Dow Championship
Midland Country Club| Midland, MI | June 27-30, 2024

Wednesday Pre-Tournament Notes
June 26, 2024

TOURNAMENT FORMAT

Competition Format: The Dow Championship is a 72-hole, stroke-play team event with teams compromised of two players. The first and third rounds will be played in foursomes (alternate shot) and the second and final rounds will be played in four ball (best-ball) format. After 36 holes, the field will be cut to the low-33 teams and ties.

In the event of a playoff, the champions will be determined by a hole-by-hole playoff in the foursomes format.

Each LPGA Member on the winning team will receive the standard two-year winner's exemption on the LPGA Priority List. Non-Member win regulations apply to non-Members that are participating in the event. CME points and prize money will be official for the purposes of the current-year LPGA Official Money List and Race to the CME Globe Standings. Players can also earn points toward the LPGA Hall of Fame in the event. Rolex Player of the Year, Louise Suggs Rolex Rookie of the Year and U.S. Solheim Cup points will not be allocated, and statistics will not be calculated. Rolex Women's World Rankings Points also will not be allocated.

NOTABLE TEAMS IN THE DOW CHAMPIONSHIP FIELD

Rolex Rankings No. 3 Jin Young Ko and **Rolex Rankings No. 24 Nasa Hataoka** (Team Cheers)

- This is Ko's second and Hataoka's third start at Midland Country Club
  - Ko finished second with her partner **Minjee Lee** in 2019
  - Hataoka missed the cut in 2019 with her partner **Suzuka Yamaguchi** and finished T12 in 2021 with **Lexi Thompson**
- Ko has three top-10 finishes this season and is coming off a T2 finish at the Tour's third major of the season, the KPMG Women's PGA Championship
  - This is her 10th start of the 2024 season
    - She has only missed one cut this season
  - Coming into the week, she sits in the top-10 in two statistical categories among the Tour
    - She is eighth in both scoring average (70.67) and putting average (29.09 putts)
  - She was one of the three players from the Republic of Korea selected to represent their country at the 2024 Paris Olympics
    - She is making her second start at the Olympic Games after finishing T9 in 2020
- Hataoka has two top-10 finishes this season, including a T3 finish at the HSBC Women's World Championship
  - Hataoka is making her 15th start of the 2024 season
  - Coming into this tournament, she is third in rounds under par with 27 on Tour this season
- According to KPMG Performance Insights, Ko and Hataoka are the only pair of teammates this week to each rank inside the top-20 of Strokes Gained: Approach

Strokes Gained Approach Jin Young Ko and Nasa Hataoka – 2024 Season		
	Per Round	Rank
Jin Young Ko	+1.22	3rd
Nasa Hataoka	+0.81	T14th

- Since the start of 2020, no team in this week's field has more wins than the duo
  - Ko/Hataoka – 12
  - **Danielle Kang/Lydia Ko** – 8
  - **Celine Boutier/Yuka Saso** – 7
  - **Ally Ewing/Jennifer Kupcho** – 6

Rolex Rankings No. 77 Cheyenne Knight and **Rolex Rankings No. 185 Elizabeth Szokol** (Team Elizabethan Knights)

"It's just such an amazing memory. You know, golf's an individual sport, and just actually getting to play with one of my best friends and getting the win, I was just remember having so much fun with each other. It was a bonus that we won, but it's always just a great week playing here because we get to play together. Yeah, it was the highlight of my career for sure winning with Elizabeth" – *Knight on what made the week so special for the both of them last year*

- This is the fourth time the duo has teed it up at the Dow Championship and the first time as defending champions
  - In 2022, the duo finished T4 and in 2021, they missed the cut
- This is Knight's 14th start of the 2024 season
  - She has two top-10 finishes, which both occurred in her first two events of the season (Hilton Grand Vacations Tournament of Champions, T4; LPGA Drive On Championship, T9)
  - This is her second time defending at a tournament, the first being after her win at the 2019 Ascendant LPGA benefiting Volunteers of America
    - In her first title defense at the 2020 Ascendant LPGA benefiting Volunteers of America, she finished T25
  - Knight made her first appearance at the Solheim Cup in 2023
- This is Szokol's 14th start this season and her first time defending a championship
  - She has eight career top-10 finishes and has earned over $1.5 million over the course of her career
  - Last year, she became a Rolex First-Time Winner at the Dow Championship and was one of a record-breaking 12 Rolex First-Time Winners in 2023
- According to KPMG Performance Insights, Knight has improved her short game at last week's major championship, increasing her strokes gained output on both around and on the greens

Cheyenne Knight Strokes Gained Per Round – Last 5 Starts		
	Prev. 12 Rounds	Last Week
Around the Green	-0.21	+1.03
Putting	+0.30	+0.84

- Szokol has added almost 10 more yards off the tee this season compared to last, improving her strokes gained off the tee number drastically

Elizabeth Szokol Performance Off the Tee – Last Two Seasons		
	2023	2024
SG: Off the Tee	-0.33	+0.47
LPGA Tour Rank	116th	21st
Average Driving Distance	255.1	264.9

Rolex Rankings No. 14 Brooke Henderson and **Rolex Rankings No. 33 Lexi Thompson** (Team Stars, Stripes and Maple Leafs)

- Henderson and Thompson are teaming up for the second-straight season at the Dow Championship
  - The duo missed the cut in 2023
- This is Henderson's fourth time at this event
  - She finished T17 in 2021 with **In Gee Chun** and fifth in 2019 with **Alena Sharp**
- This is Henderson's 15th start of the 2024 season

LPGA ON-SITE COMMUNICATIONS TEAM

Carly Lyvers
Coordinator, LPGA Communications
Carly.Lyvers@lpga.com
+1 (386) 214-9105

Matt Jesus
Coordinator, LPGA Communications
Matt.Jesus@lpga.com
+1 (402) 957-4674

QUICK LINKS

Interview Transcripts
LPGA Tour Online Media Center (OMC): includes links to daily tournament notes, statistics and photo/video assets
LPGA Statistical Database: Request access to LPGA Tour data from 1980 to present
Stats Box: Includes all-time records, major records, purse breakdowns, stats documents, scoring files, points structures, and tournament histories
Media Assets: For access to tournament photos and videos, please contact the on-site LPGA Communications team
Tournament Website

SOCIAL MEDIA

LPGA Tour: @LPGA, @LPGAMedia (X), @lpga_tour (Instagram, TikTok)
Dow Championship: @dowchampionship (Instagram, TikTok, X)

TV/STREAMING TIMES (All times EST)

Thursday, June 27: 10 a.m.-12 p.m. (Golf Channel/Peacock); 12-1 p.m. (Peacock)
Friday, June 28: 10 a.m.-12 p.m. (Golf Channel/Peacock); 12-1 p.m. (Peacock)
Saturday, June 29: 4-5 p.m. (Peacock); 5-7 p.m. (Golf Channel/Peacock)
Sunday, June 30: 12-1 p.m. (NBCSports.com/App); 1-3 p.m. (CBS/Paramount+)

    - She has made 14 cuts with five top-10 finishes including a T3 finish at The Chevron Championship
    - Coming into this week she is inside the top-five in multiple statistical categories including:
        - Rounds under par – Second, 30
        - Birdies – Second, 191
        - Rounds in the 60s – Third, 19
        - Sub-par Holes – Second, 195
- This is Thompson's fifth start at this tournament
    - She missed the cut with **Brittany Altomare** in 2022, finished T12 with Hataoka in 2021 and finished T33 with **Cristie Kerr** in 2019
- Thompson is making her 10th start of the 2024 season
    - She has made five cuts with three top-10 finishes
        - Thompson finished T2 at the Meijer LPGA Classic for Simply Give after losing to **Lilia Vu** in a playoff alongside **Grace Kim**
        - She also recorded a T9 finish at the third major of the season, the KPMG Women's PGA Championship; her first top-10 finish in a major since the 2022 KPMG Women's PGA Championship
    - She is coming off back-to-back top-10 finishes for the first time in her career since the end of last season where she finished her last three starts inside the top-10
- According to KPMG Performance Insights, Henderson and Thompson are two of the most accomplished players since they both began playing

Brooke Henderson & Lexi Thompson Stats on the LPGA Tour	
Starts*	491
Wins	24
Majors	3
Top-10 Finishes*	172
Offical Earnings	$27.6 Million

*Includes starts as a non-member

- Both Henderson and Thompson have excelled in putting from 10-15 feet this season, each making over a third of their attempts from that range

Brooke Henderson & Lexi Thompson Putting from 10-15 Feet on LPGA Tour This Season	
Lexi Thompson	37.3%
Brooke Henderson	33.6%
LPGA Tour – Make Percentage	28.3%

Rolex Rankings No. 9 Rose Zhang and **Rolex Rankings No. 93 Alexa Pano** (Team Rolexa)
"I'm super excited. We grew up playing AJGAs together. We've participated in Junior Solheim, Junior Ryder Cup together. It's just super fun to go into this week knowing a really good friend, ever since we were itty-bitty and just going out and having fun. This event is so unique on the LPGA schedule, so being able to really just have a partner, enjoy the time, is very special." – *Zhang on how excited she is to play with Pano this week*

- Zhang and Pano are teaming up for the first time at the Dow Championship
    - Zhang is making her Dow Championship debut this week, playing for the first time at this event
    - Pano finished T17 with partner **Dewi Weber** last season
- This is Zhang's 11th start this season
    - She has made eight cuts and earned her second career win at the 2024 Cognizant Founders Cup
    - She has two additional top-10 finishes
- Zhang is one of three American's representing their country at this year's Olympic Games
    - She will be making her Olympic debut
    - This will be her second time representing the United States after competing at the Solheim Cup last season
- This is Pano's 16th start this season
    - She has made 11 cuts with one top-10 finish
        - She finished runner-up at the Hilton Grand Vacations Tournament of Champions
    - She is one of seven players to record an ace this season
        - She recorded her first career hole-in-one in the second round of the JM Eagle LA Championship presented by Plastpro
- According to KPMG Performance Insights, Zhang and Pano have both been excellent this season from tee to green, each ranking inside the top-10

Rose Zhang and Alexa Pano Strokes Gained Tee to Green		
	Strokes Gained	Rank
Rose Zhang	+1.48	5th
Alexa Pano	+1.33	6th

Rolex Rankings No. 4 Ruoning Yin and **Rolex Rankings No. 12 Atthaya Thitikul** (Team Jin & Ronic)
"I do. I think it's been a while. Like the Callaway shooting, I guess. At the Callaway shooting I ask her, because I have to play this year. I have to play, because this schedule was so good. Also, I haven't played before. So I just asked her that, like do you have partner for Dow? Are you going to play like Dow? She said like maybe. So I was just like, oh, then partner with me then. She doesn't have any option. I'm just forcing her to play with me." – *Thitikul on if she remembered how the two decided to play together*

- Yin and Thitikul are teaming up for the first time this season at the Dow Championship
    - Yin has missed the cut the last two seasons
    - This is Thitikul's first start at Midland Country Club
- Yin is making her 14th start of the 2024 season
    - She has missed one cut, the JM Eagle LA Championship presented by Plastpro
    - Yin has recorded two top-10 finishes (Cognizant Founders Cup, T4; FIR HILLS SERI PAK Championship, T8)
    - Last week, she was the defending champion at the KPMG Women's PGA Championship, finishing T24 in her second career title defense
    - She is one of two players going to the Olympics in Paris this summer to represent the People's Republic of China
        - This will be the first time Yin is competing at the Olympics
        - She represented China at the 2023 International Crown
- Thitikul is making her eighth start this year
    - She has only missed one cut (Cognizant Founders Cup) and has four top-10 finishes including a T6 finish at the U.S. Women's Open presented by Ally
    - She made her season debut at the first major of the year, The Chevron Championship, after working through an injury in the beginning of the year
    - She is one of two players representing Thailand at this year's Olympics
        - She is making her first start at the Olympics and has previously represented Thailand at the 2023 International Crown
- According to KPMG Performance Insights, Yin is one of eight players on Tour this season averaging at least a full stroke gained per round with her approach play

Ruoning Yin Strokes Gained Approach – Last Three Seasons		
	Per Round	LPGA Rank
2022	+0.66	16th
2023	+1.18	2nd
2024	+1.00	8th

- Thitikul has 33 top-10 finishes on the LPGA Tour since the beginning of 2022, nine more than the next closest player
    - Thitikul – 33
    - **Nelly Korda** – 24
    - **Celine Boutier** – 21
    - **Ayaka Furue** – 20
- Thitikul is also one of two players ranked in the top-40 in each of the four strokes gained categories

Top-40 in Each Strokes Gained Category LPGA Tour – This Season		
	Nelly Korda	Atthaya Thitikul
Off the Tee	2nd	33rd
Approach	31st	26th
Around the Green	6th	28th
Putting	27th	29th

Rolex Rankings No. 17 Lydia Ko and **Rolex Rankings No. 89 Danielle Kang** (Team Booda & Kai)

- With a win this week, Ko has the potential to earn her last point for automatic qualification into the LPGA Hall of Fame this week
    - She has earned points by her 20 wins on the LPGA Tour including two major championships (2015 Amundi Evian Championship and 2016 Chevron Championship) and by the 2015, 2022 Rolex Player of the Year and 2021, 2022 Vare Trophy
    - She is entering the week after a T46 at the KPMG Women's PGA Championship
    - In her season debut, she claimed her sole victory of the year at the Hilton Grand Vacations Tournament of Champions and has two additional top-10 finishes since then
    - This past week, she qualified to represent New Zealand in the 2024 Paris Olympics
        - This will be her third Olympics experience, earning silver in the 2016 Rio Olympics and bronze in the 2020 Tokyo Olympics
- Six-time LPGA Tour winner and major champion Kang is paired with Ko this week
    - This is her 12th start on the LPGA Tour this year
        - Her best finish so far was T20 at the Honda LPGA Thailand
    - Kang played at the Dow Championship in 2021 (T22) and 2019 (T12)
    - Kang has participated in four Solheim Cups (2017, 2019, 2021, 2023) and her last win was in 2022 at the Hilton Grand Vacations Tournament of Champions

OLYMPIC CORNER

On Wednesday, the International Golf Federation announced the 60 qualifiers for Women's Olympic Golf Competition. To learn more and see who is in the field, use the links below:

International Golf Federation Announces 60 Qualifiers for Women's Olympic Golf Competition
2024 Paris Olympics: Meet The 60 Qualifiers for The Women's Golf Competition in France
2024 Paris Olympics: Check Out Who Is Competing in the Women's Golf Competition at Le Golf National
Olympic Golf Ranking Final Update: Yang Earns Second Olympic Berth After KPMG Women's PGA Championship Win

ON LPGA.COM

First Teams Set For Grant Thornton Invitational Including Defending Champions Lydia Ko and Jason Day
Lexi Thompson Records First Top-10 Finish In Major Since 2022 at Sahalee CC
Five Things to Know About The 2024 Dow Championship
How to Watch the 2024 Dow Championship
Behind The Leaderboard – 2024 KPMG Women's PGA Championship
Georga Hall & Charley Hull Pre-Tournament Press Conference | 2024 Dow Championship
Alexa Pano and Rose Zhang Pre-Tournament Press Conference | 2024 Dow Championship
Georgia Oboh & Lakareber Abe Pre-Tournament Press Conference | 2024 Dow Championship
Sophie Stevens & Vanessa Borovilos Pre-Tournament Press Conference | 2024 Dow Championship
LPGA Podcast Episode 7 | KPMG Craziness Recap, Olympics Teams Being Finalized

SOCIAL SNAPSHOT

Featured Teams for the Dow Championship
Jin Young Ko and Nasa Hataoka are the Dynamic Duo
#LPGALookBack Emma Talley Loving This Hole-Out
Field Breakdown: 2024 Dow Championship
Always a Good Time with Mel Reid and Bronte Law
Shi And Rutgers Teamed Up At The 2024 Founders Cup To Give Student Athletes A Chance To Be Standard Bearers
How Well Does Amy Yang Know Her Caddie Jan Meierling?