



FIR HILLS SERI PAK Championship

Palos Verdes Golf Club | Palos Verdes Estates, Calif. | March 21-24, 2024

Final-Round Notes

March 24, 2024

Media Contact: [Megan Santaniello \(McGuire\)](#), +1 (386) 405-1338; [Matt Jesus](#), +1 (402) 957-4674

Course Setup: 36-35—71; 6,151 yards

Scoring Average: R1: 72.209; R2: 71.777; R3: 70.853; R4: 73.432

Weather: Partly cloudy skies throughout the day with windy conditions; early morning gusts reached 30 mph increasing to near 45 mph with temperatures peaking near 60F

Race to CME Globe Points: 500 (winner)

Purse: \$2 million (winner's portion is \$300,00)

TV/Streaming Times: [How to Watch](#)

QUICK LINKS

[Interview Transcripts](#)

[LPGA Tour Online Media Center](#)

[LPGA Statistical Database](#)

[Stats Box](#)

[Tournament Website](#)

LEADERBOARD

	Player	To par	Score
1	Nelly Korda*	-9	72-67-67-69—275
2	Ryann O'Toole	-9	73-68-68-66—275
T3	Gabriela Ruffels	-8	72-69-65-70—276
T3	Alison Lee	-8	66-70-68-72—276

NELLY KORDA EARNS 10TH CAREER VICTORY AT FIR HILLS SERI PAK CHAMPIONSHIP; PROJECTED TO RETURN TO ROLEX RANKING NO. 1

"I seem to always make it interesting."

Nelly Korda, in her first start back since her victory at the LPGA Drive On Championship, went back-to-back, picking up her 10th career Tour victory in a playoff over **Ryann O'Toole** at the FIR HILLS SERI PAK Championship. She becomes the first player since **Karrie Webb** in 2011 to win two of her first three starts of the season, and the first since **Inbee Park** in 2013 to win in a playoff in consecutive starts. Korda is also projected to return to the Rolex Ranking No. 1 position for the fifth time in her career and first time since August of 2023.

"Definitely not easy coming back after a long break like that not really knowing where your game is. Fought really hard the last three days. The weekend was brutal," said Korda. "Today was tough. That's the beauty of the game. It's fun to play in these conditions and be a little bit more artistic out here."

It was an exciting day of play, with a packed leaderboard for most of it. Entering the final round in the penultimate grouping, Korda made three birdies to two bogeys on her front nine to make the turn at -8, one shot behind the leaders at that point of the round at -9, **Alison Lee** and **Jiyai Shin**. A birdie on 12 and an eagle on the 14th gave Korda a two-shot lead as **Ryann O'Toole** signed at -9 overall in the scoring tent. O'Toole shot a Sunday 66 at Palos Verdes, her lowest 18-hole score since a 64 in the second round of the LPGA Drive On Championship. After hearing of the eagle, O'Toole watched and waited over the next four holes in the clubhouse. Korda went on to go bogey-birdie-bogey-bogey in her closing holes to shoot a 69 and find herself in her second-straight playoff with a victory on the line.

O'Toole and Korda went back to 18 for the 73rd hole. O'Toole missed to the right side of the fairway off the tee, as Korda missed to the left. O'Toole had a lengthy putt for birdie that missed the pin by mere inches, and eventually looked on as Korda's 15-foot birdie putt found the bottom of the cup.

"Honestly didn't really start feeling nervous until I made that eagle putt. I was kind of just -- I didn't really know what was going on, how the group behind me was doing. It was so windy was caught up in trying to control my ball flight," said Korda. "Once I made the eagle, I mean, I got maybe a little nervous where it kind of got a little ahead of myself and started making some mistakes of yeah, interesting last couple holes."

"I can't be more proud to be in this position. You know, that was actually my first playoff ever, so I really enjoyed it. At least I gave it my best attempt. That putting could have gone either way. You know, Nelly played obviously really great. Obviously last couple holes for her put her in the position to be in a playoff with me," said O'Toole, who earned her best finish since her 2021 victory at the Women's Scottish Open. "Hey, I came from behind and gave it my best chance. I can't be more proud."

Lee and University of Southern California native alum **Gabriela Ruffels** tied for third at -8. Ruffels, playing in the final group with Shin and Lee, carded five birdies to two bogeys and a double bogey on the par-4 9th. Though she missed out on the playoff by one on with pars on 17 and 18, Ruffels earned a career-best finish on Tour in only her third event of the 2024 season.

"Such a special week considering that kind of back nine on Friday I was outside the cut line," said Ruffels, who was T33 and -1 overall entering the weekend at the FHSP Championship. So had really, really good weekend and managed the wind. It was such a special week to be here at Palos Verdes with my family close by and, to kind of have my best result in an LPGA event."

Jasmine Suwannapura, Shin and Hermose Beach native **Andrea Lee** finished in a tie for fifth at -7, while defending champion **Ruoning Yin** and **Sarah Schmelzel** finished in a tie for eighth. At -6. Despite two bogeys on her opening holes, she birdied 3 and 7 to stay in contention, but a costly double on No. 12 after a three-putt put her further down the leaderboard. **Jenny Shin**, **Gemma Dryburgh** and **Charley Hull** rounded out the top 10 at -5 overall.

A LOOK AT THE CHAMPION

CATEGORY	Nelly Korda
----------	-------------

2024 Race to CME Globe Rank	1
2024 LPGA Tour Wins	2
2024 LPGA Tour Top 10s	2
2024 Season Earnings	\$587,716
Career LPGA Tour Wins	10
Career LPGA Tour Top 10s	57
Career Money (LPGA)	\$9,523,989
Career LET Wins	3
Career Epson Tour Wins	1

ABOUT THE CHAMPION

Rolex Rankings No. 2 Nelly Korda

- Korda hit 11 of 14 fairways, 12 of 18 greens with 29 putts
 - She recorded one eagle, five birdies and five bogeys in her final round of play
 - She carded two eagles and 21 birdies with 12 bogeys
 - Her 21 birdies were tied for the most among the field
 - This is the 13th time she has recorded multiple eagles in a single tournament
 - She registered three eagles at the LPGA Drive On Championship
 - Since 2021, she has recorded the second-most eagles on the LPGA Tour (36)
 - Only **Yuka Saso** has more with 38
- She is projected to become Rolex Rankings No. 1 for the sixth time in her LPGA Tour career
 - She last held the top spot in the world from July 31-August 13, 2023
- She is the first American to win twice before April since **Stacy Lewis** in 2013
- She becomes the first Tour player to win in two of her first three starts since Karrie Webb in 2011
- This is her third Tour season with multiple victories
 - She won twice in 2019 and three times in 2021
- She is the first player to win in back-to-back starts since **Celine Boutier** won the 2023 Amundi Evian Championship and the Women's Scottish Open
- She is the first player to win in a playoff in back-to-back starts since **Inbee Park** in 2013 (Wegmans LPGA Championship and Walmart NW Arkansas Championship presented by P&G)
- Korda improves her playoff record to 4-2 all-time and is 2-0 in playoffs this season
- This is the third time she has won without having led the previous rounds
 - Both times came in 2022 at the 2022 CPKC Women's Open and the 2022 ANNIKA drive by Gainbridge at Pelican
- She earns her 10th win on Tour and her second this season, following the LPGA Drive On Championship
 - She would earn wins in back-to-back starts for the second time in her career, along with her wins at the 2021 Meijer LPGA Classic for Simply Give and KPMG Women's PGA Championship
- She becomes the 39th different player from the United States to earn double-digit victories on Tour
- With the \$300,000 winner's check, she moves past **Laura Davies** on the All-Time Official Money List to No. 28
- This is her eighth season on the LPGA Tour
 - She has made 113 cuts in 130 starts and has earned 10 wins and 47 additional top-10 finishes over her career
 - She is the defending gold medalist after the 2020 Summer Olympics in Tokyo
 - She is a three-time member of the United States Solheim Cup Team (2019, 2021, 2023)
 - She also represented the United States at the 2023 Hanwha LIFEPLUS International Crown
- She has won on the Ladies European Tour three times
 - Most recently, she claimed the individual title at the Aramco Team Series-London in 2023

THINGS TO KNOW

- **Ryann O'Toole** fell to 0-1 in her first-ever LPGA Tour playoff to finish second
 - This is her first career runner-up finish since joining the Tour in 2011
 - Her second-place finish is her lowest non-win finish since her fourth-place finish 2023 ISPS Handa World Invitational presented by AVIV Clinics
 - Her fourth-round 66 is her lowest score since the LPGA Drive On Championship in 2023 (64, R2)
 - O'Toole's 275 is her lowest 72-hole score since the 2022 Portland Classic (273)
 - Her career lowest 72-hole score is 270 at the 2013 Manulife Financial LPGA Classic and the 2016 Cognizant Founders Cup
- **Gabriela Ruffels** was one stroke shy of joining the leaders for a three-way playoff
 - Ruffels recorded five birdies, two bogeys and a double bogey in her final round
 - She carded 21 birdies, tied for the most among the field
 - Her 21 birdies ties the most she has recorded in an LPGA event
 - She also has 21 at the 2021 Meijer LPGA Classic for Simply Give as a non-member
 - Her T3 finish is her lowest on the LPGA Tour
 - She finished T15 at LPGA Blue Bay earlier this season
- **Alison Lee** ended 1-over on the day en route to a T3 finish, her 23rd career top-10 finish
 - Dating back to last season, she has finished inside the top three in four of her last five starts
 - She finished second or tied for second in her last three starts of 2023 including the CME Group Tour Championship
 - The UCLA graduate now has six career top-three finishes
 - This is her best finish in three professional starts at Palos Verdes Golf Club
- Three players ended their week tied for fifth
 - **Andrea Lee** recorded her third top-five finish in her first five starts
 - This is the first time in her career she has achieved that feat
 - She recorded 21 birdies this week, tied for the second-most she has made in a tournament (2022 Kroger Queen City Championship)
 - She carded 24 birdies in a single tournament at the 2022 Portland Classic
 - **Jasmine Suwannapura** finished with her second top-10 finish of the 2024 season
 - She finished T9 at the LPGA Drive On Championship
 - She recorded two eagles, tying her career high for most eagles in a single tournament
 - This is the first time she has recorded multiple eagles since the 2023 ISPS Handa World Invitational presented by AVIV Clinics
 - It is just the fourth time in her career she has had multiple eagles in a single event
 - **Jiyai Shin** ended 2-over in her final round

- In her last seven starts on the LPGA Tour, she has finished inside the top-five in five
- Shin did not accept the top-10 holding spot for next week's Ford Championship in Arizona

QUOTABLE

Nelly Korda (1, -9) on being the first champion with Seri Pak's name attached to the tournament:

"This was the first time I got to speak and interact with her. Growing up, she inspired so many around, and me being one of them. She's one of the greatest to ever play the game. To get to meet her and talk to her and win her event is an amazing feeling."

Jiyai Shin (T5, -7) on the thoughts of playing on the LPGA Tour again:

"You know what? Yesterday after finish the round I got a lot of message, so many people say are you back, are you back to U.S.? I'm so thankful for the people say they miss me. And, well, but when I playing in Japan, in Asia, my life balance much easier. That's why I playing so well still now. So I just -- well, I love golf, but I try to make to keep balance with my life."

Gabriela Ruffels (T3, -8) on the support from the USC community and her family in the area:

his is definitely a home away from home. I went to school a half an hour away. My coach came out here. I say him on 10 and gave him a big hug, Justin from USC of course. That was really cool. A course of the USC girls came out as well. Yeah, a couple teammates were out, and my family lives close by. My mom you grew up in this area and my whole kind of extended family was out here, I think even my grandparents, which is really special. Having that support just really carried me through today."

54-hole co-leader Alison Lee (T3, -8) after finishing one-shot short of the playoff again:

"I can't help but feel disappointed I feel like coming up short once again. I feel like I've been constantly feeling this coming up short over and over again for the last few events. But, yeah, I'm just going to do everything I can to take positive from this week and take it into the next few weeks. We still got two more events on the west coast, and I feel really good about my game. So, yeah, like I said, it's tough. With how I played today I feel like -- gosh, I really, really feel like I could've played better and I really, really thought this could be my week. But, yeah, I mean, I'm just going to -- even though I don't feel positive right now I'm definitely going to do as best I can to take positives from it, move forward, and just try to do it again next week."

ON LPGA.COM

[UCLA Alum Ryann O'Toole Finishes Runner-Up at FIR HILLS SERI PAK Championship](#)

[Final-Round Highlights | 2024 FIR HILLS SERI PAK Championship](#)

[Nelly Korda Final-Round Highlights | 2024 FIR HILLS SERI PAK Championship](#)

[Ryann O'Toole Final-Round Highlights | 2024 FIR HILLS SERI PAK Championship](#)

[Nelly Korda Final-Round Interview](#)

[Seri Pak Final-Round Interview](#)

SOCIAL SNAPSHOT

[Nelly Korda Celebrates Victory](#)

[Nelly Korda's Winning Putt](#)

[Alison Lee final birdie by the hometown hero on No. 18](#)

[Nelly Korda's eagle on 14](#)

[Sunday Leaders' Swings](#)

TOURNAMENT SCORING RECORDS AT PALOS VERDES:

18 holes – 62, Georgia Hall (R3, 2023)

36 holes – 132, Ruoning Yin (2023) and Hyo Joo Kim (2023)

54 holes – 199, Ruoning Yin (2023)

72 holes – 269, Ruoning Yin (2023)

TOURNAMENT HISTORY:

Beginning in 2024, the FIR HILLS SERI PAK Championship will take on all records and past champions associated with Palos Verdes Golf Club; with the elimination of the LA Open, the JM Eagle LA Championship will take on all past champions associated with Wilshire Country Club

2022 – Palos Verdes Championship pres. by Bank of America

2023 – DIO Implant LA Open

2024 – FIR HILLS SERI PAK Championship