKC WOMEN'S OPEN FIELD

Lilia Vu (Rolex Rankings World No. 2)

- This is Vu's third start in the CPKC Women's Open
  - Her best result at the event came in 2022, when she finished T17 at Ottawa Hunt and Golf Club
  - Last season, she finished T22 Vancouver
- According to the KPMG Predictive Insights, Vu has the third highest win probability at the CPKC Women's Open this week, with a probability of 5.6%
- This will be Vu's 11th LPGA Tour start of the 2024 season
  - O Vu has not missed a cut this season, but withdrew from two events due to injury
    - The American suffered a back injury early in the season, missing several events including her title defense at The Chevron Thampionship
  - Vu won the Meijer LPGA Classic for Simply Give in her first event back from injury
    - She defeated Grace Kim and Lexi Thompson in a playoff
  - o Immediately following her win, Vu finished T2 at the KPMG Women's PGA Championship
  - In total, Vu has three top-10 finishes this season, including a T7 result in her title defense at the Honda LPGA Thailand
- According to the KPMGA Performance Insights:
  - Vu is again one of the best putters on the LPGA Tour this season, gaining nearly three-quarters of a stroke per round on the field
    - Her average strokes gained putting in 2024 is 0.79, ranked 11th on Tour this season
  - Vu has been strong with her approach play since returning from a back injury, ranking in the top-25 in the field each week

| Lilia Vu Since Return at Meijer LPGA |        |                  |  |
|--------------------------------------|--------|------------------|--|
|                                      | Finish | SG Approach Rank |  |
| Meijer LPGA Classic                  | Win    | 19th             |  |
| KPGM Women's PGA                     | 2nd    | 7th              |  |
| Amundi Evian Championship            | T26    | 25th             |  |

Vu continues to steadily improve her elite greens in regulation rank among her LPGA peers – from 16th in 2022 (73.5%), to 8th last season (74.5%) – and now, 5th (72.5%)

### LPGA ON-SITE COMMUNICATIONS TEAM

Carly Lyvers

Coordinator, LPGA Communications

Carly.Lyvers@lpga.com

+1 (386) 214-9105

**Emily Carman** 

Coordinator, LPGA Communications

Emily.Carman@lpga.com

+1 (714) 742-8301

#### **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: @CPKCWomensOpen (X, Instagram)

TV/STREAMING TIMES (All times EST)
Thursday, July 25: 6:30-9:30 p.m. (Golf

Channel/Peacock)

Friday, July 26: 6:30-9:30 p.m. (Golf

Channel/Peacock)

Saturday, July 27: 6-9 p.m. (Golf Channel/Peacock)
Sunday, July 28: 6-9 p.m. (Golf Channel/Peacock)

- This year at the CPKC Women's Open, the Audi Precision Award will be awarded to the player who hits the most greens in regulation during the event
  - The winner will receive \$20,000 and a matching investment will be donated to an organization in the local community that advances and supports the growth of women's golf
- This is Vu's 4th season on the LPGA Tour
  - O She is a five-time LPGA Tour winner and two-time major champion
    - Four of her LPGA Tour victories came in 2023
      - In 2023, Vu was named Rolex Player of the Year and received the Rolex Annika Major Award following her two major victories that year
  - Vu has represented the United States in the 2023 Solheim Cup, the 2023 Hanwha LIFEPLUS International Crown and will represent Team USA this summer at the Paris Olympic Games
  - Vu was an LPGA Tour rookie in 2019, but lost her card after her first season on Tour and played primarily on the Epson Tour in 2020 and 2021
    - She finished first on the Epson Tour's Money List in 2021 to earn back status for the 2022 season

# Brooke Henderson (World No. 18)

"I feel like I've been trending in the right direction for a really long time now. I've been close and haven't really been able to turn it over, but feel like it's right around the corner, which is a great feeling to have. The start of the year was great, a lot of top 10s, felt like I was in contention a lot of weeks, and it was really fun to be in those final pairings on the weekend. I am looking forward to getting back there. I feel our season might be half over but still so much great golf to be played. I am so excited to be teeing it up here this week in Calgary and Olympics in two weeks and being able to play St Andrews a couple weeks after that. All huge highlights for me, so it's a big stretch of golf coming up, and hopefully my game can continue that trend and get a little bit closer to the top of the leaderboard."

- Henderson won the 2018 CPKC Women's Open, becoming just the second Canadian to ever win the event and first since the event's inaugural year in 1973
  - Henderson bested **Angel Yin** by four strokes at Wascana Country Club in 2018
  - $\circ \quad \text{The CPKC Women's Open was Henderson's seventh LPGA Tour win and her only victory on home soil}\\$
- This is Henderson's 11th start in the CPKC Women's Open
  - In addition to her win, Henderson has one top-10 finish, a T3 result in 2019
  - She also has three additional top-20 results, a T12 finish in 2017, T13 in 2023 and a T14 result the last time the tournament was played in Calgary in 2016
  - O She has only missed the cut twice at the CPKC Women's Open, in her first two playings in 2012 and 2013
  - $\circ\quad$  A look at Brooke Henderson's career in her national open:

| Brooke Henderson Record<br>CKPC Women's Open – Career |       |  |
|---|-------|--|
| Starts 10   |       |  |
| Wins  | 1     |  |
| Top-25 finishes                                       | 6     |  |
| Missed cuts   | 2     |  |
| Score to par  | -58   |  |
| Scoring average                                       | 70.06 |  |

- O View her pre-tournament press conference here
- According to the KPMG Predictive Insights, Henderson has the highest win probability at the CPKC Women's Open this week, with a probability of 6.5%
- This will be Henderson's 17th start of the 2024 season
  - She has six top-10 finishes this year, with a season-best results of third and T3 at the Hilton Grand Vacations Tournament of Champions (3), HSBC Women's World Championship (T3) and The Chevron Championship (T3)
  - She has only missed one cut this season, at the U.S. Women's Open
  - Her most recent result on Tour is a T26 finish at the Amundi Evian Championship
- According to the KPMG Performance Insights, Henderson has made 99 putts this season of 10 feet or longer, tied for the fourth-most on the LPGA Tour this season

| Brooke Henderson Putting This Season |       |           |  |
|--------------------------------------|-------|-----------|--|
|                                      |       | LPGA Rank |  |
| Made of 10+ feet                     | 99    | T-4       |  |
| Putting 10-20 feet                   | 27.8% | T-18      |  |

- This is Henderson's 10th year on the LPGA Tour
  - She has 13 wins including two major championships (2016 KPMG Women's PGA Championship, 2022 Amundi Evian Championship)
  - O She has won every year she has been on the LPGA Tour except 2020, but has not yet won in 2024
  - $\circ\quad$  She is the winningest Canadian golfer and has earned over \$13 million over her career
  - o In 2019, she won the LPGA's Founders Award

o She represented Canada in the 2016 Rio Olympics and 2020 Tokyo Olympics, and will again represent her country this year in Paris

#### Lydia Ko (World No. 21)

"I think Golf Canada and everybody involved has always put in a lot of effort to make this championship what it is. I think we get to go and play some of the most beautiful and great golf courses all around Canada, and whether it's hospitality to the volunteers, to our dining and everything, and even the Golf Town trailer they have this week, I think they have continuously elevated this event. It's definitely think it's one of the favorite spots for all of us players. Obviously a little unique this year with the Olympics in a couple weeks. All in all, I think this is one of the best stops for us on the LPGA. It's great that we can celebrate the 50th year. I honestly thought the Canadian Open has been on for longer. Just feels like there is a lot of history. Seeing kind of the entryway into the putting green and all the past champion's names there is pretty cool. To have the trophy next to my name on Paul's bib is awesome as well."

- Ko is a three-time winner of the CPKC Women's Open
  - o In 2012, she became the youngest-ever winner of an LPGA Tour event when she won the CPKC Women's Open at 15 years and four months old
    - She participated as an amateur and sponsor invite in her 2012 victory
  - o In 2013, she defended her title, participating as an amateur and sponsor invite
    - She became the only player in LPGA Tour history to win twice as an amateur or sponsor invite
    - She joined Pat Bradley (1985, 1986) as the only two players to defend their title at the CPKC Women's Open
  - o In 2015, she earned her third CPKC Women's Open title and her first as a Member of the LPGA Tour
    - She is currently tied with Meg Mallon (200, 2002, 2004) and Pat Bradley (1980, 1985, 1986) as the players with the most CPKC Women's Open titles
- With a win this week, she would become the winningest player in the history of the CPKC Women's Open and earn her final point into the LPGA Tour Hall of Fame
- This is her 11th start at the CPKC Women's Open
  - o In addition to her wins, she has three top-10 finishes (T7, 2016; T8, 2018; 4th, 2022)
  - She has missed the cut once in 2017
  - View her pre-tournament press conference here
  - This is Ko's 14th start of the 2024 LPGA Tour season
    - O She had one win in her season debut (Hilton Grand Vacations Tournament of Champions)
    - She has two additional top-10 finishes including LPGA Drive On Championship (2nd) and the Blue Bay LPGA (T4)
    - She is representing New Zealand in the 2024 Paris Olympics for the third time; she was the silver medalist in 2016 Olympics and the bronze medalist in the 2020
       Olympics
    - o KPMG Performance Insights on Lydia Ko's first seven starts compared to her last six starts:

| Lydia Ko Performance                |                |               |  |
|-------------------------------------|----------------|---------------|--|
| LPGA tour – Stroke Play This Season |                |               |  |
|                                     | First 7 Starts | Last 6 Starts |  |
| Score to Par                        | -49            | +22           |  |
| Scoring Average                     | 70.04          | 72.88         |  |
| Top-10 Finishes                     | 3              | 0             |  |
| Rounds in the 60s                   | 11             | 2             |  |
| SG Total                            | +2.15          | -0.01         |  |

- Ko has won 20 times including two major championships on the LPGA Tour
  - o She became an LPGA Member in 2014 after turning professional in October 2013 and being granted Membership by then Commissioner Mike Whan
  - She has earned numerous LPGA Awards including 2014 Louise Suggs Rolex Rookie of the Year, 2015 Rolex Player of the Year, 2021 Founders Award, 2021 Vare Trophy, 2022 Vare Trophy and 2022 Rolex Player of the Year
- Ko is one point away from qualifying from the LPGA Tour Hall of Fame
  - o Ko earned her 20th career victory at the Hilton Grand Vacations Tournament of Champions in her 2024 season debut
  - o Ko earned one point towards LPGA Hall of Fame induction, bringing her career total to 26 points
    - She is only one point short of the minimum threshold of 27 points for LPGA HOF induction
    - LPGA Hall of Fame criteria can be found <u>here</u>

### Megan Khang (World No. 22)

"To be able to birdie 18 when I needed to and then in the playoff, regulation, to pull it off, it was just kind of a whirlwind of emotion. I think I had some family friends comment on the last mute I made. They're like, yeah, you made it and you were so calm about. I feel like what people don't know is I thought I nearly missed it. I literally lipped in if you look at the tape. I knew I could miss, but you never want to miss to win. I think that's just all the nerves kind of finally hitting me that this was to get my first tour win. To get the first one it was incredible and still hungry for the next."

- Khang became a Rolex First-Time Winner at the 2023 CPKC Women's Open
  - She tied with Jin Young Ko (-9) and advanced to a playoff where Khang made a par on the first playoff hole to capture the victory
  - o It was her first win in her 191st career Tour start
  - $\circ$  She was the first American to win the CPKC Women's Open since **Brittany Lincicome** in 2011
- This will be Khang's first time defending a tournament title on the LPGA Tour
  - View her pre-tournament press conference <u>here</u>
- This is Khang's seventh start at the CPKC Women's Open
  - o In addition to her victory, she has finished in the top-20 three previous times (T13, 2022; T13, 2019; T20, 2017)
  - $\circ\quad$  She has never missed the cut in her past six playings of the event
  - o Her lowest recorded round at the CPKC Women's Open is 66; she has shot it twice in the second rounds of the 2022 and 2023 CPKC Women's Open
- This is Khang's 14th start of the 2024 LPGA Tour season
   Khang has true ton 2 finishes the LPGA British On
  - Khang has two top-3 finishes, the LPGA Drive On Championship (3rd) and the ShopRite LPGA Classic presented by Acer (T2)
  - o She has missed five cuts including in her most recent starts at the KPMG Women's PGA Championship and The Amundi Evian Championship
- According to KPMG Performance Insights, Khang is one of three players to rank inside the top-30 in each of the three tee to green categories. Her 1/76 strokes grained tee to green per round leads the LPGA Tour

| Top-30 in SG Off the Tee, Approach, and Around the Green  LPGA tour – This Season |        |         |             |
|---|--------|---------|-------------|
|   | Khang* | N.Korda | Tavatanakit |
| Off the tee   | 27th   | 2nd     | 12th        |
| Approach  | 5th    | 30th    | 28th        |
| Around the Green  | 14th   | 11th    | 5th         |

<sup>\* 1.76</sup> strokes gained tee to green this season (leads all players)

- Khang has been on the LPGA Tour since 2016
  - She has amassed over \$6,091,385 in career earnings and has 39 top-10 finishes
  - She has been on the U.S. Solheim Cup team three times (2019, 2021 and 2023)
  - $\circ\quad$  Khang is currently 5th in U.S. Solheim Cup Points for 2024

# KPMG INSIGHT OF THE WEEK

Who are the best performers this season in the final rounds of tournaments? When breaking it down by each strokes gained category, **Linn Grant** is best off the tee, **Anna**Nordqvist is best on the greens, while this week's defending champion, **Megan Khang** has been the best with her approach play. When looking at everything tee-to-green, **Rose**Zhang comes out with the most strokes gained in the final round.

| Final Round Strokes Gained Leaders<br>LPGA Tour This Season |                |           |
|---|----------------|-----------|
| Leader Per round  |                | Per round |
| Tee to green  | Rose Zhang     | +2.40     |
| Off the tee   | Linn Grant     | +1.16     |
| Approach  | Megan Khang    | +2.16     |
| Putting   | Anna Nordqvist | +1.78     |

<sup>\*</sup> Minimum 5 final rounds played

# THINGS TO KNOW

- This is the 50th year of the CPKC Women's Open
  - This is the 22nd playing of the CPKC Women's Open as a 72-hole, non-major event on the LPGA Tour
  - o The event was played as a LPGA Tour major championship from 1979-2000 and know by a series of names, most famously the du Maurier Classic
  - o The tournament originally played as a three-round (54-hole) tournament for its first six years, but has been a four-round (72-hole) tournament since 1979
- Earl Grey Golf Club is the 30th different venue to host the CPKC Women's Open

- o This is the first professional event that the club has ever hosted
- Canada's own Alena Sharp is making her 19th start in the CPKC Women's Open
  - o It has been 20 years since she made her first start in the event in 2004
  - O Sharp's best finish at the event, a solo fourth result, came in 2016 in Calgary
  - o View her pre-tournament press conference here
- No. 14 is the Birdies for Heart hole this week
  - o For every birdie made throughout the week, a donation will be made to Alberta Children's Hospital Foundation
- No. 17 will be the featured "Rink" hole
  - The tee markers are goalie masks
  - o The marshals are outfitted in referee uniforms
  - Spectators are encouraged to bang on the rink boards that line the teebox

#### **OLYMPIC CORNER**

Twenty-three of the 60 players competing in the 2024 Olympics women's golf competition teeing it up this week at the CPKC Women's Open: *Players alphabetically by their National Olympic Councils:* 

Australia: Hannah Green, Minjee Lee Canada: Brooke Henderson, Alena Sharp Chinese Taipei: Peiyun Chien, Wei-Ling Hsu

Denmark: Nanna Koerstz Madsen, Emily Kristine Pedersen

Germany: Alexandra Forsterling

India: Aditi Ashok

Ireland: Leona Maguire, Stephanie Meadow

Mexico: Maria Fassi New Zealand: Lydia Ko Norway: Celine Borge

People's Republic of China: Xiyu Lin

Philippines: Dottie Ardina, Bianca Pagdanganan

South Africa: Paula Reto Spain: Azahara Munoz Switzerland: Morgane Metraux United States: Lilia Vu, Rose Zhang

For the most updated 2024 Olympic golf competition fields, click here: <a href="https://www.igfgolf.org/news/2024/07/09/fields-announced-olympic-golf-paris-2024">https://www.igfgolf.org/news/2024/07/09/fields-announced-olympic-golf-paris-2024</a>

#### Of Note:

- 10 of the 2024 Olympians in the CPKC Women's Open field are making their third appearance in the Games this August, including Canadians Brooke Henderson and Alena Sharp
  - o In her Olympic debut at Rio 2016, Henderson finished tied for seventh, which remains as Canada's best Olympic golf result since the competition's return in 2016; she was 18 years old
- Paula Reto (2022), Brooke Henderson (2018) and Lydia Ko (2012, 2013, 2015) are past CPKC Women's Open champions competing this week and at Le Golf National in two weeks
  - <u>Brooke Henderson</u> on representing Canada on the global stage: "Any time I can represent Canada I'm very proud to do so. Same as this week. When I step on the first tee and he hear from Smiths Falls, Ontario and everybody gets excited, it's a very cool feeling for me. It's just an honor to wear red and white and to wear the maple leaf. I am really looking forward to Paris this year. I feel like I have good experiences to lean back on from past Olympic Games, and feel like I'll be ready this year."
  - Lydia Ko on the excitement of the 2024 Games, and where her two previous medals sit: "I'm super excited that this is my third Olympics, and I may not be very athletic, but I can say I'm an Olympian and Olympic medalist, which is something I'm always very proud of...[My medals are] actually -- one is in my parents' wardrobe cabinet, and one -- I think that's the Rio one. The other one, Tokyo Olympics bronze is in Korea. So I haven't seen it since I've been on the podium -- in both cases. Yeah, I think when I finally get settled in and have like a real home-home base, I would like to kind of like put it out and make my little trophy room alongside the trophies for this week."
- The Olympic Torch ran through Le Golf National on July 23, highlighted on the women's side by major champion **Patricia Meunier-Lebouc:** https://x.com/OlympicGolf/status/1815784764198056365
- The IGF also announced the elevated commitment to Sports for Nature ahead of the Olympic golf competitions: https://www.igfgolf.org/news/2024/07/23/international-golf-federation-sports-for-nature-olympics

# Countdown to the beginning of the Olympic Women's Golf Competition:

Thursday, July 25: 13 days Friday, July 26: 12 days Saturday, July 27: 11 days Sunday, July 28: 10 days

# **Key Dates for Olympic Golf:**

- 29 July Groupings and tee times announced for the men's golf competition
- 1-4 August Men's golf competition
- 5 August Groupings and tee times announced for the women's golf competition
- 7-10 August Women's golf competition

Overview on the Olympic Golf qualification process: the Olympic field is restricted to 60 players for each of the men's and women's competitions. For the women's golf competition, the International Golf Federation (IGF) uses the Rolex Women's World Golf Rankings to create the Olympic Golf Rankings as a method of determining eligibility. The top-15 world-ranked players will be eligible for the Olympics, with a limit of four players from a given country. Beyond the top 15, players will be eligible based on their Rolex Rankings position, with a maximum of two eligible players from each country that does not already have two or more players among the top-15. The host country – France – gets a minimum of one spot in each competition, regardless of rankings.

# ON LPGA.COM

How to Watch the 2024 CPKC Women's Open

Fixed Breakdown 2024 CBKC Women's Open

Field Breakdown: 2024 CPKC Women's Open

Episode 9 | Ohhh Canada ft. the Trending Lauren Coughlin

Megan Khang Pre-Tournament Press Conference

Minjee Lee Pre-Tournament Press Conference

Brooke Henderson Pre-Tournament Press Conference

<u>Brooke Henderson Pre-Tournament Press Conference</u> Lydia Ko Pre-Tournament Press Conference

Alena Sharp Pre-Tournament Press Conference

International Golf Federation, French Golf Federation and Swiss Golf Federation Become Signatories of Sports for Nature Framework

Hilton Grand Vacations Announces Star-Studded Entertainment Lineup for 2025 HGV Tournament of Champions

# SOCIAL SNAPSHOT

Featured Groups for the CPKC Women's Open Lydia Hitting the Rink

Golf Meets Hockey! #LPGALookback with Megan Khang

Tune Into the LPGA Podcast with Lauren Coughlin

Haeran Ryu Gets 300 attempts to make a hole-in-one, can she do it?