



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

Third-Round Notes
 Jan. 27, 2024

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Course Setup: 36-35 – 71; 6,329 yards
Scoring Average: R1: 71.900, R2:70.627, R3: 71.735
Weather: Partly cloudy to mostly sunny skies with temperatures in the upper 70s and southeasterly to southwesterly winds around 10-15 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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| Tournament Website |

LEADERBOARD			
	Player	To par	Score
1	Nelly Korda	-13	65-67-68 – 200
T2	Megan Khang	-9	69-69-66 – 204
T2	Ayaka Furue	-9	68-67-69 – 204
T2	Lydia Ko	-9	65-70-69 – 204

KORDA CONTINUES HER LEAD AFTER DAY THREE

Eight-time LPGA Tour winner **Nelly Korda** finds herself at the top of the leaderboard for the third consecutive day at the LPGA Drive On Championship. Korda had a quiet start to the day, maintaining her 10-under par position for the first five holes of the day. She picked up a quick birdie on the par-5 sixth hole before making back-to-back bogeys on Nos. 7 and 8. Both bogeys caused my errant drives off the tee, the 25-year-old shifted gears before heading into the back nine at Bradenton Country Club.

“My first four holes I think I didn't have a putt outside ten feet and just wasn't able to convert it. I was hitting good solid putts. Just with the wind it was hard to judge. And then I got into -- I birdied the par-5 and then unfortunately snap hooked my next two tee shots, which ended up both of them being bogeys. And then just had a fresh attitude coming into the back nine. I mean, it's not how you start it's how you finish. Hopefully I can lead that into tomorrow,” said Korda. “It's nice to have a really positive teammate like I do in Jason (her caddie). He always makes sure I keep my head up and never doubt myself pretty much, to tell myself that I can make any hole an opportunity for birdie.”

After dropping a shot on the leaderboard, she kept making pars after the turn, breaking up a streak of them with a birdie on the par-4 13th hole. Korda make three more pars before finishing her round with an eagle-birdie finish to turn in a three-under round, and take a four-shot lead headed into tomorrow’s round. SA win on Sunday would be Korda’s first since 2022, and her ninth in her professional career.

“It’s a confidence boost knowing I can climb up the leaderboard and contend and stay in contention,” Korda said. “Definitely didn't have the great start today. I think I was one back after nine holes, and then kind of turned it around. But any single time I get to be in contention I learn more about myself and how to handle the situations more. Hopefully I can put together a good round for the hometown.”

Trailing closely behind the Bradenton local is 2023 CPKC Women’s Open champion **Megan Khang**, eight-time JLPGA and one-time LPGA Tour winner **Ayaka Furue** and 20-time LPGA Tour winner **Lydia Ko**. Khang moved up into a tie for second place after a third-round 66 bumped her up from a tie in 12th. Last season, the three-time U.S. Solheim Cup team member became a Rolex-First Time Winner and is on the hunt for her second victory of her career. Joining the LPGA tour in 2022, Furue shot two-under par on Saturday to continue her seek for her first victory since she won the 2022 Women’s Scottish Open. Ko shot a 69 in her third round in hopes of staying near the top of the leaderboard to earn her 21st victory and make history as the 35th member of the LPGA Hall of Fame.

2024 LPGA Tour Rookie **Auston Kim** and three other players sit in a tie for fifth place. Kim shot a third-round 64 to move from a tie in 40th to in contention. The rookie’s third round was the lowest amongst the field for the day, and ties for the lowest round of the week, set by Swede **Maja Stark**. Three players, **Lexi Thompson**, **Gemma Dryburgh** and **Jasmine Suwannapura** sit six shots behind the leader in the clubhouse and round out the top-10 players in the field headed into Sunday’s final round.

WITH A WIN

Nelly Korda

- Korda would earn her ninth win on the LPGA Tour and first since the 2022 ANNIKA driven by Gainbridge at Pelican
 - She would be the fourth American to earn nine wins on the LPGA Tour
 - It would be her sixth win in the United States
- It would be her first wire-to-wire win on the LPGA Tour
 - She would be the first wire-to-wire winner with ties on Tour since **Lydia Ko** at the 2022 CME Group Tour Championship
 - **Hyo Joo Kim** won the 2023 Ascendant LPGA benefiting Volunteers of America wire-to-wire with no ties
- She would join Ko as the first two winners of the 2024 LPGA Tour season
- She would be the second player on Tour to win where they reside

- Ko is a resident of Lake Nona, Fla. where the Hilton Grand Vacations Tournament of Champions is held
- She would be the first American to win on Tour this year
- She would cross the \$9 million mark in official career earnings and amass \$9,223,989
 - She would be the ninth American to earn at least \$9 million in official career earnings
- She would rise to No. 2 in the Race to the CME Globe points list

Megan Khang

- She would earn her second win on the LPGA Tour and her first since the 2023 CPKC Women's Open
 - It would be her first win in the United States
- She would join **Lydia Ko** as the first two winners of the 2024 LPGA Tour season
- She would be the first American to win on Tour this year
- She would earn \$5,961,733 in career earnings after the \$262,500 winners check
 - She would move just shy of the top-60 on the All-Time Official Money List
- It would be the first time in her career she has had back-to-back winning seasons on the LPGA Tour

Ayaka Furue

- She would earn her second-career LPGA Tour title, and first since becoming a Rolex First-Time Winner at the 2022 Trust Golf Women's Scottish Open
- She would be the ninth Japanese player with at least two Tour titles, joining **Momoko Ueda** (2), **Chako Hiuchi** (2), **Akiko Fukushima** (2), **Haru Nomura** (3), **Hiromi Kobayashi** (4), **Nasa Hataoka** (6), **Ai Miyazato** (9) and **Ayaka Okamoto** (17)
- She would become the first player from Japan to win on Tour this season
 - She would be the first player from Japan to win since **Mone Inami** won the 2023 TOTO Japan Classic
- She would earn \$2,988,806 in career earnings after the \$262,500 winners check
 - She would pass fellow Japanese players Okamoto and Nomura on the all-time official money list
 - She would rank fifth in career earnings among Japanese players

Lydia Ko

- She would earn her 21st career victory, and her second of the 2024 season
 - She won the Tour's first event, the Hilton Grand Vacations Tournament of Champions
 - She and Jason Day were the inaugural winners of the Grant Thornton Invitational last December, an unofficial PGA and LPGA Tour event
- She would be the first player since **Al Miyazato** in 2010 to win the first two events of the year
 - She would be the sixth player in the history of the Tour to do so as well
- She would be the first player to win back-to-back events since **Celine Boutier** last season won the Amundi Evian Championship and the Women's Scottish Open
- She would win multiple times on the LPGA Tour for the first time since 2022 where she won three times
 - It would be the fifth season since she joined the Tour in 2014 to have multiple wins
- She would earn one point towards LPGA Hall of Fame induction, bringing her total to 27 points, meeting the minimum threshold to be inducted into the LPGA Hall of Fame
 - She would become the 35th member of the LPGA Hall of Fame and the first since **Lorena Ochoa** and nine of the original 13 founders were inducted in 2022
 - **Inbee Park** was the last active player to be inducted into the Hall of Fame in 2016
 - LPGA Hall of Fame criteria can be found [here](#) and the Hall of Fame inductees can be found [here](#)
- She would remain at fifth on the All-Time Official Money List, \$569,808 behind **Inbee Park** in fourth

A LOOK AT THE LEADER

CATEGORY	Nelly Korda
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 12 of 14 fairways, 16 of 18 greens with 32 putts
 - She had an eagle, three birdies and two bogeys in her third round
 - Through 54 holes she has two eagles, 15 birdies and six bogeys
- Through six rounds in 2024, Korda has hit 16+ greens in regulation four times
 - Last season, she had five rounds with 16+ GIR
- 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

- **Megan Khang** is tied for second heading into Sunday's final round
 - She recorded an eagle, four birdies and a bogey in her third round to move her from T12 to T2
 - This is her sixth start at the LPGA Drive On Championship
 - She has one top-10 finish, a T8 in 2021
 - Her third round 66 is her lowest round at this event since 2022, a 67 in her first round
- **Lydia Ko** had four birdies and two bogeys in her third round to remain T2
 - Through 54 holes, she has 14 birdies which ranks her fourth among the field
- **Ayaka Furue** went bogey-free with two birdies to jump from T3 to T2
 - Furue has been inside the top-five in the first two tournaments of the season
 - Since the beginning of 2023, including her third round 69, Furue has had 43 rounds in the 60s, the most on Tour
 - **Xiyu Lin** and **Atthaya Thitikul** are the next closest with 40
- 2024 LPGA Tour rookie **Auston Kim** is inside the top-five heading into Sunday's final round at T5
 - Kim tied for the lowest round of the week with **Maja Stark**, seven-under 64
 - Kim recorded one eagle, six birdies and a bogey in her third round to jump into the top-five
 - Kim made her first ever LPGA Tour
 - She won the 2023 Epson Tour Championship and finished third on the Epson Tour's official money list to earn LPGA Tour membership for the 2024 season
- **Robyn Choi** made her first start on the LPGA Tour since 2020 at this event and is also T5
 - She carded six birdies and a bogey in her third round to put her in contention
 - Choi made her LPGA Tour debut as a rookie in 2019 and has not appeared on Tour since the 2020 season
 - On the Epson Tour last season, she did not miss a cut in 21 starts with six top-10 finishes
 - She finished first at LPGA Q-Series to earn LPGA Tour membership for the 2024 season
- **Xiyu Lin** leads the field with carded birdies at 18
 - Her career-best for birdies at a single tournament is 28, which happened at 2022 Honda LPGA Thailand
- 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

Nelly Korda (1st, 200) on the support she has gotten in her hometown

"It's been amazing honestly. I'm actually kind of taken back with how much support I've been getting this week. Being in Florida I always get a lot of support, but hometown, it's crazy. I was born just in the hospital just down the road from here. It's been nice seeing friends and family come out, everyone asking for tickets, feeling the support, it's been really nice."

2024 LPGA Tour rookie Auston Kim (T5, 205) on tying for the lowest round of the week

"It's really cool. There is a lot of perspective and I was really giving myself a pat on the back today. It's not easy out here, but I wanted to get past that difficulty and really focus on being aggressive today because yesterday was just not it for me personally. I don't like the feeling of playing defensively. So to be able to have that offensive mindset and to be able to execute, that just shows me what really works and reinforces what I worked on this past year."

Megan Khang (T2, 204) on how much more confident she feels after her win last season

"I would like to think I'm pretty confident off the golf course. No, definitely, I mean, I think before the win last year you always wonder if and when it's going to come. Fortunate for me, I was able to pull it off kind of in Canada in a stressful fashion. But definitely taught me a lot about myself and that like it's a grind out here and it's not over until it's over. I mean, you know Nelly, Lydia, and Lexi, everyone is kind of behind you, so you just kind of have to keep your head down and keep moving forward. Can't really do anything about what they're doing. That in itself getting the win down in Canada -- I should say up in Canada -- it definitely taught me a lot about myself and how to handle might have out there and not to get too ahead of myself."

Lydia Ko (T2, 204) on what it's like being in contention back-to-back weeks

"Yeah, it's been a lot of fun. I think playing really well on this first day was kind of like, oh, last week wasn't a fluke, you know. It's not just a one-week thing. So to be able to back up a win with a good round I think was really helpful. Yesterday I don't think I had my best, even though my score was only one-shot difference from today. I felt like I played a lot better today which is obviously a good position to be in. Sometimes your scores aren't a true reflection of how you are playing. Few putts here or a couple bounces. But to be able to play solid after my first win in over a year was definitely I think a sense of relief. You know, I think I was more motivated by that."

ON LPGA.COM

[Auston Kim Third-Round Interview | 2024 LPGA Drive On Championship](#)

[Lydia Ko Third-Round Interview | 2024 LPGA Drive On Championship](#)

[Megan Khang Third-Round Interview | 2024 LPGA Drive On Championship](#)

IN THE NEWS

[Dr. Beverly Harrison Honored with 2024 Sandy Labauve Spirit Award](#)

[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

[Nelly Korda Eagle From the Sand](#)

[Lexi Thompson's First Eagle of the Season](#)

[Auston Kim Joins the Golf Channel Booth](#)

[Emma Talley Joins the LPGA Now Team](#)

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