



Championship

Presented by 

Ford Championship presented by KCC
Seville Golf and Country Club | Gilbert, Ariz. | March 28-31, 2024

Wednesday Pre-Tournament Notes
March 27, 2024

NOTABLE PLAYERS IN THE FIELD

Nelly Korda (Rolex Rankings No. 1)

“Honestly, just a crazy weekend with the weather. But, yeah, I mean, I always say I seem to make it very interesting when it comes to just how I finish off tournaments. My first win of the year was in Bradenton and that was interesting, and so was this one. But it felt really nice to get the W and get to double digits.” – on her win last week

- Korda is coming off a win at the FIR HILLS SERI PAK Championship, her second-consecutive victory
 - She also won the LPGA Drive On Championship in her hometown of Bradenton, Fla.
 - She’s the first to win back-to-back LPGA Tour starts, both in playoffs, since **Inbee Park** in 2013
 - She is the first American woman to win twice in an LPGA Tour season before April 1st since **Stacy Lewis** did 11 years ago
 - Since 1990, only **Pat Bradley** (1990), **Beth Daniel** (1990), **Donna Andrews** (1994), **Stacy Lewis** (2013) and Korda (2024) have been American players to win before April 1
 - Korda is also the first player since **Karrie Webb** in 2011 to win twice in her first three LPGA Tour starts of a given season
- According to KPMG Performance Insights, in her last eight LPGA Tour Rounds:
 - SG Total per round: +3.51
 - Score to par: -20
 - Birdie or better percentage: 29.2%
 - Greens in regulation: 80.6%
- Korda is trying to be the first player to win three consecutive starts on the LPGA Tour since **Ariya Jutanugarn** in 2016
 - In LPGA Tour history, six-different players have earned three consecutive wins in scheduled events:
 - 4: **Mickey Wright** (1962 and 1963); **Kathy Whitworth** (1964), **Annika Sorenstam** (2001 and 2002), **Lorena Ochoa** (2008)
 - 3: **Annika Sorenstam** (2002, 2005), **Lorena Ochoa** (2007), **Inbee Park** (2013), **Ariya Jutanugarn** (2016)
 - In LPGA Tour history, five-different players have posted at least three consecutive wins in tournament starts
 - 5: **Nancy Lopez** (1978), **Annika Sorenstam** (2004-2005)
 - 4: **Shirley Englehorn** (1970)
 - 3: **Karrie Webb** (2000), **Lorena Ochoa** (2006)
- Korda’s 10 career wins rank second-most of any player since the beginning of 2018, only bested by **Jin Young Ko** (14)
- Korda currently ranks No. 1 in the Rolex Rankings, Race to CME Globe and Olympic Golf Ranking
 - She also ranks second in Greens in Regulation (76.39%), scoring average (69.50) and on the U.S. Solheim Cup Team Points List
- This is Korda’s eighth season on the LPGA Tour
 - Her 10 wins include a major championship at the 2021 KPMG Women’s PGA Championship
 - She is a three-time U.S. Solheim Cup Team member (2019, 2021, 2023)
 - She was a member of the third-place U.S. Team at the 2023 Hanwha LIFEPLUS International Crown
 - She is the reigning Olympic Gold Medalist in women’s golf (2020 Tokyo Olympics)

Lydia Ko (Rolex Rankings No. 8)

- This is Ko’s fifth start of the 2024 LPGA Tour season
 - After winning the season-opening Hilton Grand Vacations Tournament of Champions, she has posted two additional top-five finishes
 - She finished solo second behind Korda at the LPGA Drive On Championship, and posted a T4 result at the Blue Bay LPGA
 - Ko is currently first in scoring average (69.44), and sits second in the Race to CME Globe and Official Money List
- Ko has gained three or more strokes on the field in eight rounds already this season, which almost equals her total from the entire 2024 campaign
 - Ko also leads the Tour in bogey avoidance and scrambling percentage
 - She ranked outside the top-50 in both of those statistics a year ago
- Ko enters another week one-point shy of LPGA Hall of Fame induction (26 points currently)
- Ko did not play in the LPGA Drive On Championship at Superstition Mountain in 2023, but she did play in the Cognizant Founders Cup at Wildfire Golf Club from 2014-2019
 - She earned five top-10 finishes in the event in Phoenix, two of where were runner-up results in 2014 and 2016
 - She missed one cut in that span (2018)
- This is Ko’s 11th season on the LPGA Tour
 - She is a 20-time LPGA Tour winner and two-time major champion
 - She also won the inaugural Grant Thornton Invitational in 2023 with playing partner Jason Day
 - She is a two-time Rolex Player of the Year (2015, 2022), two-time Vare Trophy winner (2021, 2022) and was the 2014 Louise Suggs Rolex Rookie of the Year
 - She is a two-time Olympic medalist representing New Zealand (2016 – Silver, 2020 – Bronze)

Celine Boutier (Rolex Rankings No. 3)

“It was definitely a long time coming, that one. I feel like it was just I had waited almost two years for that win, and just coming in Arizona I didn't really expect anything. But it was really fun to be able to pull it off, especially in a playoff. That definitely give me some kind of relief for the rest of the season and some confidence as well, that, you know, when I was in that position I was able to pull it off. So it was really good to get that one also in the early part of the season.” – On her win at the 2023 LPGA Drive On Championship

- Boutier won the last event that the LPGA Tour hosted in Arizona (2023 LPGA Drive On Championship at Superstition Mountain)
 - She shot a four-day total of 20-under par to tie with **Georgia Hall** and eventually beat her with a birdie on the extra playoff hole
 - This was her third win of her LPGA Tour career, and her first of four wins during the 2023 season
 - She was one of two players to earn four wins in 2023, joining **Lilia Vu**
- This is her fifth start of the 2024 LPGA Tour season
 - Her season-best finish came at the HSBC Women’s World Championship (2nd)
 - There, she shot a 64 in the second round, moving her into the lead heading into the weekend
 - She had two top-20 finishes at the LPGA Drive On Championship (T16) and Blue Bay LPGA (T12)
 - According to KPMG Performance Insights, she has played significantly better in her last two starts than she did in her first two of the season:

Celine Boutier First Four Starts of the 2024 Season		
	First 2	Last 2
Score to par	-7	-20
Bogey or worse percentage	15.3%	10.4%
SG Total	0.33	2.48
SG Tee to Green	0.45	2.17

- This is her eighth season on the LPGA Tour
 - She has been a member of three European Solheim Cup teams (2019, 2021, 2023)
 - She represented France in the 2020 Olympic Games
 - She was a rookie in 2017, earning her card by finishing third in the 2016 Race for the Card on the Epson Tour

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[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, March 28: 6-9 p.m. (Peacock); 7-9 p.m. (Golf Channel)

Friday, March 29: 6-9 p.m. (Peacock); 7-9 p.m. (Golf Channel)

Saturday, March 30: 6-9 p.m. (Golf Channel/Peacock)

Sunday, March 31: 6-9 p.m. (Golf Channel/Peacock)

- She played collegiately at Duke University

Minjee Lee (Rolex Rankings No. 5)

- This is Lee’s third start of the 2024 season
 - Lee makes her first Tour start on U.S. soil of the year this week
 - She made her season debut at the HSBC Women’s World Championship, finishing T29
 - Her first top-five finish of the year came at the Blue Bay LPGA (T4)
 - She cut her bogeys in half at the Blue Bay LPGA compared to her season debut and picked up significantly more strokes with her approach play according to KPMG Performance Insights

Minjee Lee First Two Starts of the LPGA Season		
	HSBC	Blue Bay
Finish	T29	T4
Bogeys/worse	12	6
SG Tee to Green	-0.17	+2.32
SG Approach	+0.47	+2.19
Scrambling	58.3%	76.5%

- In 2023, she made 18 official starts on the LPGA Tour
 - She earned two victories at the Kroger Queen City Championship presented by P&G and the BMW Ladies Championship
 - She had three additional top-10 finishes including a runner-up finish at the Cognizant Founders Cup
 - She did not miss one cut last year
- The last time Lee played in an LPGA Tour event in Arizona was at the 2019 Cognizant Founders Cup at Wildfire Golf Club in Phoenix (T58)
- This is her 10th year on the LPGA Tour
 - She is a 10-time LPGA Tour winner and a two-time major champion (2021 Amundi Evian Championship and 2022 U.S. Women’s Open)
 - She has won at least once every year she has been on Tour except 2017 and 2020
- She is a two-time Olympian representing Australia in both the 2016 and 2020 Games
- She also represented Australia at the 2014, 2016, 2018 and 2023 Hanwha LIFEPLUS International Crowns

INSIGHT OF THE WEEK – KPMG PERFORMANCE INSIGHTS

- American players (**Bailey Tardy**, **Nelly Korda** twice) have won three of the first six events on Tour.
- In 2023, there weren’t three wins by American players until June, when **Rose Zhang** won in her first start as a professional at the Mizuho Americas Open
 - In 2022, it took 10 tournaments until three U.S. winners

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[Bailey Tardy Skydives on Monday Ahead of Ford Championship pres. by KCC](#)
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[Nelly Korda Pre-Tournament Press Conference](#)
[Lydia Ko Press Conference](#)

IN THE NEWS

[Nelly Korda Takes Lead in Season-Long Award Standings](#)
[Nelly Korda Returns to Rolex Rankings No. 1 After Victory in Palos Verdes](#)
[JM Eagle LA Championship Tournament Purse Raised to \\$3.75 Million](#)
[Kroger Queen City Championship pres. by P&G Finds New Venue at TPC River’s Bend](#)
[Susan Pikitch Names New Chair of the LPGA Foundation Board](#)
[Swing into Success: Make Golf Your Thing Kickstarts 2024 HBCU Partnership Tour](#)
[Renee Powell Names a Women’s Final Four Cleveland 2024 Legends and Legacy Community Aware Recipient by the NCAA](#)

SOCIAL SNAPSHOT

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[Linn Grant and Linnea Strom Putting Reunion in the Desert](#)
[Lindsey Weaver-Wright: First-Time #LPGA Mom Things](#)
[Alison Lee vs Megan Khang: Lakers/Celtics Bet](#)
[Emma Talley x Lexi Thompson: Pro Am walk-and-talk](#)
[Hometown player Sarah Schmelzel on Arizona courses](#)