



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

Tuesday Pre-Tournament Notes  
Jan. 23, 2024

**MEDIA AVAILABILITY SCHEDULE**

Wednesday, Jan. 24

Nelly Korda – 10:00 a.m.  
Robyn Choi - 11:00 a.m.  
Stacy Lewis – 11:15 a.m.  
Celine Boutier – 12:00 p.m.

**THINGS TO KNOW ABOUT THE 2024 LPGA DRIVE ON CHAMPIONSHIP**

- Professional competition format: 120 players, 72-hole stroke play, cut to top-65 and ties after 36 holes
  - This is the first full-field event of the 2024 LPGA Tour season
- This is the sixth official playing of the LPGA Drive On Championship and the first time it is being held at the Bradenton Country Club
  - This is the third time this event has been held in Florida
    - Golden Ocala Golf Club in Ocala, Fla. hosted in 2021 and Crown Colony Golf Club in Fort Myers, Fla. hosted in 2022
  - Other sites include Inverness Club in Toledo Ohio (2020), Lake Oconee Great Waters Course in Greensboro, Ga. (2020) and Superstition Mountain Golf & Country Club in Gold Canyon, Ariz. (2023)
  - The event was played twice in 2020, once in August and once in October
- Bradenton Country Club was founded in 1924 and has hosted multiple Florida State Golf Association events
  - The course was designed by Donald Ross in the 1930s and was renovated with the help of five-time Ryder Cup Captain Tony Jacklin in 2018
- There are three past champions in the field this week; **Celine Boutier** (2023), **Leona Maguire** (2022) and **Ally Ewing** (2020)
  - Boutier began her run of four wins, including two major championships, at this event last year
  - Maguire became a Rolex-First Time Winner at the LPGA Drive On Championship in 2022
    - She tied the 36-hole scoring record and set the 54-hole scoring record in her win
  - **Ewing** also became a Rolex First-Time Winner at the LPGA Drive On Championship in 2020
    - Since then, she has accumulated two more wins since then
  - Past champions not in the field are **Austin Ernt** (2021) and **Danielle Kang** (2020)
- Last week's Hilton Grand Vacation's Tournament of Champions winner **Lydia Ko** is in the field as well
  - Ko earned her 20th career victory, and first official Tour win since the 2022 CME Group Tour Championship
    - She and Jason Day were the inaugural winners of the Grant Thornton Invitational last December, an unofficial PGA and LPGA Tour event
  - Ko became the seventh woman in LPGA Tour history to reach 20 wins before age 27, joining **Nancy Lopez, Karrie Webb, Se Ri Pak, Mickey Wright, Lorena Ochoa** and **Kathy Whitworth**
  - She became the 29th different player in Tour history to earn at least 20 official wins
    - She moved into the a tie for 27th with **Laura Davies** and **Cristie Kerr** on the All-Time Official Career Wins List
  - 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 [here](#)
  - This is the second-straight season where she has won in her first professional start of the year
    - In 2023, she opened her season with a victory at the Ladies European Tour's Aramco Saudi Ladies International
  - Ko crossed the \$17 million threshold (\$17,167,692) in official career earnings with the \$225,000 winner's prize, becoming the fifth player in Tour history to earn at least \$17 million in official career earnings
    - She remains at fifth on the All-Time Official Money List, \$832,308 behind **Inbee Park** in fourth
- There are 15 2024 LPGA Tour rookies in the field
  - **Mone Inami** made her first official start as a Member at the Hilton Grand Vacations Tournament of Champions
    - She finished T19 at that event
    - Inami won the 2023 TOTO Japan Classic
      - She has 13 JLPGA career wins
  - **Gabriela Ruffels** finished first on the Epson Tour's official money list to earn LPGA Tour membership for the 2024 season
    - On the Epson Tour last season, she made 12 cuts in 13 starts with three wins and three additional top-10 finishes
      - She earned \$233,147 on the Epson Tour last season
    - Ruffels made six starts on the LPGA Tour last season
      - She made the cut in all six starts with her best finish coming at the CPKC Women's Open, T19
  - **Auston Kim** finished third on the Epson Tour's official money list to earn LPGA Tour membership for the 2024 season
    - She made 17 cuts in 21 starts with one win at the Epson Tour Championship and nine additional top-10 finishes
      - She earned \$119,882 on the Epson Tour last season
    - She had one start on the LPGA Tour last season at the ANNIKA driven by Gainbridge at Pelican
      - She missed the cut
  - **Liqi Zeng** finished 14th at LPGA Q-Series to earn LPGA Tour membership for the 2024 season
    - Zeng, through Commissioner Mollie Marcoux Saaman, petitioned for and was granted approval for a waiver of the minimum age requirement for participation in LPGA Q-Series where she earned LPGA status and became a 2024 Tour rookie
    - She is a four-time winner on the CLPGA and competed at the 2022 August National Women's Amateur
- There are 17 2023 LPGA Tour champions in the field
  - Each major winner from 2023 is in the field this week, including **Celine Boutier, Lilia Vu, Ruoning Yin** and **Allisen Corpuz**
  - Both Vu and Boutier are the most-winningest players from last season, each winning four times on Tour in 2023
    - Claiming two major championships, Vu received the 2023 Rolex Player of the Year award
  - Of the 17 2023 champions in the field, ten of those players won for the first time last year including Vu, Yin, Corpuz, **Grace Kim, Linn Grant, Elizabeth Szokol, Alexa Pano, Megan Khang, Chanettee Wannasaen, and Hae Ran Ryu**
  - The 2023 CME Group Tour Championship winner, **Amy Yang**, is also in the field this week after taking home the biggest purse of the season last year
- There are five players within the top-10 of the Rolex Women's World Golf Ranking in the field this week
  - No. 1 Vu will be making her third start at the LPGA Drive On Championship after a top-10 finish last year
  - Nos. 2 and 3 are two-time LPGA Tour winner Yin and six-time LPGA Tour winner Boutier are entering their third and eighth seasons, respectively
  - **Nelly Korda**, currently fourth in the rankings, is a local in Bradenton, Fla.
    - Her best finish at the LPGA Drive On Championship was a T15 finish in 2022
  - After winning the Hilton Grand Vacations Tournament of Champions, **Lydia Ko** jumped into the top-10
- There are two sponsor invitations in the field this week, **Mariajo Uribe** and **Laney Frye (a)**
  - An LPGA Tour veteran, Uribe is starting her 15th season on the LPGA Tour after being a rookie in 2010.
    - She is a two-time Olympian, playing for her home country of Colombia
    - Uribe played in the last edition of the LPGA Drive On Championship, missing the cut with a two-round total of 127
  - Frye is a senior on the University of Kentucky women's golf team from Nicholasville, Ky.
    - Frye played in the 2023 Augusta National Women's Amateur, and has received her invitation to play in 2024

**LPGA ON-SITE COMMUNICATIONS TEAM**

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**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)

**TV/STREAMING TIMES** (All times EST)

**Thursday, Jan. 25:** 12-3 p.m. (Golf Channel/Peacock)  
**Friday, Jan. 26:** 12-3 p.m. (Golf Channel/Peacock)  
**Saturday, Jan 27:** 2-4 p.m. (Peacock); 4-5 p.m. (Golf Channel/Peacock)  
**Sunday, Jan. 28:** 2-5 p.m. (Golf Channel/Peacock)

- She was also the co-medalist at the 2022 U.S. Women’s Amateur

#### **2024 LPGA TOUR STATISTICS**

Official Money: Lydia Ko, \$225,000

Scoring Average: Lydia Ko, 68.500

Birdies: Alexa Pano, 19

Eagles: Lydia Ko, Lilia Vu, Brooke Henderson, Ally Ewing, Allisen Corpuz, Elizabeth Szokol, Rose Zhang, Mone Inami, 1

Holes in One:

Greens in Regulation: Rose Zhang, 81.9%

Average Driving Distance: Linn Grant, 262.500

#### **2024 Award Standings**

<b>Rolex Player of the Year</b>		
1	Lydia Ko	30 points
2	Alexa Pano	12 points
3	Brooke Henderson	9 points

<b>Louise Suggs Rolex Rookie of the Year</b>		
1	Mone Inami	32 points

<b>#AonRiskReward Challenge</b>		
1	Ally Ewing	-1.500
1	Allisen Corpuz	-1.500
1	Rose Zhang	-1.500

<b>Race to the CME Globe Points</b>		
1	Lydia Ko	500 points
2	Alexa Pano	320 points
3	Brooke Henderson	230 points

[Aon Risk Reward Challenge:](#) No. 17, par 5

A new hole to the Challenge in 2024, the 17th at Bradenton CC should test players both off the tee and with their approach shots into this heavily guarded green. Depending on players’ placement off the tee, the decision will be whether to go for the green in two with their approach shot. Bunkers protecting the left side and water on the right will force some of the field to lay up with their second shot. Players will be two and a half times more like to find the green from the fairway compared to the rough. Coming down the stretch, an eagle or birdie will be key in securing a victory.

Through the first tournament of the 2024 LPGA Tour season, the Hilton Grand Vacations Tournament of Champions, there is currently a three-way tie for first place between three-time LPGA Tour winner **Ally Ewing**, 2023 U. S. Women’s Open champion **Allisen Corpuz** and 2023 LPGA Tour Rookie **Rose Zhang**. They each it with an average score of -1.500. There are 15 players tied for second place with an average score of -1.000.

The Aon Risk Reward Challenge is a season-long competition across the LPGA Tour that highlights the game’s best players as they navigate some of the most strategically challenging holes on Tour. Players will take their best two scores from each Challenge hole, with the winners having the best average score to par at the end of the regular season. The winning woman will take home the Aon trophy and an equal \$1 million prize.

[Race to CME Globe Update:](#)

The Race to CME Globe Race continues at the LPGA Drive On Championship this week with players vying for 500 points in just the second event of the 2024 season.

In the opening event of the 2024 LPGA Tour season, now 20-time LPGA Tour winner **Lydia Ko** claimed a victory at the Hilton Grand Vacations Tournament of Champions as well as the first 500 points of the season. 2023 LPGA Tour Rookie **Alexa Pano** finished runner-up last week to earn 320 points and sits in second place in the Race to the CME Globe standings. Canadian **Brooke Henderson** is in third place in the standings after landing behind Pano after last week.

The Race to the CME Globe is a season-long points competition with LPGA Tour Members accumulating points in every official LPGA event to qualify for the season-ending tournament, the CME Group Tour Championship. The player who wins the CME Group Tour Championship is named the “Race to the CME Globe Champion.” The top 60 points earners and ties earn a spot into the season finale with the entire field competing for a \$11 million purse, increased from \$7 million last season, and is highlighted by a \$4 million winner’s check, which is the largest single prize in the history of women’s golf.

[CME Group Cares Challenge – Score 1 for St. Jude Update:](#)

The CME Group Cares Challenge is a season-long charitable giving program that turns aces into donations. CME Group donates \$20,000 for each hole-in-one made on the LPGA Tour in 2024, with a minimum guaranteed donation of \$500,000 to St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital, which is leading the way in how the world understands, treats and defeats childhood cancer and life-threatening diseases. Last season, there were 20 aces on Tour, including two from In Gee Chun, the most of any player on Tour in 2023.