Hilton Grand Vacations Tournament of Champions
Lake Nona Golf & Country Club| Orlando, Fla. | Jan. 18-21 , 2024

Tuesday Pre-Tournament Notes
Jan. 16, 2023

MEDIA AVAILABILITY SCHEDULE

Wednesday, Jan. 17
12 p.m. – Mone Inami
Around Pro-Am – Annika Sorenstam
Around Pro-Am - Rose Zhang
Around Pro-Am - Lydia Ko
Pro-Am timing will be determined by a draft on Tuesday night; updates will be available on the LPGA Online Media Center and sent through to credentialed media
Approx. time range of pressers: 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.

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QUICK LINKS
Interview Transcripts
LPGA Tour Online Media Center
LPGA Statistical Database
Stats Box
Media Assets
Tournament Website

SOCIAL MEDIA
LPGA Tour: @LPGA, @LPGAMedia (X), @lpga_tour (Instagram, TikTok)
Tournament: @HiltonGrandVac (X), @HiltonGrandVacations (Instagram), #HGVLPGA

TV/STREAMING TIMES (All times EST)
Thursday, Jan. 18: 1-4 p.m. (Golf Channel/Peacock)
Friday, Jan. 19: 1-4 p.m. (Golf Channel/Peacock)
Saturday, Jan 20: 2-3 p.m. (Golf Channel/Peacock); 3-5 p.m. (NBC/Peacock)
Sunday, Jan. 21: 1-4 p.m. (Golf Channel/Peacock)

THINGS TO KNOW ABOUT THE 2024 HILTON GRAND VACATION TOURNAMENT OF CHAMPIONS

- Professional competition format: 36 players, 72-hole stroke play, no cut
  - Players who have won during the 2022 and 2023 seasons qualify for this event
  - This is the highest number of Tour players to compete since it became an official event on Tour
- Celebrity and amateur competition format: 72-holes, Modified Stableford scoring, no cut
  - Modified Stableford Scoring Breakdown:
    - Double bogey – 0
    - Bogey – 1
    - Par – 2
    - Birdie – 3
    - Eagle – 5
    - Hole-in-One – 8
    - Double Eagle – 10
  - **Mardy Fish** left Lake Nona Golf & Country Club as the celebrity winner last year, making 152 points in the Modified Stableford Format
    - It was the second HGVTOC victory for former Davis Cup captain; he also won in 2021
    - John Smoltz (2019, 2020) and Derek Lowe (2022) also won the Celebrity division previously
  - Other competing celebrities include **Ray Allen** (NBA Champion), **Victor Cruz** (Super Bowl Champion), **Landon Donovan** (Major League Soccer All-Star), **Chris Lane** (Country Music Singer and Songwriter), **Albert Pujols** (World Series Champion) and **Adam Thielen** (NFL Wide Receiver, Carolina Panthers), among others
- This will be the third time Lake Nona Golf & Country Club will host the event
  - The course was designed by Tom Fazio in 1986
  - Previously, it has hosted the inaugural Solheim Cup in 1990 and the 2021 ANNIKA presented by Gainbridge at Pelican (played as the Gainbridge LPGA)
- This is the sixth playing of the season-opening tournament
  - From 2019-21, this event was played at the Four Seasons Golf and Sports Club in Lake Buena Vista, Fla., and known as the Diamond Resorts Tournament of Champions
  - This is the first tournament of the 2024 LPGA Tour season
  - Two of the last five winners of the Hilton Grand Vacations Tournament of Champions was decided by playoffs
    - **Jessica Korda** defeated **Danielle Kang** on the first playoff hole in 2021
    - **Gaby Lopez** defeated **Nasa Hataoka** on the seventh playoff hole and **Inbee Park** on the third in 2020
  - Korda holds the 18-hole scoring record, 60, set in the third round in 2021
    - She and Kang both hold the 72-hole scoring record, 260, set in 2021
- There are three past champions in the field this week including **Brooke Henderson** (2023), Kang (2022) and Lopez (2020)
  - Henderson defeated **Charley Hull** and **Maja Stark** by four strokes last year to secure her lone 2023 Tour win
  - Since the tournament's inception, no winner of the season opener has gone on to win again in the same season
- Eighteen 2023 Tour winners are also in the field
  - Two-time major champion and four-time Tour winner last year **Lilia Vu** is the reigning Rolex Player of the Year, and is making her tournament debut
    - Vu became the first American since **Stacy Lewis** in 2014 to win the award and was the 26th different recipient of the honors since its inception in 1966
    - Vu also currently ranks first on the Women's Olympic Golf Ranking
  - In addition to Vu, 11 other players will be making their first appearance in the Hilton Grand Vacations Tournament of Champions
    - 11 of those 12 became Rolex First-Time Winners last season
    - **Mone Inami** won the 2023 TOTO Japan Classic but did not accept immediate Membership, making this her first event as an official LPGA Tour Member
- Four of the top-10 in the Rolex Women's World Golf Rankings are in the field including; No. 1 Vu, No. 2 Yin, No. 5 **Nelly Korda** and No. 8 **Charley Hull**
- No. 12-ranked and Lake Nona resident **Lydia Ko** is making her first start since winning the inaugural Grant Thornton Invitational alongside PGA TOUR's **Jason Day**

FINAL 2023 LPGA TOUR STATISTICS
Official Money: Lilia Vu, $3,502,303
Scoring Average: Atthaya Thitikul, 69.533
Birdies: Nasa Hataoka, 369
Eagles: Jennifer Kupcho, Bailey Tardy, Carlota Ciganda, 12
Holes in One: In Gee Chun, 2
Greens in Regulation: Olivia Cowan, 76.4%
Average Driving Distance: Polly Mack, 281.750

2023 Final Award Leaders

Rolex Player of the Year		
1	Lilia Vu	203 points
2	Celine Boutier	169 points
3	Ruoning Yin	142 points

Louise Suggs Rolex Rookie of the Year		
1	Hae Ran Ryu	907 points
2	Grace Kim	557 points
3	Rose Zhang	557 points

Rolex ANNIKA Major Award		
1	Lilia Vu	120 points
2	Allisen Corpuz	84 points
T3	Celine Boutier	60 points
T3	Ruoning Yin	60 points

#AonRiskReward Challenge		
1	Angel Yin	-0.933

2	Atthaya Thitikul	-0.895
3	Carlota Ciganda	-0.861

Race to the CME Globe		
1	Lilia Vu	3161.968
2	Celine Boutier	3,123.983
3	Ruoning Yin	2,654.298

Aon Risk Reward Challenge: No. 15, par 5
While this hole has yielded a birdie or better more than 40% of the time when playing just over 500 yards, things get really interesting when the tee is pushed up. The forward tee shortens this hole by 77 yards and is expected to improve scoring on this par 5 by nearly half-a-stroke. Being the last par 5 on the back-nine, the 15th hole is a scoring chance for this week's field. Players must decide whether the location of their drive has given them a good enough opportunity to go for the green and take advantage of this reachable par 5.

Last season, **Angel Yin** was named the Aon Risk Reward Challenge champion, receiving the Aon Trophy and the $1 million prize for her ability to make better decisions on the most strategically challenging holes through the 2023 LPGA Tour season. She joined **Minjee Lee** (2022), **Hannah Green** (2021) and **Carlota Ciganda** (2020) as previous winners. Yin finished with a -0.933 average to par last year on Challenge holes with **Atthaya Thitikul** (-0.895), Ciganda (-0.861), **Hae Ran Ryu** (-0.841) and **Nelly Korda** (-0.824) rounding out the final top-five leaderboard for 2023.

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 an equal $1 million prize.

Race to CME Globe Update:
The Race to CME Globe Race begins at the Hilton Grand Vacations Tournament of Champions with the first set of 500 points up for grabs to the victor.

Last season, **Lilia Vu** finished atop the Race to CME Globe Points List with 3,161.97 points after winning four times in 2023. **Celine Boutier** was right behind her with 3,123.98 points after also securing four victories last year. **Ruoning Yin** finished third with 2,654.30 points thanks in part to two wins, including her first major championship at the KPMG Women's PGA Championship. **Hyo Joo Kim** (2,412.76) and **Minjee Lee** (1,980.48) rounded out the top five with Kim earning a victory at The Ascendent LPGA benefiting Volunteers of America and Lee earning two titles at the Kroger Queen City Championship and the BMW Ladies Championship.

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.