



**LPGA Drive On Championship**  
 Bradenton Country Club | Bradenton, Fla. | Jan. 25-28, 2024

Second-Round Notes  
 Jan. 26, 2024

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**Course Setup:** 36-35 – 71; 6,423 yards  
**Scoring Average:** R1: 71.900, R2:70.627  
**Weather:** Partly cloudy to mixed skies with temperatures that rose to near 80 and southeast to south to southwest winds that peaked to 20 mph  
**Race to CME Globe Points:** 500 (winner)  
**Purse:** \$1.75 million (winner’s portion is \$262, 500)  
**TV/Streaming Times:** [How to Watch](#)

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LEADERBOARD			
	Player	To par	Score
1	Nelly Korda	-10	65-67 – 132
2	So Mi Lee	-8	69-65 – 134
T3	Xiyu Lin	-7	69-66 – 135
T3	Ayaka Furue	-7	68-67 – 135
T3	Lydia Ko	-7	65-70 – 135

**BRADENTON’S KORDA GRABS SOLO LEAD AFTER SECOND ROUND ACTION**

After beginning the day with a shared lead, **Nelly Korda** secured her spot alone atop the leaderboard at Bradenton Country Club after a second round 67. The Bradenton, Fla., native holds a two-stroke lead after 36 holes of play, just the fourth time she has held the lead heading into Moving Day.

Beginning on No. 10 in the afternoon wave, Korda got off to a slow start recording a bogey on No. 11 slipping from the top spot on the leaderboard. She quickly made up for the dip with three birdies on holes 13, 15 and 17 to get to eight-under par heading to the turn. Four-straight pars to begin her back-nine stretch was interrupted by her second bogey of the outing but was once again quick to rectify it with a birdie on the par-5 6th. Back-to-back birdies on another par 5, No. 8 as well as her last hole of the day, No. 9 helped the eight-time LPGA Tour winner secure her two-stroke lead.

“I just knew that I could probably take advantage of the two par-5s,” said Korda about what helped her birdie three of the last four holes. “I knew I had two par-5s coming up, and if I had good drives, they’re both reachable. Everyone is going to make mistakes. It’s all just about minimizing it. I was in between going for it and possibly risking hitting a tree and bouncing out OB, but actually Jay talked me into just taking the safer route. Sometimes just taking a bogey where you could possibly make a bigger number is important too.”

2024 LPGA Tour rookie **So Mi Lee** rocketed up the leaderboard with seven birdies in her second round of play to sit in solo second. Through two rounds of play, Lee recorded just one bogey throughout the tournament and is one of three players to register only one bogey. The five-time KLPGA winner is one of eight players to record an eagle so far, a feat she accomplished in her opening round on Thursday.

“Honestly, I shot better yesterday, but my birdie putts dropped more today and that’s why I was able to score a lower round,” Lee said about the difference in rounds. “There was one short part putt that I missed, which was unbelievable, so it’s a little disappointing, but I’m not a robot. I’m a human and can make mistakes. So if mistakes happen again tomorrow, I’ll try to move on from it casually.”

Three players find themselves tied for third including last week’s Hilton Grand Vacations Tournament of Champions winner **Lydia Ko** who recorded a 1-under 70 after going bogey-free in her opening round. The Kiwi is still on the hunt to earn the last point she needs to qualify for the LPGA Hall of Fame. Japan’s **Ayaka Furue** is tied for third after spending last week inside the top-five at the HGVTOC for most of the week as well. **Xiyu Lin** rounds out the top-five after she compiled nine birdies in her second round, including seven on her back nine.

“I feel good,” Lin said about her second round. “It was a rough start today. Nothing was really working, but I kind of set a goal this year to myself, it’s like never really get annoyed by what happens. So I think I manage it really well out there. Then my caddie did a good job too. He keep pushing me. He’s like come on, you’re going to keep dancing until it rains. Then finally on the back nine the putts really started to drop, and it was a really nice back nine. I’m really proud of myself.”

Five players round out the top-10 including LPGA sophomore **Lucy Li** and LPGA veteran **Sei Young Kim**. **Lexi Thompson**, **Gemma Dryburgh** and **Jasmine Suwannapura** all sit in a tie for ninth with hopes of jumping into the top-five spots during Moving Day. Defending champion **Celine Boutier** is just outside the top-10 at four-under par. Sweden’s **Maja Stark** had the best round of the week on Friday, firing off a seven-under 64 to propel her from a tie in 108th to a tie for 31st.

**A LOOK AT THE LEADER**

CATEGORY	Nelly Korda
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2024 Race to CME Globe Rank	4
2024 LPGA Tour Wins	0
2024 LPGA Tour Top 10s	0
2024 Season Earnings	\$24,216
Career LPGA Tour Wins	8
Career LPGA Tour Top 10s	55
Career Money (LPGA)	\$8,961,489
Career LET Wins	3
Career Epson Tour Wins	1

## ABOUT THE LEADER

### Rolex Rankings No. 4 Nelly Korda

- Korda hit 11 of 14 fairways and 16 of 18 greens with 32 putts
  - She six birdies and two bogeys in her second round
  - Through 36 holes she has one eagle, 12 birdies and four bogeys
- This is the fourth time she has held the lead after 36 holes and first since 2022
  - She has finished inside the top-five after leading at the conclusion of the second round all three times including a win at the 2021 KPMG Women's PGA Championship
  - This is the first time she has led or co-led after both the first and second round
- In her first round, Korda was 4-for-6 on putts from 10-15 feet, 66.7%
  - According to KPMG Performance Insights, Korda's average from last season was 23.2% and the LPGA Tour's average was 28.9%
- Her opening round 65 is her best first round at this event
  - Her 65 was her lowest round since her 2022 start at this tournament, 64 in her third round
- This is Korda's fifth start at the LPGA Drive On Championship
  - She has not missed a cut in her previous four starts and has a career-best finish of T15 in 2022
- This is her second start of the 2024 LPGA Tour season
  - She tied for 16th at the Hilton Grand Vacations Tournament of Champions last week
- In 2023, Korda made 18 starts and missed only one cut with nine top-10 finishes
  - Her best finish came at the HSBC Women's World Championship where she finished second
    - Of her nine top-10 finishes, three were in the top five
  - She finished fifth among the Tour in scoring average at 69.85
  - She represented the United States for the third time at the 2023 Solheim Cup
    - She went 2-2 to improve her Solheim Cup record to 7-4-1 overall
  - She also represented the United States at the 2023 Hanwha LIFEPLUS International Crown, where the team placed third
- This is her eighth season on the LPGA Tour
  - She has made 111 cuts in 128 starts and has earned eight wins and 47 additional top-10 finishes
    - Her last win came at the 2022 ANNIKA driven by Gainbridge at Pelican
  - She is the defending gold medalist after the 2020 Summer Olympics in Tokyo

## THINGS TO KNOW

- 2024 LPGA Tour rookie **So Mi Lee** sits in solo second
  - She has one eagle, nine birdies and a double-bogey through 36 holes
  - The five-time KLPGA winner has made six starts on the LPGA Tour as a non-member
    - Her last start was in 2023 at The Amundi Evian Championship
    - Her best finish was a tie for fourth at the 2019 BMW Ladies Championship
- **Xiyu Lin, Ayaka Furue** and **Lydia Ko** are all tied at third
  - Lin birdied seven of nine holes on the front nine
    - She recorded nine total birdies and four bogeys in her second round
      - Her nine birdies was the most made across the field in the second round
      - Her nine birdies are the most she has had on Tour since the 2023 Portland Classic (8 birdies,R1)
    - Lin has 16 birdies through 36 holes, the most among the field
  - Furue hit all 18 greens in her second round
    - She was one of two players to hit every green in regulation in their second round, joined by **Jodi Ewart Shadoff**
      - Since the beginning of 2023, Furue is one of four players to hit every green in regulation twice
      - Only **Ruoning Yin** has more with four
    - Through 36 holes, she has 11 birdies and four bogeys
  - Ko followed her bogey-free first round with a 1-under 70
    - She had four birdies and three bogeys in her second round
- **Maja Stark** has had the lowest round so far, 7-under 64
  - She was one stroke shy of tying the 18-hole scoring record
  - Stark ended her first round with a 76 and began her day at T108
    - She is currently T31
  - Stark is making her second start of the season after finishing T22 at the Hilton Grand Vacations Tournament of Champions
- Nine of the 15 rookies in the field have made the cut
  - 2024 rookies to make the cut include **Nataliya Guseva, Mone Inami, Minji Kang, Gurleen Kaur, Auston Kim, Malia Nam, Mao Saigo** and **Yu Jin Sung**
    - Every rookie but Inami is making their first official starts of the season
    - Kang, Nam and Guseva all made the cut in their first LPGA Tour starts ever
- Sixty-eight players made the cut at even par
  - 2023 CME Group Tour Championship winner **Amy Yang** missed the cut, finishing at +5
  - 15-time LPGA Tour winner **Yani Tseng** missed the cut after playing her first tournament in three years
  - Both Monday qualifiers, **Becca Huffer** and **Yu-Sang Hou** also missed the cut
  - Both sponsor invites **Mariajo Uribe** and **Laney Frye (a)** were cut after Friday
- **Jennifer Song** withdrew after round one due to injury
- **Peiyun Chien** withdrew during round two due to injury

## QUOTABLE

*Lexi Thompson (T9, 137) on what was different about her first and second rounds*

"Today was a lot calmer. Yesterday was very windy. It was kind of windy the whole week, even when I was at home in Palm Beach it was extremely windy to practice in. I knew I was getting the right practice for that, but it was tough scoring conditions. I didn't hit my best tee balls yesterday, but I came out today and really just tried to focus in on small targets and the few things I've been working and really commit."

*Isabella Fierro (T12, 138) on how the Epson Tour has prepared for her first official LPGA Tour*

"It's been great. I asked my coach this question whenever I went through Q-School if I was ready for the LPGA when I didn't get my card, and he said, no, you have to go through Epson Tour. Epson Tour is the best school, best preparation. You play with such high level, quality golfers, and you play amazing golf courses. The purses have increased. Epson Tour doesn't get the credit that should be. It should be better. They're doing such an amazing job, and I wouldn't be here right without Epson Tour. I'm so grateful to them."

*Lydia Ko (3, 135) on how different the course was playing compared to the first round*

"Maybe a few holes where the pins were a little bit more difficult to get to. In ways, I think, when it is so windy, some holes can play really short. Where I think on No. 2 I had like a really chippy pitching wedge, and today I hit a 5-iron, and it's still short of the hole. I think the wind is a huge factor around here, and obviously in the mornings there's a bit of dew like on the fairways as well. So you're just not getting as much of a run. I think there were some pins that were harder, but there were some that were a little bit more gettable. I just think my proximity to the hole wasn't as good as yesterday, and that was kind of the three-shot difference for me."

*Mel Reid (T12, 138) on adjusting to being a LPGA mom*

"It's a lot. He's obviously 2-1/2 months old. If he wants to be fussy, he'll be fussy. He's a pretty chill baby, but it's a lot. Obviously, I'm very thankful in Carly. She's been amazing. And she's not back at work yet, so she can kind of look after him while I'm trying to work out here. It's definitely different. He's crying at 3:00 a.m. and things like that. Sleep is not quite what it used to be. Yeah, we're just doing our best and trying to figure out, and I'm trying to still be the best golfer that I can and the best mom I can, the best partner I can. We'll try and maneuver all that with a lot of moving pieces."

#### **ON LPGA.COM**

[Nelly Korda Second Round Highlights | 2024 Drive On Championship](#)

[Lexi Thompson Second Round Interview | 2024 Drive On Championship](#)

[Second Round Highlights | 2024 Drive On Championship](#)

[Round 1 Epson Tour Graduate Update: 2024 LPGA Drive On Championship](#)

[Lexi Thompson Lopes Up Leaderboard After Friday 67 At LPGA Drive On Championship](#)

#### **IN THE NEWS**

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[Hollis Stacy Hits Ceremonial First Tee Shot at LPGA Drive On Championship](#)

[Tumi Named Official Luggage of the PGA Tour and LPGA](#)

[Rhone Named Official On-Course Apparel Partner of the LPGA Tour and Epson Tour](#)

#### **SOCIAL SNAPSHOT**

[Sights from LPGA Drive On Championship](#)

[The #AonRiskReward Challenge is Back for 2024!](#)

[Mel Reid Joins Golf Channel as an On-Course Commentator on Friday](#)

[Nelly Korda's Putting Stats Powered by KPMG](#)

#### **TOURNAMENT SCORING RECORDS**

*18 holes:* 63, Celine Borge (R3, 2023), Amy Yang (R3, 2023), Ariya Jutanugarn (R3, 2023), Xiyu Lin (R3, 2022) and Aditi Ashok (R3, 2022)

*36 holes:* Marina Alex (2022) and Leona Maguire (2022)

*54 holes:* 198, Leona Maguire (2022)

*72 holes:* 268, Celine Boutier and Georgia Hall (2023)

#### **TOURNAMENT HISTORY**

*2023:* Played at Superstition Mountain Golf and Country Club, Prospector Course in Gold Canyon, Ariz.

*2022:* Played at Crown Colony Golf & Country Club in Fort Myers, Fla.

*2021:* Played at Golden Ocala Golf & Equestrian Club in Ocala, Fla.

*Oct. 2020:* Played at Reynolds Lake Oconee (Great Waters Course) in Greensboro, Ga.

*Aug. 2020:* Played at Inverness Club in Toledo, Ohio