



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

Tuesday Pre-Tournament Notes  
Nov. 5, 2024

**NOTABLE PLAYERS IN THE LOTTE CHAMPIONSHIP PRESENTED BY HOAKALEI FIELD**

Ayaka Furue (Rolex Rankings No. 9)

"I like the atmosphere off Hawai'i. Kind of like -- how do I say, it's kind of relaxing style, so I am looking forward to enjoying that atmosphere." – *Furue on returning to Hawaii*

- This is Furue's third appearance in the LOTTE Championship presented by Hoakalei
  - 2022: T67; 2023: T23
  - Last season at the LOTTE Championship, she ranked third in the field in strokes gained putting, yet ranked outside the top 100 in strokes gained tee-to-green

Ayaka Furue Strokes Gained LOTTE Championship		
	Per Round	Rank
Tee-to-Green	-0.94	121st
Putting	+1.94	3rd

- This is Furue's 23rd event of the 2024 LPGA Tour season
  - She's made 21 cuts; her lone missed cut in 2024 came at the Dow Championship
  - She is playing her fourth consecutive event; she is coming off a T10 finish at the TOTO Japan Classic
  - She has earned 11 top-10 finishes, including a win at The Amundi Evian Championship
  - Entering the LOTTE Championship, she has holed 163 putts of 10 feet or longer this season, most of any player on Tour
    - She's followed by **Pajaree Anannarukarn** (160), **Paula Reto** (157) and **Anna Nordqvist** (154)
  - According to KPMG Performance Insights, she ranks at or near the top of the Tour in multiple scoring categories

Ayaka Furue Scoring LPGA Tour – This Season		
		Rank
Bogey Avoidance	11.5%	1st
Bogey-Free Rounds	12	T1
Par 3 Scoring	2.84	T1
Sub-Par Rounds	58	2 <sup>nd</sup>
Scoring Average	70.03	3 <sup>rd</sup>
SG Total	+1.94	3rd

- Furue is currently the highest-ranked player in scoring average eligible for the Vare Trophy, ahead of **Haeran Ryu** by only 0.011 strokes
  - Jeeno Thitikul** (69.537) and **Nelly Korda** (69.918) will not meet the 70 total official tournament rounds' requirement needed to earn the Vare Trophy
  - There are projected to be 12 official tournament rounds remaining in the 2024 season
  - The Vare Trophy winner's scoring average since its inception in 1953 is 71.294
- This is her third season on the LPGA Tour
  - She is a two-time Tour winner, earning her first at the 2022 ISPS Handa Women's Scottish Open
  - She has earned 43 official top-25 finishes in her career, including 23 top 10s
  - She was a member of Team Japan in the 2023 International Crown

Jin Young Ko (Rolex Rankings No. 10)

- This is Ko's second appearance at the LOTTE Championship
  - First debuted in 2019 (T17) at Ko Olina Golf Club
- This is her 17th event of the 2024 LPGA Tour season
  - She is coming off a T22 finish at the TOTO Japan Classic
  - Her season-best result is second, earned at the KPMG Women's PGA Championship and the FM Championship
  - She's earned six top-10 finishes this year on Tour
  - Ko is looking for her first Tour victory of the season
    - She has won at least one Tour title since 2017
- Ko is ranked third on Tour in strokes gained approach per round for the second consecutive season.
  - In 2022, she was 30th on Tour in that metric

Jin Young Ko Strokes Gained Approach – Last 3 Seasons		
	Per Round	Rank
2022	+0.50	30th
2023	+1.13	3rd
2024	+1.14	3rd

- She has also gained at least a full stroke with her approach play in 60% of her rounds this season on the LPGA Tour, which is the second highest rate among qualified players

Rounds With 1+ SG Approach Highest Percentage This Season	
Haeran Ryu	67.5%
Jin Young Ko	60.0%
Minjee Lee	57.6%
Megan Khang	51.8%

\*LPGA Tour average: 29.4%

- This is her seventh season on the LPGA Tour
  - She is a 15-time LPGA Tour winner and two-time major championship
    - She last won at the 2023 Cognizant Founders Cup
  - She is a two-time Olympian representing the Republic of Korea (2020, T9; 2024, T25)
  - She represented Team Korea at the 2023 Hanwha LIFEPLUS International Crown
  - She is a two-time Rolex Player of the Year recipient (2019, 2021)
  - She is a 12-time KLPGA winner

Mao Saigo (Rolex Rankings No. 33)

- This is Saigo's first appearance in the LOTTE Championship
- This is her 27th start of the 2024 LPGA Tour season
  - She's made 22 cuts, and has played every LPGA tour event since The Chevron Championship

**LPGA ON-SITE COMMUNICATIONS TEAM**

Megan Santaniello (McGuire)  
Manager, Communications  
[Megan.mcguire@lpga.com](mailto:Megan.mcguire@lpga.com)  
+1 (386) 405-1338

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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)  
**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)

- She's coming off a T26 finish at the TOTO Japan Classic last week
- Her season- and career-best finish is second, earned at the CPKC Women's Open and Buick LPGA Shanghai
- She has earned seven total top-10 finishes this year
- She enters the LOTTE Championship ranked first on Tour in sub-par rounds (59) and rounds played (93)
- According to KPMG Performance Insights, Saigo ranks 7th on Tour in strokes gained ball striking (+1.23), compared to T71 in strokes gained short game (+0.08)
  - Since June 1, she has been ranked in the top eight on the LPGA Tour in multiple ball striking statistics

Mao Saigo LPGA Tour Ranks Since June 1		
		Rank
SG Approach	+1.10	7th
Greens in Regulation	76.4%	T7
SG Ball Striking	+1.46	8th

- She ranks high in different approach shot proximity categories:

Mao Saigo Approach Shot Proximity This Season		
	Proximity	Rank
150-175 yards	25'0"	T3
175-200 yards	30'0"	T7
200-225 yards	34'6"	1st

\*Minimum 20 rounds

- She is a 2024 LPGA Tour rookie
  - She is one of 21 in the field this week in Hawaii
    - She is currently the highest-ranked rookie on the Race to CME Globe (9th)
  - She currently leads in the Louise Suggs Rolex Rookie of the Year with 919 points
    - She has led the standings for the last three months
    - Saigo and Jin Hee Im (788 points) are the final players in contention to become ROTY
    - If Saigo were to win, she would be the second player from Japan to win Rookie of the Year, joining Hiromi Kobayashi (1990)
  - She finished in a tie for second at 2023 Final Qualifying to first earn Tour Membership for 2024
  - She has played on the JLPGA since 2020; she is a six-time winner, and most recently at the 2023 Ito En Ladies Golf Tournament

#### OF NOTE

- Defending champion **Grace Kim** is competing in her second LOTTE Championship
  - *"[The win] is still a little bit of a blur. Like I can't believe it's probably over a year now. Definitely came back [Sunday] to put my golf clubs in the locker room, and, yeah, trying to look back to the 18th green and going over that twice on the Saturday was, yeah, pretty cool. Just surreal."*
  - She won the event to become a Rolex First-Time Winner in her third start as an LPGA Tour Member
  - She averaged +3.35 strokes gained per round from tee-to-green on her way to victory, the most in a single event for her over the past two seasons
  - This is her 27th start on Tour this season
    - She has earned three top-10 finishes, including a season-best tie for second at the Meijer LPGA Classic
- Two-time LOTTE champion **Brooke Henderson** (2018, 2019) is making her eighth start in the event
  - *"It would be pretty cool to add my name to the record books and be that three-time champion here. I would love that for sure. It's been a little while since my last two victories here. Hopefully this week. Just going out and trying to battle the conditions the wind as best I can and see if I can put myself in contention."*
  - Along with her wins, she's notched five top-15 finishes, and has recorded a scoring average of 69.3 (68-under par)
  - The 13-time LPGA Tour winner last earned a victory at the 2023 Hilton Grand Vacations Tournament of Champions
    - She's recorded eight top-10 finishes this season, including three third-place finishes at the 2024 HGVTOC, HSBC Women's World Championship and The Chevron Championship

#### KPMG PERFORMANCE INSIGHT OF THE WEEK

- Since the move to Hoakalei two years ago, the winners of the LOTTE Championship have gained almost all of their strokes on the field with their tee-to-green play. Putting accounted for less than 6% of the strokes gained total for the week for both **Hyo Joo Kim** in 2022 and **Grace Kim** last year.

LOTTE Championship at Hoakalei Strokes Gained Tee to Green		
	'22 Hyo Joo Kim	'23 Grace Kim
Per Round	3.70	3.35
Field Rank	1st	2nd
% of SG Total	94.9%	95.7%

#### RACE TO CME GLOBE UPDATE

Entering the LOTTE Championship presented by Hoakalei, 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

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[Five Things to Know About the 2024 LOTTE Championship presented by Hoakalei](#)  
[Haeran Ryu Cards 13th Top 10 of 2024 Season at TOTO Japan Classic](#)  
[Marina Alex Moves Up in Race to CME Globe After Falling in Six-Hole Playoff in Japan](#)

[Nelly Korda Earns 2024 Rolex Player of the Year](#)

[ESPN+ to Stream Featured Groups Coverage at LPGA Tour Season Finale, The CME Group Tour Championship](#)

**SOCIAL SNAPSHOT**

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[Full-circle moment for LPGA Tour rookie Malia Nam](#)

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