



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

Second-Round Notes  
 April 26, 2024

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**Course Setup:** 35-36 – 71; 6,245 yards  
**Scoring Average:** R1: 72.182; R2: 72.157  
**Weather:** Partly cloudy, becoming mostly sunny in the late afternoon with breezy conditions; highs reached near 69F with morning lows of 53F  
**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
<a href="#">Interview Transcripts</a>
<a href="#">LPGA Tour Online Media Center (OMC)</a>
<a href="#">LPGA Statistical Database</a>
<a href="#">Stats Box</a>
<a href="#">Media Assets</a>
<a href="#">Tournament Website</a>

LEADERBOARD			
	Player	To par	Score
1	Grace Kim	-12	64-66 – 130
2	Maja Stark	-8	65-69 – 134
T3	Esther Henseleit	-6	68-68 – 136
T3	Hannah Green	-6	67-69 – 136
T5	Emily Kristine Pedersen	-5	70-67 – 137
T5	Auston Kim	-5	66-71 – 137

**GRACE KIM LEADS BY FOUR AT JM EAGLE LA CHAMPIONSHIP**

Australian golfer **Grace Kim** earned another career-low score on Friday at the JM Eagle LA Championship presented by Plastpro, following up her 64 on Thursday with a second-round 66 to improve on her career-best 36-hole score by five strokes. After sleeping on the first post-round lead of her career, Kim dropped a shot early in her second round with a bogey on the par-3 12th but earned three strokes back with an eagle on 13 and a birdie on 14. She played steady from there, keeping bogeys off the card and adding three more birdies on Nos. 3, 6 and 7. She now sits at -12 overall and four strokes ahead of her nearest competitor, **Maja Stark**, but doesn’t fully know where to attribute her dominating performance.

“I guess I’m not too sure,” Kim laughed when asked what she has been doing well in the past two rounds. “I think the less thoughts, the better. Obviously during the afternoon round today we’ve got poana greens so just have to stay patient with them. You can kind of see how it can get bumpy, so working with the course and not getting too wrapped up around putts not going in. Yeah, just making sure you don’t force anything; same as yesterday.”

Kim’s two-day score of 130 smashes her previous low of 135, which she shot just a few weeks ago at the Ford Championship presented by KCC. Despite her solid start in Arizona, Kim ultimately finished T52 in the Ford Championship. But this week, she’ll look to go wire-to-wire to join her fellow Aussies **Hannah Green** and **Minjee Lee** as a winner at Wilshire Country Club.

“I think I’ve got to breathe a little bit,” Kim said on the keys to Moving Day. “I did get a little bit nervous on my probably back nine, so making sure I don’t rush too much and, yeah, just staying in the present probably.”

Coming off of a runner-up finish at last week’s major championship, The Chevron Championship, Stark is the best positioned to challenge Kim’s lead, sitting at -8 overall after rounds of 65 and 69. Finishing 2-under on the day, Stark was bogey-free through 50 holes of LPGA Tour competition when she found the bunker on the par-3 7th and needed two shots to free herself from the sand. She had three birdies on the day to push her along, however, and place her in the final group on Saturday.

“Usually it’s like that anyway,” said Stark, who is chasing her second LPGA Tour victory this week, same as G. Kim. “I don’t ever really know when my last bogey was. Usually if I make a bogey that kind of gets me out of my defensive mindset, so then it’s like ah, screw it, let’s just go. Usually helps me and I think it did that today.”

Defending champion Green and Germany’s **Esther Henseleit** share the third-place spot at -6, with Denmark’s **Emily Kristine Pedersen** and LPGA Tour rookie **Auston Kim** at -5 and T5. A. Kim had a colorful scorecard throughout day two, but was propelled to her position on the leaderboard thanks to her first-ever hole-in-one. A. Kim made the ace on the 135-yard 18th hole using her pitching wedge, then nearly leaped into her caddy’s arms as cheers erupted around the stadium hole.

“Yeah, it was my first ever hole-in-one. Very cool that I can finally say I have a hole-in-one now,” said A. Kim following her even-par round. “Yeah, I was trying to hit about a 128 shot into 18 green and just landed perfectly up front. Bounces a couple times, rolled, and went in. It was awesome. It was really cool... I was trying to aim, have it come in, hit a fade from the left edge of the green. I basically did what I wanted to do. It didn’t feel like the greatest shot but still worked out. It was good enough.”

**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 29 putts
  - She made four birdies, an eagle and one bogey on Friday
- Kim's 130 bested her previous 36-hole personal scoring record by five shots
  - She posted a 135 at the 2024 Ford Championship presented by KCC
- Her bogey-free 64 on Thursday was her new season-best score and tied her career-best 18-hole score on Tour
  - She recorded a final-round 64 at the 2023 Annika driven by Gainbridge at Pelican
  - It was her third bogey-free round of the season, and first since the first round of the Ford Championship
  - Her 64 tied 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 also tied the tournament scoring record at Wilshire Country Club, which has been shot on six previous occasions
- This is her first 36-hole lead/co-lead on Tour
  - Kim held her first post-round lead on Tour after Thursday's 64
- Her four-shot lead after the second round is the largest lead after 36 holes on Tour this season
  - The previous best was two strokes, done by Lydia Ko and Ayaka Furue (Hilton Grand Vacations Tournament of Champions) as well as Nelly Korda (LPGA Drive On Championship)
- This is her second time opening with rounds in the 60s this season following the Ford Championship
- 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

- According to KPMG Performance Insights, the 36-hole average of those playing early Thursday/late Friday was 143.6, compared to 144.8 of the late/early waves
  - The seven players at 5-under or better were in the early/late waves
- There were 79 players who made the cut at +2 or better
  - **Isabella Fierro** was one to make it on the number after following her first-round 77 with a Friday 67 to go from T135 to T61
- **Maja Stark** is in solo second through 36 holes after a 2-under 69 on Friday (-8 overall)
  - Stark is currently 100% in fairways hit this week (28/28), along with **Allisen Corpuz** (T45), **Hyo Joo Kim** (T61) and **Stacy Lewis** (MC)
  - She went 50 holes without a bogey (dating back to The Chevron Championship third round) until No. 7 on Friday
    - This is a new record for the Swede for consecutive holes without a bogey
    - Her previous best was 38, spanning from the second round on No. 14 to No. 15 in the final round of the Ford Championship
  - She is one of five players to record two-straight rounds in the 60s (65-69)
    - The last time she opened with two rounds in the 60s was at the 2023 Buick LPGA Shanghai in October, where she ultimately finished T8
  - It's her fifth consecutive round in the 60s
- **Esther Henseleit** shot a second-straight 68 on day two and is T3 at -6
  - Henseleit is coming off a career-best major finish (T7) at The Chevron Championship
  - This is her third appearance at Wilshire Country Club
    - She missed the cut in both 2022 and 2023
- Defending champion **Hannah Green** is six shots back of the lead in a tie for third (-6)
  - In 2023, Green was one-shot back after 36 holes following round of 68-69 in the first two days
  - Her 69 on Friday was her 14th straight round in the 60s at Wilshire Country Club
  - In five of her last six rounds at Wilshire Country Club, Green has made birdie on the 18th hole
- **Rose Zhang** is one of four players in a tie for seventh at -4
  - In 2019, Zhang played in the Hugel-Air Premia LA Open Monday qualifier at Wilshire as a 16-year-old, shooting 74
- **Alison Lee** is the top UCLA Bruin in the field at T31 (E), while **Allisen Corpuz** and Jennifer Chang are the top University of Southern California grads through 36 holes (T45, +1)
- Biggest movers of Friday included Mi Hyang Lee (T99 to T22) and Jenny Shin (T82 to T22)
- **Alexa Pano** (T61, +2) and **Auston Kim** (T5, -5) recorded their first aces in LPGA Tour competition on Friday at Wilshire CC
  - Pano hit her 6-iron from 175 yards to make a hole-in-one on No. 12 at Wilshire CC
  - Kim used her pitching wedge from 135 yards on No. 18
  - These are the second and third aces of this year's JM Eagle LA Championship
    - Jeongeun Lee5 carded her second ace on Tour on Friday on No. 18, her first hole-in-one since the 2021 LOTTE Championship (No. 8, final round)
  - The most aces in one tournament is six (1999 Mercury Titleholders)
  - The Tour ace total is now six for 2024
    - The CME Group Cares Challenge – Score 1 for St. Jude total is now \$120,000 for the year
    - For each hole-in-one on Tour throughout the season, CME Group donates \$20,000 to St. Jude Children's Hospital

## QUOTABLES

*Auston Kim (T5, -5) on reflecting on her rookie year while at the JM Eagle LA Championship:*

"It's definitely been a big adjustment. I know I've been doing a lot of things pretty well. I've also been doing some things not so well, and being able to learn from that every single week, and the Chevron last week was a really good test with that. Pretty proud of how I played there. Every single day, every single week I'm just trying to do the right things with discipline and know I'm putting in the hard work. Every single day if I show up and try my best and let things happen, I'll be fine."

*Rose Zhang (T5, -5) on resetting after a double on 17 to card a birdie on 18:*

"Well, I've been either duck hooking my drives or spraying it right. It was unfortunate that that one happened to spray right. I just tried to keep myself as composed as possible. Sometimes when you're out there you get in the moment a little bit too much, so I tried to calm myself down a little bit. I had a lot more opportunities to go. I felt like I was playing pretty solid. So after the little mishap on 17 I was just thinking about getting it on the green and giving myself a good little look. So I guess it worked out."

*Defending champion Hannah Green (T5, -5) on finding comfort at WCC this week:*

"I have a lot of people supporting me at the club. You can hear a few Aussie accents out there, which is really nice. I don't know. I feel like it demands -- even though it is one of the shorter courses we play, it's really firm and quite tricky. I had a lot of downhill putts today and kind of wasn't as aggressive as I could have been. Kind of reminds me of the Sand Belt, picking and choosing when you can be aggressive and when you can't be. Yeah, hopefully vibing off that and having a good weekend."

*Esther Henseleit (T3, -6) on her focuses while figuring out Wilshire Country Club:*

"Everything [about my game feels] pretty good to be honest. The last two days probably weren't my strongest driving days, but my irons have been really solid. Last week as well and this week. And, yeah, the putting is definitely better than it was beginning of the season. So it's great to see that improvement."

## ON LPGA.COM

[Alexa Pano Makes Ace at JM Eagle LA Championship](#)

[Jeongeun Lee5 Aces No. 18 on Thursday at the JM Eagle LA Championship](#)

[Austin Kim Aces No. 18 at Wilshire Country Club \(with highlight\)](#)

[Grace Kim Second-Round Interview | JM Eagle LA Championship pres. by Plastpro](#)

[Grace Kim Second-Round Interview | JM Eagle LA Championship pres. by Plastpro](#)

[Second-Round Highlights | JM Eagle LA Championship pres. by Plastpro](#)

[Who Will Win the JM Eagle LA Championship presented by Plastpro?](#)

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

## SOCIAL SNAPSHOT

## 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)