



LOTTE Championship presented by Hoakalei
Hoakalei Country Club | Ewa Beach, Oahu, Hawaii | Nov. 6-9, 2024

Monday Pre-Tournament Notes
Nov. 4, 2024

THINGS TO KNOW ABOUT THE 2024 LOTTE CHAMPIONSHIP PRESENTED BY HOAKALEI

- This week is the third-to-last event on the official LPGA Tour schedule, and the Tour's first appearance in the United States since the Walmart NW Arkansas Championship presented by P&G
- This is the 12th edition of the LOTTE Championship presented by Hoakalei
 - The event debuted on the LPGA Tour schedule in 2012 and has been played each year since, except for 2020
- This is the third playing of the tournament at Hoakalei Country Club
 - Ko Olina Golf Club (2012-2019) and Kapolei Golf Club (2021) previously hosted the LOTTE Championship
 - Hoakalei has held the event since 2022
 - Hoakalei was designed by World Golf Hall of Fame member Ernie Els and opened in 2009
- Past winners of the LOTTE Championship include **Ai Miyazato** (2012), **Suzann Pettersen** (2013), **Michelle Wie West** (2014), **Sei Young Kim** (2015), **Minjee Lee** (2016), **Cristie Kerr** (2017), **Brooke Henderson** (2018, 2019), **Lydia Ko** (2021) and **Hyo Joo Kim** (2022)
- The purse increased to \$3 million for 2024, up \$1 million from 2023
 - The winner's check is now \$450,000
- The LPGA Tour first competed in Hawaii in 1982
 - **Amy Alcott** won the first event contested on Tour in the Aloha State at the 1982 Women's Kemper Open at Royal Kaanapali North in Maui
 - The first Tour event on Oahu was the 1987 Tsumura Hawaiian Ladies Open at Turtle Bay Country Club, won by **Cindy Rarick**
- This year's field features three previous winners, including defending champion Grace Kim
 - Kim defeated Yu Liu and Yu Jin Sung with a birdie on the first playoff hole to become a Rolex First-Time Winner in her third start as an LPGA Tour rookie
 - Since her maiden win in 2023, Kim has earned four additional top-10 finishes on Tour
- Two players in the Rolex Rankings top 10 are teeing it up at Hoakalei: **Ayaka Furue** (No. 9) and **Jin Young Ko** (No. 10)
 - Furue, who won her maiden major title earlier this season at The Amundi Evian Championship, is making her third appearance in the event
 - She finished T67 in 2022 and T23 in 2023
 - This is Ko's first appearance in the LOTTE Championship since 2019, when she finished T17
 - Ko is looking for her first Tour win of 2024 with three events remaining in the year
 - She has won at least once on Tour since 2017
- LPGA Tour rookie **Malia Nam** is the sole Hawaiian Tour Member in the field
 - Nam was born in Kailua, Hawaii; she started playing golf at age six on the island
 - This is her first time competing in the LOTTE Championship
 - Nam said her earliest memories of the LOTTE Championship include **Brooke Henderson's** back-to-back wins in 2018 and 2019
 - Nam earned her card for 2024 through LPGA Q-Series, finishing T23 at Final Qualifying
 - Her career-best start on the LPGA Tour is a tie for 14th at the 2024 Portland Classic
- There are 21 LPGA Tour rookies competing at Hoakalei Country Club, including **Mao Saigo**
 - Saigo currently leads the Louise Suggs Rolex Rookie of the Year standings with 919 points
 - The race for ROTY is down to Saigo and **Jin Hee Im**; all other eligible athletes have been eliminated
 - Saigo is entered to play in the remaining events on the LPGA Tour schedule, while Im is currently scheduled to play in the ANNIKA driven by Gainbridge at Pelican and the CME Group Tour Championship
 - Im is 131 points behind Saigo
 - Saigo is coming off a T26 finish at the TOTO Japan Classic
 - She played in every fall Asian Swing event on Tour, which included a T2 performance at the Buick LPGA Shanghai
- The five sponsor exemptions this week are **Yumin Hwang**, **Soyoung Lee**, **Ga Young Lee**, **Erika Hara** and **Honorine Nobuta Ferry (a)**
 - Hwang has earned nine top-10 finishes on the KLPGA in 2024, including a victory at the Doosan E&C We've Championship
 - Soyoung Lee is a LOTTE ambassador; her best performance on the KLPGA this season is a runner-up performance at the OK Savings Bank OK MAN Open
 - Ga Young Lee won the 2024 LOTTE Open on the KLPGA this past July, one of two career victories on the KLPGA since 2022
 - This is Erika Hara's 12th LPGA Tour start since 2019
 - Her first appearance was at the 2019 ISPS Handa Women's Australian Open, where she missed the cut
 - Her career-best performance on Tour is a tie for 16th (2024 Honda LPGA Thailand)
 - She last won on the JLPGA at the 2023 Japan Women's Open Golf Championship
 - Honorine Nobuta Ferry is 14 years old, and is originally from Hawaii
 - This is her LPGA Tour debut

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QUICK LINKS

[Interview Transcripts](#)
[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)
Tournament: @LPGALOTTE (X), @LotteChampionship (Instagram)

TV/STREAMING TIMES (All times EST)

Wednesday, Nov. 6: 7-10 p.m. (Golf Channel; NBC Sports Digital)
Thursday, Nov. 7: 7-10 p.m. (Golf Channel; NBC Sports Digital)
Friday, Nov. 8: 7-10 p.m. (Golf Channel; NBC Sports Digital)
Saturday, Nov. 9: 7-10 p.m. (Golf Channel; NBC Sports Digital)

IN THE NEWS

- [Nelly Korda earned the 2024 Rolex Player of the Year award](#)
 - Korda held the top spot in the Rolex Player of the Year standings since her second win of the season at the FIR HILLS SERI PAK Championship in March
 - She is the second consecutive American winner, following **Lilia Vu**; the last time consecutive Americans won the Rolex Player of the Year award was 1993 (**Betsy King**) and 1994 (**Beth Daniel**)
 - Korda is the third player since 2016 to clinch the award with three events remaining in the season, joining **Ariya Jutanugarn** (2018) and **Jin Young Ko** (2019)
 - She will next tee it up at the ANNIKA driven by Gainbridge at Pelican
- [ESPN+ to Stream Featured Groups Coverage at LPGA Tour Season Finale, the CME Group Tour Championship](#)
 - There will be more than 30 hours of live coverage over four days, beginning on Thursday, November 21
 - LPGA Tour major champion **Sophia Popov** will make her U.S. broadcasting debut as an on-course reporter
 - The CME Group Tour Championship will be the fourth event this year with ESPN+ featured groups coverage, following The Chevron Championship, Cognizant Founders Cup and the FM Championship

2024 LPGA TOUR STATISTICS

Official Money: Nelly Korda, \$3,676,930
Scoring Average: Jeeno Thitikul, 69.54
Birdies: Haeran Ryu, 350
Eagles: Carlota Ciganda, 12
Holes in One: Jiwon Jeon and Auston Kim, 2
Greens in Regulation: Jeeno Thitikul, 77.26%
Average Driving Distance: Polly Mack, 284.68

2024 Award Standings

Rolex Player of the Year		
1	Nelly Korda*	244 points
2	Lydia Ko	144 points
3	Ayaka Furue	125 points

*Clinched

Louise Suggs Rolex Rookie of the Year		
1	Mao Saigo	919 points
2	Jin Hee Im	788 points
3	Gabriela Ruffels	533 points

Rolex ANNIKA Major Award		
1	Nelly Korda*	84 points
2	Ayaka Furue	70 points
T3	Amy Yang	60 points
T3	Lydia Ko	60 points
T3	Yuka Saso	60 points

**Clinched*

#AonRiskReward Challenge		
1	Jeeno Thitikul	-0.900
2	Haeran Ryu	-0.833
3	Ruoning Yin	-0.813

Vare Trophy – eligible players		
1	Ayaka Furue	70.025
2	Haeran Ryu	70.025
3	Hannah Green	70.215

Race to the CME Globe Points		
1	Nelly Korda	3,735.819 points
2	Haeran Ryu	2,829.392 points
3	Lydia Ko	2,562.758 points

Aon Risk Reward Challenge: No. 11, par 5

The 11th hole at Hoakalei Country Club should provide players with a birdie opportunity to start their back nine. Depending on the tee box selected, players will need to decide whether to play as a three-shot hole or try and reach the green in two. It is one of the most difficult par-5's on the LPGA Tour, with the field making birdie 18% of the time. When the back tees were in play last year in rounds one and two, the hole played over par. For the week, the few players who did decide to go for the green in two shots lost strokes on the field, while a lay-up into the fairway was two-tenths of a stroke better than going for it.

Jeeno Thitikul currently leads the Aon Risk Reward Challenge leaderboard with a score to par of -0.900. **Haeran Ryu** sits in second (-0.833) with **Ruoning Yin** in third (-0.808). **Nelly Korda** (-0.808) and **Lilia Vu** (-0.800) are fourth and fifth in the standings, respectively. Thitikul, who is ranked 27-under par after 30 holes played, will make her next Tour appearance at the CME Group Tour Championship. The following are projections needed to pass -0.900 in the next two events:

Haeran Ryu	eagle and double eagle	-0.909
Ruoning Yin	eagle and double eagle	-0.912
Nelly Korda	eagle and double eagle	-0.929
Lilia Vu	eagle and double eagle	-0.906
Jennifer Kupcho	two holes-in-one	-0.913
Ayaka Furue	two holes-in-one	-0.905

The previous winning scores of the ARRC were -0.933 (**Angel Yin**, 2023), -0.917 (**Minjee Lee**, 2022), -0.938 (**Hannah Green**, 2021) and -0.841 (**Carlota Ciganda**, 2019); the competition was not conducted in 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

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 a \$1 million prize.

Race to CME Globe Update:

With three events remaining in the 2024 LPGA Tour season, the LOTTE Championship is a prime opportunity for players looking to rise on the Race to CME Globe.

Nelly Korda, who last competed on Tour in mid-September, firmly holds the lead in the Race to CME Globe points standings with 3,735.819 points. **Haeran Ryu** sits in second with 2,829.392 points and **Lydia Ko** with 2,562.758 points in third. **Ayaka Furue**, highest ranked player in the Race to CME Globe standings competing this week in Hawaii, is fourth with 2,410.777 points while **Ruoning Yin**, who added two victories in her last three starts on Tour, rounds out the top five with 2,316.983 points this season.

Following the TOTO Japan Classic, the following players made the biggest moves in the Race to CME Globe:

- **Marina Alex**, who fell to **Rio Takeda** in a six-hole playoff, earned her best finish since her last Tour win in 2022 and jumped 29 spots from 61st to 32nd (917.526 points), firmly securing a place within the top 60 with the CME Group Tour Championship on the horizon
- **Yealimi Noh's** T4 result moved her to 29th in the standings, up 14 places (947.372 total points)

Players on the bubble to make the top 60 in the Race to CME Globe and therefore the CME Group Tour Championship include:

55	Leona Maguire	704.225 points
56	Mi Hyang Lee	688.935 points
57	Stephanie Kyriacou*	670.339 points
58	Hinako Shibuno*	647.143 points
59	Carlota Ciganda	639.488 points
60	Gaby Lopez*	625.607 points
61	Hyo Joo Kim*	619.724 points
62	Alexa Pano	612.105 points
63	Ashleigh Buhai*	609.194 points
64	Alison Lee	594.069 points
65	A Lim Kim*	593.611 points

*in the LOTTE Championship field

Players are also looking to use this week to further cement their 2025 LPGA Tour card, and avoid a trip to Final Qualifying, the last stage in LPGA Q-Series this December. Nine of the 11 players ranked 95-105 are competing in the LOTTE Championship this week:

95	Savannah Grewal*	237.983 points
96	Polly Mack*	236.492 points
97	Celine Borge*	235.841 points
98	Mone Inami*	218.242 points
99	Jodi Ewart Shadoff*	213.746 points
100	Haeji Kang*	207.862 points
101	Mary Liu*	207.275 points
102	Weiwei Zhang*	192.100 points
103	Sarah Kemp	190.490 points
104	Stephanie Meadow	172.693 points
105	Lindy Duncan*	171.400 points

*in the LOTTE Championship field

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. In 2024, there have been 26 total aces made on the LPGA Tour, surpassing the minimum guaranteed donation of \$500,000 (\$520,000) with three events remaining this season.

2024 Wins by Country (30 tournaments, 8 countries)

11 – United States of America (Nelly Korda (6), Lauren Coughlin (2), Bailey Tardy, Lilia Vu, Rose Zhang,)
5 – Thailand (Moriya Jutanugarn, Jasmine Suwannapura, Patty Tavatanakit, Jeeno Thitikul, Chanettee Wannasaen)
3 – Australia (Hannah Green)
3 – Japan (Yuka Saso, Ayaka Furue, Rio Takeda)
3 – New Zealand (Lydia Ko)
3 – People's Republic of China (Ruoning Yin)
2 – Republic of Korea (Haeran Ryu, Amy Yang)
1 – Sweden (Linnea Strom)

2024 Wins by Player (30 tournaments, 19 players)

6 – Nelly Korda (LPGA Drive On Championship, FIR HILLS SERI PAK Championship, Ford Championship presented by KCC, T-Mobile Match Play presented by MGM Rewards, The Chevron Championship, Mizuho Americas Open)
3 – Hannah Green (HSBC Women's World Championship, JM Eagle LA Championship presented by Plastpro, BMW Ladies Championship)
3 – Lydia Ko (Hilton Grand Vacations Tournament of Champions, AIG Women's Open, Kroger Queen City Championship presented by P&G)
3 – Ruoning Yin (Dow Championship, Buick LPGA Shanghai, Maybank Championship)
2 – Lauren Coughlin (CPKC Womens Open, ISPS HANDA Women's Scottish Open)
1 – Ayaka Furue (The Amundi Evian Championship)
1 – Moriya Jutanugarn (Portland Classic)
1 – Haeran Ryu (FM Championship)
1 – Yuka Saso (U.S. Women's Open presented by Ally)
1 – Linnea Strom (ShopRite LPGA Classic presented by Acer)
1 – Jasmine Suwannapura (Walmart NW Arkansas Championship presented by P&G)
1 – Rio Takeda (TOTO Japan Classic)
1 – Bailey Tardy (Blue Bay LPGA)
1 – Patty Tavatanakit (Honda LPGA Thailand)
1 – Jeeno Thitikul (Dow Championship)
1 – Lilia Vu (Meijer LPGA Classic for Simply Give)
1 – Chanettee Wannasaen (Dana Open)
1 – Amy Yang (KPMG Women's PGA Championship)
1 – Rose Zhang (Cognizant Founders Cup)

Average Age of 2024 Winners: 25.452

Youngest Winner: Chanettee Wannasaen (20 years, 3 months, 5 days)

Oldest Winner: Amy Yang (34 years, 10 months, 26 days)