



CHAMPIONSHIP

FM Championship

TPC Boston | Norton, MA | August 29- September 1, 2024

Wednesday Pre-Tournament Notes August 28, 2024

NOTABLE PLAYERS IN THE FM CHAMPIONSHIP FIELD

Xiyu Lin (Rolex Rankings No. 19)

“Well, I think no matter what tournament I win, first, I will be very proud. But definitely here I feel like -- like I said, first, this is another place I start to call home, so I will have lots of support and I will be very excited playing in front of them, and hopefully I can perform like really, really well.”

- Lin resides in both Orlando and Boston (Seaport) during the year
 - Her fiancé, Barney Wang, lives and works in the Boston area
 - She is a fan of the Celtics and has a Celtics putter cover, given to her before this year’s KPMG Women’s PGA Championship while the Celtics were competing in the NBA Playoffs
- View her pre-tournament press conference: [Xiyu Lin Pre-Tournament Press Conference](#)
- This is Lin’s 18th start on Tour this season
 - She’s earned four top-10 finishes entering the FM Championship:
 - T6, LPGA Drive On Championship
 - T10, Blue Bay LPGA
 - T4, Cognizant Founders Cup
 - T5, Dana Open
 - She ranks ninth on Tour in rounds under par (32)
 - According to KPMG Performance Insights, she ranks in the top 10 in strokes gained around the green (9th, +0.41)
- This is Lin’s second Tour start since the 2024 Paris Olympics, where she earned the bronze medal
 - She finished T55 at the AIG Women’s Open last week
 - This was her third appearance in Olympic golf competition (2016, T38; 2020, T9)
- This is Lin’s 11th season on the LPGA Tour
 - She has earned 29 official top-10 finishes on Tour
 - She’s recorded three top-10 results at major championships, and most recently at the 2023 KPMG Women’s PGA Championship (T3)
 - Her career-best finish is second, recorded five times between the 2022 and 2023 seasons
 - Her most recent runner-up performance came at the 2023 Portland Classic
 - She has represented the People’s Republic of China in two Hanwha LIFEPLUS International Crowns (2016, 2023)
- She is a seven time CLPGA Winner, and three-time Ladies European Tour winner
 - Her most recent professional victory was earned at the 2023 Aramco Team Series – Hong Kong

Lauren Coughlin (Rolex Rankings World No. 14)

“I feel like I'm doing what I do every week and trying not to think about (people calling me the hottest golfer in the game right now). It's kind of crazy to think that that's what everybody is saying about me, but it's cool for sure. Again, trying to keep doing what I can control and that's my prep and my routine. If I keep playing well, that's awesome. I'm more trying to think about Solheim as well. Everything I'm doing is in prep for Solheim. I hope I can play well (this week) because it will mean that I can hopefully keep it going for Solheim too. That's kind of where I'm focused.”

- Coughlin won the first two events of her LPGA Tour career this year at the CPKC Women’s Open and the ISPS HANDA Women’s Scottish Open
 - With her two wins, she is one of five LPGA Tour athletes with multiple wins this season; **Nelly Korda** (6), **Hannah Green** (2) and **Lydia Ko** (2)
 - She won both events within a month of each other; CPKC Women’s Open (07/28/2024) and ISPS HANDA Women’s Scottish Open (08/18/2024)
 - She won her titles at the age of 31, becoming the first player to get her first two LPGA Tour wins in the same season after turning 30 years of age, the first to do so since **Karen Stupples** in 2004
- Coughlin will be a rookie on the 2024 U.S. Solheim Cup team next month
 - On August 20, it was [announced](#) that Coughlin had clinched a spot on the U.S. Solheim Cup Team alongside **Allisen Corpuz**
 - Coughlin will have a hometown crowd as a Virginian since this year’s Solheim Cup will take place at Robert Trent Jones Golf Club in Gainesville, Virginia
 - She will be just the second player from Virginia to appear at a Solheim Cup joining **Donna Andrew** (1994, 1998)
- This is Coughlin’s 21st start of the 2024 season
 - In addition to her two wins, she has five top 10 finishes
 - In the five majors, she had two top-5 finishes; The Chevron Championship (T3) and Amundi Evian Championship (4th)
 - She has missed five cuts including last week’s AIG Women’s Open at St Andrews (Old Course)
 - According to KPMG Performance Insights, Coughlin’s unbelievable improvement this season on the greens can take the lion’s share of the credit of her career year

Lauren Coughlin Putting Ranks – Last 2 LPGA Seasons		
	2023	2024
Strokes gained putting	123rd	13th
Putts per GIR	T118	T21

- View her pre-tournament press conference here: [Lauren Coughlin Pre-Tournament Press Conference](#)
- This is Coughlin’s seventh season on the LPGA Tour
 - Prior to this season, her best season on Tour was in 2023; that year, she had her best finish (T6 at CPKC Women’s Open) and earned \$427,256 after making 15 of 23 cuts
 - She played predominantly on the Epson Tour in 2017 and 2020, accumulating seven top-10 finishes over those two seasons
 - She was a LPGA Tour rookie in 2018, earning Membership by finishing T7 at the 2017 LPGA Final Qualifying Tournament
- She played collegiate golf at the University of Virginia
- Her husband, John Pond, caddies for **Gina Kim**

Megan Khang (Rolex Rankings World No. 21)

“I did hear about all the women's sports teams coming to Massachusetts. For FM to come in and be one of the -- I think the biggest purse on the women's tour that is a non-major or our tour championship is a huge way to get the women's game catapulted... I know Massachusetts and New England itself is a huge sports community, and to be able to bring women's golf back after 20 something years it's a great way to do it, and FM is doing a fantastic job coming out of the gates with a \$3.8 million purse.”

- Khang is a Massachusetts native and FM Ambassador, hailing from Rockland, MA
 - She learned golf from her father and grew up playing junior golf in and around Massachusetts
 - She won the Connecticut Women's Open three times as an amateur and had four other amateur wins
 - Khang is a member at Boston Golf Club
 - She is also a lifelong Botson sports fan, supporting the Celtics, Red Sox and Bruins
- View her pre-tournament press conference: [Megan Khang Pre-Tournament Press Conference](#)
- In the tournament’s inaugural year, Khang is making her debut at the FM Championship at TPC Boston

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QUICK LINKS

[Interview Transcripts](#)
[LPGA Tour Online Media Center \(OMC\)](#)
[LPGA Statistical Database](#)
[Stats Box](#)
[Media Assets](#)
[Tournament Website](#)

SOCIAL MEDIA

LPGA Tour: @LPGA, @LPGAMedia (X), @lpga_tour (Instagram, TikTok)
Tournament: @fmchamp (Instagram), @FM_Champ_ (X)

ESPN+ FEATURED GROUP COVERAGE

(All times EST and approximate)
Thursday, August 29: 8:00 a.m.-6:30 p.m.
Friday, August 30: 8:00 a.m.-6:30 p.m.
Saturday, August 31: 7:30 a.m.- 4:30 p.m.
Sunday, September 1: 9:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m.

TV/STREAMING TIMES (All times EST)

Thursday, August 29:
3:30-6:30 p.m. LIVE (Peacock/International)
7:00-9:00 p.m. Encore (Golf Channel)
Friday, August 30:
3:30-6:30 p.m. LIVE (Peacock/International)
7:00-9:00 p.m. Encore (Golf Channel)
Saturday, August 31:
2:30-5:30 p.m. LIVE (Golf Channel/Peacock/International)
Sunday, September 1:
1:30-4:30 p.m. LIVE (Golf Channel/Peacock/International)

- The LPGA Tour is returning to New England for the first time since 2004
 - This is the first time the LPGA Tour has played at TPC Boston
 - When she was 14 and 15, Khang played at TPC Boston during the pro-am for the PGA Tour’s Deutsche Bank Championship
- The FM Championship will be Khang’s 17th start of the 2024 LPGA Tour season
 - She has three top-10 finishes this season, including a season best result of T2 at the ShopRite LPGA Classic presented by Acer
 - She also has a T3 finish at the ISPS Handa Women's Scottish Open and a solo third finish at the LPGA Drive On Championship
 - She has made 10 cuts this season in her 16 previous starts
 - According to the KPMG Performance Insights, Khang is second on the LPGA Tour this season in strokes gained tee-to-green and fourth in strokes gained approach

Megan Khang Ball Striking This Season – LPGA Tour		
		Rank
SG Tee to Green	+1.81	2nd
SG Approach	+1.21	4th
Greens in regulation	72.0%	11th
GIR after missed fairway	55.9%	12th

- Additionally, from 125 to 150 yards away Khang has been the most precise player on the LPGA Tour this season

Best Average Proximity to the Hole 125-150 Yards – This Season	
Megan Khang	17’0’’
Ruixin Liu	18’0’’
Akie Iwai	18’0’’
Elizabeth Szokol	18’6’’
Andrea Lee	19’0’’

*LPGA Tour average: 23’11’’

- This is Khang’s ninth season on the LPGA Tour
 - She has one win in her Tour career, at the 2023 CPKC Women’s Open
 - She also has 40 career top-10s on the LPGA Tour
 - Khang finished T6 at the 2015 LPGA Qualifying Tournament to first earn Membership for the 2016 season
- On Sunday, Khang automatically qualified for the 2024 U.S. Solheim Cup Team
 - This will be her fourth Solheim Cup appearance (2019, 2021, 2023)
 - Khang has an overall record of 4-3-3
 - She is undefeated in singles play at 2-0-1
 - Khang is one of four players for Massachusetts to make an appearance on U.S. Solheim Cup team
 - **Brittany Altomare** (2019, 2021), **Pat Bradley** (1990, 1992, 2996) and **Meg Mallon** (1992, 1994, 1996, 1998, 2000, 2002, 2003, 2005) are the others
 - The 2024 Solheim Cup will be played at Robert Trent Jones in Gainesville, Virgina on Sept. 13-15

Alexa Pano (Rolex Rankings World No. 87)

“I was born here and obviously I grew up playing golf in Florida though. I've always kind of had the support of people from Massachusetts, which is really cool. But I've been spending summers here for quite a while now and spend more than half the year here almost. It's really cool to have a base here as well and a lot of good friends and supporters from here. Like I said a minute ago, Boston is the best sports town in the world. When they really support you they’re really behind you the whole way, and it's a great thing.”

- Pano is from Westborough, Mass., and is sponsored by the New England Patriots
 - View her pre-tournament press conference: [Alexa Pano Pre-Tournament Press Conference](#)
 - On Tuesday, she played a practice round at TPC Boston with Marcus Jones and Bryce Barringer
- She is making her 22nd start on Tour this season
 - She has two top-10 finishes including a T10 finish at last week’s AIG Women’s Open
 - Her best finish was a runner-up finish at the Hilton Grand Vacations Tournament of Champions
 - She has missed eight cuts on Tour in 2024
- According to KPMG Performance Insights, Pano:
 - Has gained at least a full stroke on the field with her drives in 19 rounds this season, tied for third-most of any player

Most Rounds Gaining 1+ Stroke Off Tee LPGA Tour This Season	
Linn Grant	21
Jennifer Kupcho	21
Alexa Pano	19
Nelly Korda	19
Polly Mack	19

- Is one of two players ranked in the top 10 on the LPGA Tour this season in strokes gained tee to green, off the tee and around the green. The other is Nelly Korda:

Alexa Pano Strokes Gained This Season	
Tee to green	9 th
Off the tee	3rd
Around the green	2nd

**1 of 2 players in the top 10 in all categories (Nelly Korda)*

- She became a Rolex First-Time Winner at the 2023 ISPS Handa World Invitational
- This is Pano’s second season on the LPGA Tour
 - She has earned almost a \$1 million in career earnings and currently sits at \$919,457
 - In 2023, she played in 21 events and made 12 cuts, earning \$442,855
 - In 2022, she turned professional and played on the Epson Tour and finished in the top 10 five times

KPMG INSIGHT OF THE WEEK

There are five players on the LPGA Tour this season who have gained two or more strokes with their ball striking in at least 40% of their measured rounds. Four of them are in the field this week:

Highest Percentage of Rounds Gaining 2+ Strokes Ball Striking – LPGA This Season	
Haeran Ryu	48.2%*
Megan Khang	46.5%*
Minjee Lee	45.5%
Peiyun Chien	41.1%*
Nasa Hataoka	40.8%*

**in the field this week*

THINGS TO KNOW

- This is the inaugural playing of the FM Championship, which marks the LPGA Tour’s first return to New England since the 2004 U.S. Women’s Open
- Established nearly two centuries ago, FM is a leading mutual insurance company that is dedicated to property risk management and the resilience of its policyholder-owners
 - In July, FM added \$300,000 to the prize fund for the 2024 FM Championship
 - The purse for the inaugural competition now stands at \$3.8 million, the purse on the LPGA Tour outside of the major championships and the season-ending CME Group Tour Championship
 - During the five-year partnership, the prize purse for the FM Championship will continue to increase annually, eventually reaching \$5 million in 2028
 - FM has also increased its support in other ways for athletes participating in the FM Championship
 - All athletes in the 2024 FM Global Championship field will receive complimentary hotel accommodations, courtesy of FM
 - FM will also provide a \$1,000 stipend to athletes who miss the cut for the weekend rounds
- TPC Boston is hosting the LPGA Tour for the first time for the inaugural FM Championship

- TPC Boston has hosted 17 PGA Tour events including the Dell Technologies Championship (2003-2018) and the FedEx St. Jude Championship (2020)
 - The 2024 FM Championship is just the second LPGA Tour event to be held at a TPC course
 - The Hanwha LIFEPLUS International Crown was held at TPC Harding Park in 2023, and the Kroger Queen City Championship will be held at TPC River's Bend for the first time in September
- See more news from the FM Championship:
 - [2024 FM Championship Will Bring Fun Fan Experiences, Elevated Hospitality at TPC Boston](#)
 - [LPGA Tour's FM Championship Welcomes U.S. Virgin Islands as Official Caribbean Tourism Destination](#)
 - [ESPN+ to Stream Featured Groups Coverage at Inaugural FM Championship](#)
 - [FM Increases Sponsorship for LPGA Tour's 2024 FM Championship](#)
 - [FM to Provide Athlete Accommodations for 2024 FM Championship](#)
 - [TPC Boston to Host FM Championship](#)

ON LPGA.COM

[Featured Groups Starting on ESPN, Live Coverage of LPGA Tour's Inaugural FM Championship](#)

[Field Breakdown: 2024 FM Championship](#)

[How to Watch the 2024 FM Championship](#)

[Five Things to Know About the FM Championship](#)

[Dunning Golf to Outfit 2024 U.S. Solheim Cup Team](#)

[2024 Solheim Cup: Meet the U.S. Team](#)

[Jennifer Kupcho, Sarah Schmelzel, Lexi Thompson Complete 2024 U.S. Solheim Cup Team](#)

SOCIAL SNAPSHOT

[No One is More Excited to Be Back in Boston than Megan Khang](#)

[Boston Rob from Survivor is on the Course at the FM Championship](#)

[Megan Khang Throwing out the First Pitch at the Red Sox game](#)

[Ice in Her Vein's: LPGA Look Back](#)

[Megan Khang's Warm-Up Routine to Throw Out the First Pitch](#)

[Cannolis on the Range at the FM Championship](#)

[LPGA Players Answer if they are Drivers or Passenger Princesses](#)

[Auston Kim vs. Ryann O'Toole in P-I-G](#)

2024 SOLHEIM CUP NEWS AND NOTES

The 2024 U.S. and European Solheim Cup Teams have been officially announced as of yesterday (8/27/2024).

- U.S. Solheim Cup Team:
 - The nine automatic qualifiers for the 2024 U.S. Solheim Cup Team are **Nelly Korda, Lilia Vu, Lauren Coughlin, Ally Ewing, Allisen Corpuz, Megan Khang, Andrea Lee, Rose Zhang** and **Alison Lee**
 - **Jennifer Kupcho, Sarah Schmelzel** and **Lexi Thompson** are the three captain's picks rounding out the U.S. Solheim Cup Team
 - Captain **Stacy Lewis** chose **Paula Creamer, Brittany Lincicome, Morgan Pressel** and **Angela Stanford** as assistant captains for the 2024 team
 - Coughlin, Corpuz, Khang, Andrea Lee, Zhang and Alison Lee are in the field at this week's FM Championship
- European Solheim Cup Team:
 - The eight automatic qualifiers for the 2024 European Solheim Cup Team are **Charley Hull, Esther Henseleit, Celine Boutier, Maja Stark, Linn Grant, Leona Maguire, Carlota Ciganda** and **Madelene Sagstrom**
 - **Albane Valenzuela, Emily Kristine Pedersen, Georgia Hall** and vice-captain **Anna Nordqvist** are the four captain's picks rounding out the European Solheim Cup Team
 - Captain **Suzann Pettersen** chose **Mel Reid, Anna Nordqvist, Laura Davies** and **Caroline Martens** as assistant captains for the 2024 team
 - Boutier, Ciganda, Sagstrom, Valenzuela and Nordqvist are in the field at this week's FM Championship
- See the following press releases for more information:
 - [Nine Automatic Qualifiers Named for 2024 U.S. Solheim Cup Team](#)
 - [Jennifer Kupcho, Sarah Schmelzel, Lexi Thompson Complete 2024 U.S. Solheim Cup Team](#)
 - [Stacy Lewis Names Four Assistant Captains for 2024 U.S. Solheim Cup](#)
 - [Eight Automatic Qualifiers Named for 2024 European Solheim Cup Team](#)
 - [Pettersen Names Captain's Picks for 2024 European Solheim Cup Team](#)
 - [Mel Reid Joins Nordqvist, Davies and Martens as Vice-Captain for 2024 Solheim Cup](#)