



**FIR HILLS SERI PAK Championship**  
Palos Verdes Golf Club | Palos Verdes Estates, Calif. | March 21-24, 2024

Tuesday Pre-Tournament Notes  
March 19, 2024

**MEDIA AVAILABILITY SCHEDULE**

All times are local to Palos Verdes, Calif., three hours behind Eastern time  
Zoom link to pre-tournament availability is available upon request

Wednesday, March 20

10 a.m. – Hannah Darling  
1 p.m. – Lizette Salas  
3 p.m. – Sophia Popov and Caroline Masson

**THINGS TO KNOW ABOUT THE 2024 FIR HILLS SERI PAK Championship**

- This is the sixth event of the 2024 LPGA Tour season, and first back in the United States since the LPGA Drive On Championship in Bradenton, Fla.
  - The Tour took on the spring iteration of the Asia swing at the Honda LPGA Thailand, HSBC Women's World Championship and Blue Bay LPGA
  - In her home country, **Patty Tavatanakit** took home her second LPGA win a week after earning her first win on the Ladies European Tour
  - In Singapore, **Hannah Green** earned her fourth win on Tour after sinking a 27-foot birdie putt to slide one stroke ahead of Frenchwoman **Celine Boutier**
  - The Tour visited Hainan Island for the first time since 2019, as **Bailey Tardy** became the season's first Rolex First-Time Winner of the season
- This is the third time Palos Verdes Golf Club has hosted an LPGA Tour event
  - 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
- Palos Verdes Golf Club opened in 1924
  - The club was originally designed and built by William P "Billy" Bell and George C Thomas, with restorations in recent years overseen by golf course architect Todd Ekenrode
- PVGC has hosted the Terese Hession Regional Challenge, a women's collegiate championship, for the past 27 years
  - Past individual winners include **Rose Zhang, Carlota Ciganda, Natalie Gulbis, Brittany Lang, Bronte Law, Andrea Lee, Leona Maguire, Lorena Ochoa** and **Annie Park**
  - Five past winners are in this week's field: Zhang (2023), Lee (2019), **Lilia Vu** (2018), **Lindy Duncan** (2012) and Ciganda (2011)
- Seri Pak becomes the third LPGA Tour major champion to host a tournament in 2024
  - She joins Michelle Wie West (Mizuho Americas Open) and Annika Sorenstam (The ANNIKA driven by Gainbridge)
  - Pak is a 25-time winner on the LPGA Tour including five major championships
    - She won the 1998 Louise Suggs Rolex Rookie of the Year award and the 2003 Vare Trophy recipient
    - In 2007, Pak was inducted into the World Golf Hall of Fame and LPGA Hall of Fame
- Defending Champ **Ruoning Yin** became the 2023 season's second Rolex First-Time Winner at Palos Verdes with her one-shot victory over **Georgia Hall**
  - She became only the second player from the People's Rep. of China to win on Tour, joining **Shanshan Feng** (10 Tour wins)
  - She holds the 36-, 54- and 72-hole tournament scoring records at Palos Verdes
  - Yin later went on to win the KPMG Women's PGA Championship and reached No. 1 in the Rolex Rankings
- 2022 champion **Marina Alex** is also in the field
  - Alex is a two-time LPGA Tour winner with 29 additional top-10 finishes
- 18 of top 25 Rolex Rankings are in the field, including World No. 1 Vu
  - Along with Vu, there are six former World No. 1s in the field: Yin, **Nelly Korda, Stacy Lewis, Jiyai Shin, Yani Tseng** and **Ariya Jutanugarn**
    - Tseng is playing for the first time on Tour since 2019
  - Six of the top 10 Rolex Women's World Golf Rankings are in the field including:
    - Vu (No. 1), Korda (No. 2), Yin (No. 4), **Charley Hull** (No. 7), **Hyo Joo Kim** (No. 9) and **Xiyu Lin** (No. 10)
- Four of the five 2024 champions on the LPGA Tour are in the field
  - Korda (LPGA Drive On Championship), **Patty Tavatanakit** (Honda LPGA Thailand), **Hannah Green** (HSBC Women's World Championship) and **Bailey Tardy** (Blue Bay LPGA)
  - There are 60 LPGA Tour winners in the field, led by Tseng (15), **Brooke Henderson** (13), Lewis (13), A. Jutanugarn (12), Shin (11), **Lexi Thompson** (11) and **Paula Creamer** (10)
- There are 11 alums between UCLA and USC in the field
  - Representing the Bruins: **Alison Lee, Ryan O'Toole, Tavatanakit, Vu**
  - Representing the Trojans: **Allisen Corpuz, Malia Nam, Sophia Popov, Gabriela Ruffels, Lizette Salas, Jennifer Song, Gabriella Then**
- There are seven other California college connections representing University of California Berkeley, Pepperdine and Stanford
- **Sophia Popov** and **Caroline Masson** will make their 2024 debuts for the first time since both became #LPGAMoms in 2023
- Irvine native **Rose Zhang** returns for the first time on Tour since the season-opening Hilton Grand Vacations Tournament of Champions
- There are 20 rookies in the field, including **Mone Inami**, who currently leads in the Louise Suggs Rolex ROTY standings
  - Rookies making their 2024 Tour debuts: **Alexandra Forsterling, Hira Naveed, Ana Pelaez Trivino, Yuri Yoshida**
  - Rookies making their overall LPGA Tour debuts: **Kaitlin Milligan**
- Sponsor exemptions:
  - **Hannah Darling** – junior at the University of South Carolina
    - She earned the sponsor's exemption after the Gamecocks won the Therese Hession Regional Challenge presented by Northrop Grumman, and accepted the invite that was extended to a player from the winning team
      - Darling went 3-0 in her matches during the event
    - The Scot is a two-time First-Team All-American and is scheduled to compete in the 2024 Augusta National Women's Amateur
  - **Jiayi Shin** – an 11-time LPGA Tour winner and 30-time JLPGA winner
    - A 2009 LPGA Tour rookie, Shin joined the JLPGA in 2014 to be closer to family
    - In 2023, she played in five Tour events; she carded four top-10 finishes, including a runner-up performance at the U.S. Women's Open and solo third at the AIG Women's Open
    - She currently is No. 18 in the Rolex Rankings and looking to earn a spot on the Korean Olympic Team
  - **Gabriella Then** – Epson Tour winner and 2022 Epson Tour graduate
    - Then is a 2017 graduate of the University of Southern California, and was a 2015 All-American

**LPGA ON-SITE COMMUNICATIONS TEAM**

Megan Santaniello (McGuire)  
Manager, Communications  
[Megan.mcguire@lpga.com](mailto:Megan.mcguire@lpga.com)  
+1 (386) 405-1338

Matt Jesus  
Coordinator, Communications  
[Matt.jesus@lpga.com](mailto:Matt.jesus@lpga.com)  
+1 (402) 957-4674

**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**

**Tournament:** seripakchamp (X, Instagram)  
**LPGA Tour:** @LPGA, @LPGAMedia (X), @lpga\_tour (Instagram, TikTok)

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

**Thursday, March 21:** 6-9 p.m. (Golf Channel/Peacock)  
**Friday, March 22:** 6-9 p.m. (Golf Channel/Peacock)  
**Saturday, March 23:** 6-7 p.m. (Peacock), 7-9 p.m. (Golf Channel/Peacock)  
**Sunday, March 24:** 3-6 p.m. (Golf Channel/Peacock)

**2024 LPGA TOUR STATISTICS**

Official Money: Lydia Ko, \$496,030  
Scoring Average: Natthakritta Vongtaveelap, 67.750  
Birdies: Ayaka Furue, 85  
Eagles: Albane Valenzuela, 5  
Greens in Regulation: Rose Zhang, 81.9%  
Average Driving Distance: Natthakritta Vongtaveelap, 294.000

**2024 Award Standings**

Rolex Player of the Year		
1	Lydia Ko	49 points
2	Patty Tavatakait	33 points
T3	Bailey Tardy	30 points
T3	Nelly Korda	30 points
T3	Hannah Green	30 points

Louise Suggs Rolex Rookie of the Year		
1	Mone Inami	88 points
2	Auston Kim	75 points
3	Savannah Grewal	70 points

#AonRiskReward Challenge		
T1	Olivia Cowan	-1.500
T1	Rose Zhang	-1.500
T3	Ally Ewing	-1.250
T3	Auston Kim	-1.250

Vare Trophy (Scoring Average)		
1	Natthakritta Vongtaveelap	67.750
2	Jaravee Boonchant	68.250
3	Ruixin Liu	69.00

Race to the CME Globe Points		
1	Lydia Ko	987.333 points
2	Ayaka Furue	650.833 points
3	Patty Tavatanakit	586.429 points

[Aon Risk Reward Challenge:](#) No. 16, par 5

The par-5 16th at Palos Verdes Golf Club plays differently depending on which tee box is in use that particular round. With the back tees in play, a missed fairway has cost players almost nothing the past two years, while with the front tees in play, it's a pricey four-tenths of a stroke. From the back tees, just 16% of the field the past two years has gone for the green in two. With the forward tees, that number vaults to more than 60%. **Ruoning Yin's** decision to lay up all four rounds, regardless of tee box, was right for her, as she gained a full stroke on the field on the 16th alone in her victory in 2023.

Two players sit atop the leaderboard of the Aon Risk Reward Challenge as the LPGA Tour comes back to the U.S. **Olivia Cowan** and **Rose Zhang** are both tied for first with a -1.500 average. **Ally Ewing** and 2024 Tour rookie **Auston Kim** are tied for third at -1.250 and **Yu Liu** rounds out the top-five with a -1.125 average.

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 a \$1 million prize.

[Race to CME Globe Update:](#)

The Race to the CME Globe continues as the LPGA Tour returns to the United States for the FIR HILLS SERI PAK Championship. Heading into the sixth event of the season, **Lydia Ko** remains atop the standings with 987.333 with one win and two additional top-10 finishes. **Ayaka Furue** jumped from sixth into second with 650.833 points after her fourth top-10 finish of the year at the Blue Bay LPGA (third). **Patty Tavatanakit** is third with 586.429 points, while **Nelly Korda**, who returns this week for the first time since her win at the LPGA Drive On Championship, is fourth (552.000 points). **Brooke Henderson** with her three top-10s rounds out the top five on the Points List with 518.250 points.

Some major moves following the Blue Bay LPGA:

- **Bailey Tardy** leapt into seventh in the Race following her first LPGA Tour victory in the People's Rep. of China (500 points)
- **Sarah Schmelzel**, who recorded two top-10 finishes during the Asia Swing, went from 40th to ninth (415.500points)
- **Lucy Li** jumped into the top 20 to 18th with 235.00 total points
- **Minjee Lee** went from 74th to 23rd following a T4 finish (172.533 points)

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.