

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

# Wednesday Pre-Tournament Notes

Jan. 24, 2024

## **NOTABLE PLAYERS IN THE FIELD**

**CELINE BOUTIER** (Rolex Rankings No. 3)

"I think it just gave me a little bit of relief and confidence. I feel like it had been two years before that week that I hadn't won, and I came a lot of times in the top 10 and in contention and wasn't able to do it in 2022. To be able to do it that early in the season in 2023 was good for confidence. And also, being able to win in the playoff is never easy. There are a lot of nerves and you have to handle yourself a lot better. The fact that I was able to pull it off was very definitely good for my confidence. I think also gave me more confidence in the few tournaments after that I was in contention or even in the playoff in Malaysia. I just feel a little bit more comfortable." – Boutier on how her win at this event last year set her up for the success she had in 2023

- This is Boutier's sixth start at the LPGA Drive On Championship, first as the defending champion
  - In her win last season, she shot all four rounds in the 60s and defeated Georgia Hall on the first playoff hole
  - She has made four cuts in five starts, with one win and one additional top-10 finish
    - Her best non-win finish came at the first 2020 LPGA Drive On Championship at Inverness Golf & Country Club where she finished second
- This is Boutier's third time competing at a tournament as defending champion and first since the 2022 ShopRite LPGA Classic presented by Acer
  - She went on to finish T9 at the 2023 playing
- In 2023, she made 19 cuts in 22 starts with four wins and four additional top-10 finishes
  - She earned her first win at the LPGA Drive On Championship at Superstition Mountain and went on to claim her first major championship at The Amundi Evian Championship
    - She earned two more wins at the FREED GROUP Women's Scottish Open presented by Trust Golf and the Maybank Championship
  - Each of her four wins this season have come in four different countries; she is the fifth player since 2010 to accomplish that unique feat
    - She is the first since Inbee Park (four countries) and Lydia Ko (five countries) in 2015
  - She became the first player to win the Amundi Evian Championship and then the tournament following it since the Championship was designated as a major
  - She became the first player since **Ariya Jutanugarn** in 2016 (AIG Women's Open and CPKC Women's Open) to win any major championship and the tournament after
  - Boutier is the first to win back-to-back tournaments on Tour since Jin Young Ko in 2021 at the Cognizant Founders Cup and BMW

## LPGA ON-SITE COMMUNICATIONS TEAM

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# **QUICK LINKS**

Interview Transcripts

<u>LPGA Tour Online Media Center</u> (OMC): includes links to daily tournament notes, statistics and photo/video assets

<u>LPGA Statistical Database</u>: 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 <u>Media Assets</u>: 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)

- Ladies Championship
- With her win at the Maybank Championship, she became the first player to win at least four times in a single season since Nelly Korda (4 wins) and Jin Young Ko (5 wins) did so in 2021
- According to KPMG Performance Insights, in 2023, Boutier led the LPGA Tour in bogey-avoidance, boosting her scoring average to 11th overall

Celine Boutier Scoring LPGA Tour – 2023 Season			
	Percentage	Rank	
Bogey Avoidance	11.2%	1st	
Birdie or Better Percentage	20.1%	53rd	
Scoring Average	70.22	11th	

- 2024 is her eighth season on the LPGA Tour
  - She has made 111 cuts in 141 starts with six wins and 29 additional top-10 finishes
    - Other than her four wins last season, she has wins at the 2021 ShopRite LPGA Classic presented by Acer and the 2019 ISPS Handa Vic Open

- She is three-time Team Europe Solheim Cup member (2019, 2021, 2023) and has represented France at the 2020 Tokyo Olympics where she finished T34
- As an amateur, she competed at Duke University where she won a National Championship in 2014 and was named WGCA Player of the Year as well in that same year

## **NELLY KORDA** (Rolex Rankings No. 4)

"I would say that just you feel more support. Obviously, you want to perform well in front of your friends and family, but overall I think you can look at it in a very positive way where you have more support this week and that kind of gets you going a little bit more." – Korda on playing on a home course

- This will be 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 will be 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 will be her eighth season on the LPGA Tour
  - o She has made 111 cuts in 127 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

## BROOKE HENDERSON (Rolex Rankings No. 12)

- This is Henderson's fourth start at the LPGA Drive On Championship
  - o She's made three starts with one missed cut
  - $\circ$  Her best finish came in 2022, where she tied for 11th playing at Cown Colony Golf & Country Club
- In her first start of the 2024 season, Henderson defended her title at the Hilton Grand Vacations Tournament of Champions
  She finished solo third, and was under par in all four rounds
- In 2023, Henderson made 19 cuts in 24 starts, earning one win and two additional top-10 finishes
  - Outside of her lone victory, she had a runner-up finish at The Amundi Evian Championship as the defending champion, and a T6 result at the Maybank Championship
  - In 2023, Henderson finished tied for second among the Tour in rounds under par at 57
- Over her last two seasons, Henderson has played some of her best golf in the state of Florida; according to KPMG Performance Insights, she has finished in the top-20 in all four of her Florida starts in that span, gaining over two strokes on the field per round

Brooke Henderson – Last Two Seasons			
Performance in Florida vs. Everywhere Else			
	In Florida	All other starts	
SG Total	+2.10	+1.20	
Greens in regulation	79.9%	69.2%	
Scoring average	68.3	70.7	
SG Ball striking	+1.44	+0.67	

- This is her 10th season on the LPGA Tour
  - o During that time, she made 176 cuts in 199 starts, and has amassed 13 wins and 60 additional top-10 finishes
- She is the winningest professional golfer, male or female, in Canadian history
- She has represented Canada at the 2016 and 2020 Olympics, finishing seventh and T29, respectively

## LEXI THOMPSON (Rolex Rankings No. 35)

- This is Thompson's sixth start at the LPGA Drive On Championship
  - Her best finish came when she finished runner-up at Crown Colony Golf & Country Club in 2022
    She has only missed the cut once her last five starts at this event
  - The 2024 LPGA Drive On Championship will be her first start of the 2024 LPGA Tour season
    - According to KPMG Performance Insights, Thompson has started her year with a top-10 finish six of the previous seven season
      - She has a scoring average well below 70 in those events with a combined total to par of 65-under

Lexi Thompson

In First Tournament of LPGA Season – Since 2017		
Starts	7	
Top 10 finishes	6*	
Scoring average	69.2	
Score to par	-65	
Rounds in 60s	14	

\*Missed the cut at last season's LPGA Drive On Championship

- Earlier this week, it was announced that Thompson and fellow LPGA Tour player, **Rose Zhang**, will participate in "Capital One's The Match" alongside PGA Tour players Max Homa and Rory McIlroy on Feb. 26 at The Park in West Palm Beach, Fla., the eighth playing of this event
  - More information about "Capital One's The Match" can be found <u>here</u>
- In 2023, she made six cuts in 14 starts on the LPGA Tour
  - In her last three individual events of the year, she finished in the top-20 each time including the Walmart NW Arkansas
    Champions presented by P&G, The Ascendant LPGA benefiting Volunteers of America and The ANNIKA driven by Gainbridge at Pelican
  - She competed on her sixth U.S. Solheim Cup team and represented the United States at the Hanwha LIFEPLUS International Crown for the fourth time in her career

- She has an overall Solheim Cup record of 9-7-7 and a 9-5-2 overall record at the Hanwha LIFEPLUS International Crown
- Thompson competed with PGA Tour professional Rickie Fowler at the inaugural Grant Thornton Invitational, where the duo finished T6, an unofficial LPGA and PGA Tour event
- This is Thompson's 13th year on the LPGA Tour
  - $\circ$  She is an 11-time LPGA Tour winner and a major champion at the 2014 Chevron Championship
  - $\circ$   $\;$  Her last victory came in 2019 at the ShopRite LPGA Classic
  - $\circ$   $\,$  She earned the 2017 Vare Trophy and was the Race to the CME Globe winner  $\,$
- She is a two-time Olympian representing the U.S., finishing T19 at the 2016 Rio Olympics and 33rd at the 2020 Tokyo Olympics
- Thompson is also a two-time winner on the Ladies European Tour

#### ON LPGA.COM

<u>Five Things to Know About the LPGA Drive On Championship</u> <u>How to Watch the LPGA Drive On Championship</u> <u>Featured Groups: 2024 LPGA Drive On Championship</u> <u>Field Breakdown: 2024 LPGA Drive On Championship</u> <u>Making Moves: Lydia Ko Climbs in Rolex Women's World Golf Rankings</u>

#### IN THE NEWS

Tumi Named Official Luggage of the PGA Tour and LPGA Tour Rhone Named Official On-Course Apparel Partner of the LPGA Tour and Epson Tour Tickets Now Available for 2024 Arizona Championship presented by JTBC Lydia Ko Ready for a Golden Opportunity in Paris Nelly Korda, Taylormade to Host New All-Girls Invitational

#### SOCIAL SNAPSHOT

<u>Biggest Rookie Mistake by LPGA Players</u> <u>Ruoning Yin and Andrea Lee are Back</u> <u>First Full Field Event of the Year – Watch on Golf Channel/Peacock</u>