



JM Eagle LA Championship presented by Plastpro
 Wilshire Country Club | Los Angeles, CA | April 25-28, 2024

First-Round Notes
 April 25, 2024

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Course Setup: 35-36 – 71; 6,235 yards
Scoring Average: R1: 72.182
Weather: Partly cloudy skies with light southwesterly breezes in the afternoon and gusts reaching up to 12-14 mph; temperatures reaching a high of 65F
Race to CME Globe Points: 500 points (winner)
Purse: \$3.75 million (winner’s portion is \$562,500)
TV/Streaming Times: [How to watch](#)

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

LEADERBOARD			
	Player	To par	Score
1	Grace Kim	-7	64
T2	Sei Young Kim	-6	65
T2	Maja Stark	-6	65
T2	Chanettee Wannasaen	-6	65
T5	Three players	-5	66

GRACE KIM LEADS AFTER EARLY CHARGE AT JM EAGLE LA CHAMPIONSHIP PRESENTED BY PLASTPRO

LPGA Tour sophomore **Grace Kim** had a career day at the JM Eagle LA Championship presented by Plastpro, tying the 18-hole scoring record at Wilshire Country Club and her career-low round with a 7-under 64 on Thursday. One of just five players to go bogey free during the first round, Kim made three birdies on the front – Nos. 3, 5 and 8 – and added four more on the back on holes 10, 11, 15 and 18. Standing on 18 tee, Kim was 13 for 13 in GIR but “chunked (her) tee shot on the last hole 20 meters short,” she said, before chipping in for one last birdie.

Kim’s score was the sixth 64 shot by LPGA Tour players at Wilshire Country Club, and first since **Linnea Johansson** shot the same during last year’s opening round at the JM Eagle LA Championship. Coming off a missed cut at The Chevron Championship after rounds of 76 and 72, the Australian was pleased to shoot her career-low again, having done so just once before on Tour during the final round of The ANNIKA Driven by Gainbridge at Pelican last year.

“I think if I was to compare my round today compared to last week, I really focused on just not having too much in my mind. I think I overthought a lot of things through my first and second round last week and struggled a little bit mentally,” said Kim, who would be the third Australian and second in a row to win at Wilshire CC were she to go wire-to-wire. “So just that self-belief, not forcing anything, and trusting that my muscle memory of a golf swing would work. Yeah, I guess that kind of worked out well.”

Three players sit in a tie for second and just one stroke behind Kim at -6. Sweden’s **Maja Stark** followed her runner-up finish at the season’s first major championship with a first-round 65 and another bogey-free scorecard. Stark has played 44 holes without a bogey and has six bogey-free rounds in 2024, tied with **Lydia Ko** as the most this season.

“Don’t jinx it now,” Stark laughed when asked about her bogey-free streak. “Yeah, obviously that’s what we want. I feel like I’ve just been more patient. Haven’t made any dumb mistakes. Just taking my medicine where I needed to. Obviously I’ve been close to bogeys, but my putting has just been way better this past week.”

Thailand’s **Chanettee Wannasaen** and the Republic of Korea’s **Sei Young Kim** share the second-place spot with Stark. Wannasaen became a Rolex First-Time Winner at the 2023 Portland Classic after Monday qualifying for the event. Last year, she missed the cut at Wilshire but has since learned what it takes to become a champion and overcome the challenges on Tour.

“I think yesterday I really think (Wilshire Country Club) is very hard, is not fits for me. Like, the green is not my style, the grass is not my style,” Wannasaen said. “But it’s challenging. I think it’s challenging. Like the golf course is very hard, long, and then the green is very small. But today I hit very good. The result is really good today (because) that is challenge.”

S.Y. Kim played the best of the afternoon wave, which shot over a stroke-and-a-half higher than the morning groups. The major champion made birdie right off the bat on No. 1, then later had a remarkable stretch of birdies down the stretch, making four in a row on Nos. 12-15. She and Wannasaen also went bogey-free along with G. Kim, Stark and **Haeran Ryu**, who is one of three players tied for fifth at -5. Defending champion Hannah Green is tied with three players in a tie for eighth at -4, looking to be the first to successfully defend a title on Tour since Jin Young Ko (2022, 2023 HSBC Women’s World Championship).

A LOOK AT THE LEADER

CATEGORY	Grace Kim
2024 Race to CME Globe Rank	81
2024 LPGA Tour Wins	0
2024 LPGA Tour Top 10s	0

2024 Season Earnings	\$50,084
Career LPGA Tour Wins	1
Career LPGA Tour Top 10s	2
Career Money (LPGA)	\$1,009,527
Career LET Wins	0
Career Epson Tour Wins	1

ABOUT THE LEADER

Rolex Rankings No. 83, Grace Kim

- Kim hit 13 of 14 fairways and 15 of 18 greens, with 27 putts
 - She made seven birdies and went bogey free on Thursday
- Her bogey-free 64 is her new season-best score and ties her career-best 18-hole score on Tour
 - She recorded a final-round 64 at the 2023 Annika driven by Gainbridge at Pelican
- This is her third bogey-free round of the season, and first since the first round of the Ford Championship
- Her 64 ties the lowest first-round score of any player this season on a par 71 course
 - Maude-Aimee Leblanc also shot a 64 at the FIR HILLS SERI PAK Championship at Palos Verdes GC
 - The lowest start by a winner this season on a par 71 or 72 course belongs to Nelly Korda (65, LPGA Drive On Championship – par 71; 66, Ford Championship – par 72)
- Kim's 64 ties the tournament scoring record at Wilshire Country Club, which has been shot on six previous occasions
- This is her first lead/co-lead after any round on Tour
- This is her second appearance in the JM Eagle LA Championship
 - She missed the cut in 2023
- This is her eighth event of the 2024 LPGA Tour season
 - She's made four cuts and earned a season-best T25 result at the HSBC Women's World Championship
 - Her last top-10 finish on Tour was a tie for 10th at the 2023 Cognizant Founders Cup
- This is her second season on Tour
 - She became a Rolex First-Time Winner at the 2023 LOTTE Championship as a rookie
 - She represented Australia at the 2023 Hanwha LIFEPLUS International Crown
 - She finished fifth on the Epson Tour's 2022 Race for the Card to first earn LPGA Membership
- Prior to becoming an LPGA Tour rookie, she won on the Epson Tour at the 2022 IOA Golf Classic

THINGS TO KNOW

- The scoring average for the morning wave was 71.36 and 73.00 for the afternoon wave
 - 17 of the 23 rounds in the 60s on Thursday went out in the morning
 - There were eight first-round scores of 77+ in the afternoon to two in the early wave
- **Sei Young Kim** shot the lowest round of the afternoon – a 65 – to get into a tie for second on the first-round leaderboard
 - Aside from a tie for 30th at The Chevron Championship, Kim's has not finished worse than a tie for 17th this season
 - She finished T17 at the HSBC Women's World Championship
 - Her season-best results are two T3 results at the Honda LPGA Thailand and T-Mobile Match Play presented by MGM Rewards
 - Her 65 ties a season-low 18-hole score, matching her final-round 65 from the Honda LPGA Thailand
 - The 12-time LPGA Tour winner and major champion is looking for her first win since the 2020 Pelican Women's Championship
- Maja Stark is coming off her career-best finish in a major championship (T2) and sits in a tie for second at -6
 - Her bogey-free round is her sixth this season, tying Lydia Ko for the most on Tour in 2024
 - She is bogey-free in her last 44 holes; she closed her final round at The Chevron Championship with a clean scorecard as well
 - She last made a bogey on the 10th hole at The Club at Carlton Woods during the third-round of The Chevron Championship
 - Stark has recorded two top three results in her last three starts
 - Along with her Chevron finish (2), she earned a T3 result at the Ford Championship presented by KCC
 - Her 65 is a new season-low first-round score, and her best since recording a 65 during R1 of the 2023 BMW Ladies Championship
- **Chanettee Wannasaen** shot her first round in the 60s since a third-round 68 at the Ford Championship presented by KCC
 - Her 65 is her lowest 18-hole score since a 64 at the 2024 Honda LPGA Thailand (R3)
 - Wannasaen hasn't earned a top-10 finish since her win at the 2023 Portland Classic
 - She has not missed the cut since the 2023 Kroger Queen City Championship
 - Her season-best result is a tie for 29th at the HSBC Women's World Championship
- Defending champion **Hannah Green** sits in a tie for eighth at -4
 - Her 67 is her 13th consecutive round in the 60s at Wilshire Country Club
 - She has not finished worse than a tie for third in her last three appearances at Wilshire
- **Jeongeun Lee5** recorded her second-career ace on the LPGA Tour on Thursday
 - She hit her 9-iron from 135 yards to make an ace on the 18th hole at Wilshire CC
 - Her last ace on Tour came at the 2021 LOTTE Championship (No. 8, final round)
 - This is the fourth ace on Tour this season
 - The CME Group Cares Challenge – Score 1 for St. Jude total is now \$80,000 for the year
 - For each hole-in-one on Tour throughout the season, CME Group donates \$20,000 to St. Jude Children's Hospital
- **Patty Tavatanakit** is the lowest UCLA grad on the leaderboard through 18 holes (T24, -1), while **Jennifer Chang** is the top University of Southern California alum in a tie for 37th at even
 - Chang was one of this week's Monday Qualifiers
- 2024 LPGA Tour rookie **Benedetta Moresco** made her first start of the season on Thursday at the JM Eagle LA Championship
 - She opened with a 2-over 73 (T82)
 - She has finals this week for her Senior year at the University of Alabama
 - She is scheduled to graduate May 3, but will miss it for the Epson Tour's Casino Del Sol Golf Classic

QUOTABLES

Defending champion Hannah Green (T8, -4) on seeing a fellow Aussie on top of the leaderboard after playing a practice round together at Wilshire

"She always plays really solid. I feel like she's been maybe struggling a little bit with the putter, so it's probably nice for her to have some putts go in. I assuming if she shot 7-under she also hit it very well. Yeah, Gracie, I think she's a really talented player. Really nice to see other Aussies doing well. Obviously only round one, but I hope that her form continues for the rest of the week."

Maja Stark (T2, -6) on the confidence she gained from her runner-up finish at The Chevron Championship

"Oh, so much more confident in my game. I still like chickened out on a couple shots today which is just like me. I feel like I've been better at not chickening out as much. Then just knowing I can be patient and not have to chase birdies to actually make them, because I think when I'm chasing birdies, that's when I make my mistakes. Didn't feel like I did that today. I was just kind of bobbing along, and then the putts start falling in."

Bianca Pagdanganan (T8, -4) on building off her "chill" mindset that worked well on Thursday

"Honestly, the mindset just coming into today I was so chill. I have no idea why I felt so relaxed. Sure enough, turned into a pretty good day. Hopefully I can keep the same mood, vibe, mindset heading into tomorrow. Like I just felt good getting up at 4:00 a.m. this morning, which isn't pretty -- like doesn't happen all the time. But really just taking everything shot by shot. I think it's really, really important to stay present out here. I had pretty good saves, so I think it's more of just celebrating the good and just brushing off the bad shots and knowing that you can still save it from there. Basically for me, recently it's just been new week is a new opportunity to play well. If I start good, hopefully I can ride that momentum."

Rose Zhang (T14, -2) reflecting on her first year as a professional almost a year after winning the Mizuho Americas Open

"It's been an incredible journey thus far. I feel really blessed to be able to play this sport for a living and as a job. Sometimes there are ups and downs and I've realized that. You know, being in college and playing amateur golf, you're kind of able to take breaks in between and you're able to stay fresh. When you're out here, every single week is just a grind. I've embraced it but also learned that sometimes things don't go your way and all you have to do is kind of keep your head high and try to stay in the process a little bit more. But the girls out here are so inspiring. Nelly and then everyone out here has been working really hard. So I'm really loving the environment."

ON LPGA.COM

[Hannah Green Starts Solid in Her Title Defense](#)

[Maja Stark In The Mix After First Round 65 At JM Eagle LA Championship](#)

[Field Breakdown: 2024 JM Eagle LA Championship presented by Plastpro](#)

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[PGA TOUR Players React to Nelly Korda's Success](#)

SOCIAL SNAPSHOT

[Sights and Sounds from Hollywood at the JM Eagle LA Championship](#)

[Grace Kim ties the 18-hole scoring record and takes the clubhouse lead](#)

[Grace Kim Chips in on No. 18](#)

[All smiles for clubhouse leader Grace Kim on Day 1 in L.A.](#)

[From Texas to California, Maja Stark is locked in and going low](#)

[Dan Rapaport on the mic for a little catch up with LPGA Tour Winner Elizabeth Szokol](#)

[Kathryn Newton stops by the JM Eagle LA Championship](#)

TOURNAMENT HISTORY

Beginning in 2024, the JM Eagle LA Championship will take on all records and past champions associated with Wilshire Country Club since 2018; with the elimination of the LA Open, the FIR HILLS SERI PAK Championship took on all past champions associated with Palos Verdes Golf Club

2023-Present – Played as the JM Eagle LA Championship at Wilshire Country Club

Past Champions and Runners-Up at Wilshire Country Club:

2023 – Hannah Green, 275 (-9); defeated Xiyu Lin and Aditi Ashok with a par on the second playoff hole

2022 – Nasa Hataoka, 269 (-15); Hannah Green, 274 (-10)

2021 – Brooke Henderson, 268 (-16); Jessica Korda, 269 (-15)

2019 – Minjee Lee, 270 (-14); Sei Young Kim, 274 (-10)

2018 – Moriya Jutanugarn, 272 (-12); Inbee Park & Jin Young Ko, 274 (-10)

LPGA TOUR SCORING RECORDS AT WILSHIRE COUNTRY CLUB

18 holes – 64, shot by six players, most recently **Grace Kim (R1, 2024)**

36 holes – 129, Jessica Korda (2021)

54 holes – 197, Jessica Korda (2021)

72 holes – 268, Brooke Henderson (2021)