



## Mizuho Americas Open

Liberty National Golf Club | Jersey City, NJ | May 16-19, 2024

### Second-Round Notes

May 17, 2024

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**Course Setup:** 36-36 – 72; 6,571 yards

**Scoring Average:** R1: 72.711; R2: 71.455

**Weather:** Overcast to mostly cloudy skies all day with winds of 7-13 mph along with a few higher gusts to 15 mph in the early afternoon; temperatures remained in the highs 60s to low 70s throughout the day

**Race to CME Globe Points:** 500 (winner)

**Purse:** \$3 million (winner's portion is \$450,000)

**TV/Streaming Times:** [How to Watch](#)

#### QUICK LINKS

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[Tournament Website](#)

#### LEADERBOARD

	Player	To par	Score
1	Atthaya Thitikul	-9	70-65 – 135
2	So Mi Lee	-7	66-71 – 137
T3	Ariya Jutanugarn	-6	70-68 – 138
T3	Nelly Korda	-6	70-68 – 138
T3	Gabriela Ruffels	-6	68-70 – 138
T3	Mao Saigo	-6	68-70 – 138
T7	Seven players	-5	139

#### THITIKUL LEADS AND ALTERNATES LINGER AT MIZUHO AMERICAS OPEN

Thai superstar **Atthaya Thitikul** claimed the second-round lead at the Mizuho Americas Open, firing a 7-under 65 on Friday to tie the low round of the week. Thitikul went bogey-free during round two, carding seven birdies, including five in her last seven holes, and broke the 36-hole tournament scoring record by two shots. Following her first-round 70 (-2) on Thursday, the 21-year-old got off to a hot start on Friday with birdies on 1 and 3. After eight straight “frustrating” pars, she finally dropped two birdies in a row on 12 and 13 and then made three birdies in a row on 15, 16 and 17. She nearly sank another one on 18 to shoot a new low round of the week, but lipped out and settled for par.

“I think on the front nine, I didn't have like that much kind of ball striking as the back nine had. But overall, I just really enjoyed it and then trust the process that I have been working on,” said Thitikul, who hit 11 of 14 fairways and 14 of 18 greens on Friday. “I think I have been committed so good about the mindset, so it's a good day for bogey-free and finishing on 18, like back nine with a bunch of birdies.”

The 2022 Louise Suggs Rolex Rookie of the Year has missed much of the 2024 season due to a lingering thumb injury but made an excellent return at The Chevron Championship, where she also held the second-round lead and ultimately finished 12th. The young star has been candid about struggling both mentally and physically with her injury but said it has recently “clicked and changed my mind. Just being able to play golf is good enough for me. It's just go enjoy. Just do the best that you can do out there.” This week is no different, even after a disappointing last week at the Cognizant Founders Cup, where she missed the cut by one.

“Last week kind of bring fire on me. Miss the cut by just one and then just like kind of bring fire on me a little bit, like angry about last week a little bit,” Thitikul said. “I think last week I didn't play that bad. I just couldn't make the putt. And then this week, I change the putter last week. I change from my old one to my new one, and now I change back. I change it back, and then I think maybe it's kind of like more confidence (with the old one) more than the new one that I have last week.”

In second behind Thitikul is LPGA Tour rookie **So Mi Lee**, who has taken incredible advantage of her late addition to the field as the second alternate. She held the first-round lead after replacing **Maja Stark**, who withdrew from the field on Thursday morning about an hour and a half before her scheduled tee time. Lee shot a first-round 66 with her father on the bag, as she had told her regular caddie, Andrew Tomasi, not to come. She followed that up with a 1-under 71 with Tomasi back in action after he caught a late flight from Orlando, Fla., on Thursday. Now, the five-time KPGA winner will play in the final group on Saturday and hopefully continue to take advantage of the last-minute opportunity.

Incredibly, **Mao Saigo**, the first alternate on site who also earned late entry into the field like Lee, sits in a tie for third alongside fellow rookie **Gabriela Ruffels**, 12-time LPGA Tour winner **Ariya Jutanugarn** and 13-time winner **Nelly Korda**, who is chasing her sixth victory of the 2024 season this week.

On the AJGA side, Southern California's **Jasmine Koo** sits in the lead with 74 points ([Stableford Scoring](#)) after two rounds of 71 (from different yardages than Tour pros). Koo was the low amateur at The Chevron Championship earlier this year, her first-ever LPGA Tour start, and played as an AJGA junior at last year's inaugural Mizuho Americas Open.

“This year, I definitely think my game is stronger than last year. I'm smarter out there,” Koo said. “And also, I feel like I racked up experience coming into this event. Played in the ANWA with a bunch of patrons and The Chevron, which was my first LPGA event. An LPGA event is different from junior events. Pin positions, green speeds, setup of the course. I think the LPGA, playing in that course condition at The Chevron definitely helped me with this event.”

Fifty-eight LPGA Tour players made the cut at 1-under on Friday. The cut was made to the top 50 and ties, and there was no cut for the AJGA juniors. New to 2024, LPGA players in the top 65 and ties will receive official money and CME points based on their position.

On Saturday and Sunday, one AJGA junior will play alongside two LPGA Tour pros based on score. For example, the first- and second-place LPGA Tour players, Thitikul and Lee, will be paired with the first place AJGA junior, Koo, for Saturday's round. Once all 24 AJGA juniors are paired, LPGA Tour players will play together in threesomes.

Ten LPGA Tour players have withdrawn from the Mizuho Americas Open since play began on Thursday. Read the LPGA Tour's full statement on the withdrawals [here](#).

#### A LOOK AT THE LEADER

CATEGORY	Atthaya Thitikul
2024 Race to CME Globe Rank	92
2024 LPGA Tour Wins	-
2024 LPGA Tour Top 10s	-
2024 Season Earnings	\$127,777
Career LPGA Tour Wins	2
Career LPGA Tour Top 10s	29
Career Money (LPGA)	\$3,859,538
Career LET Wins	4
Career Epson Tour Wins	0

#### ABOUT THE LEADER

##### Rolex Rankings No. 14 Atthaya Thitikul

- Thitikul hit 11 of 14 fairways and 14 of 18 greens with 25 putts
  - She was one of five players to have a bogey-free round on Friday
  - She currently ranks first in birdies (13) across the field over two rounds
- She bested the 36-hole tournament scoring record by two shots, previously set by Minjee Lee and Cheyenne Knight in 2023
- Her R2 65 is her lowest round of the 2024 season
  - It is her lowest round since R3 of the 2023 Maybank Championship (62, -10)
  - It is her fourth round in the 60s this year; she has recorded eight rounds in 2024
- This is the 15th time she has shot 65 or better on the LPGA Tour
  - Last year, she recorded six rounds of 65 or better throughout the season
- This is her third time holding the 36-hole lead/co-lead
  - She last held the 36-hole lead/co-lead at her 2024 season debut, The Chevron Championship
  - She also held the 36-hole lead/co-lead in her pursuit of her first LPGA Tour win, the Walmart NW Arkansas Championship presented by P&G
  - This is the first time she's held any post-round lead at a major championship
- This is the ninth time she has held a lead/co-lead after any round in an LPGA Tour event
- This is Thitikul's second appearance in the Mizuho Americas Open
  - Last year, she finished T10 and shot rounds of 68-71-68-76
- This is her third start of the 2024 LPGA Tour season
  - She made her season debut at The Chevron Championship, finishing solo 12th
  - She missed the cut at last week's Cognizant Founders Cup
  - In 2023, she made 18 cuts in 20 starts, with 13 top-10 finishes, including two runner-up performances at The Ascendant benefiting Volunteers of America and the Maybank Championship
  - She won the Vare Trophy with a season scoring average of 69.533
- This is her third season on the LPGA Tour
  - She is a two-time LPGA Tour winner, claiming victories at the 2022 JTBC Classic and 2022 Walmart NW Arkansas Championship
  - She was the 2022 Louise Suggs Rolex Rookie of the Year
  - She was a member of the winning Thailand Team at the 2023 Hanwha LIFEPLUS International Crown
  - She currently ranks 10th on the Olympic Golf Ranking
  - She is a four-time Ladies European Tour champion and five-time Thai LPGA Tour winner
- [Atthaya Thitikul Second Round Interview Golf Channel | 2024 Mizuho Americas Open](#)
- [Atthaya Thitikul Second Round Highlights | 2024 Mizuho Americas Open](#)

#### THINGS TO KNOW

- LPGA Tour rookie **So Mi Lee** is solo second and two strokes out of the lead after two rounds
  - Lee was the second alternate heading into the first round, and she replaced **Maja Stark** after the Swede withdrew from the field on Thursday morning
  - Lee shot a first round 66 and second round 71 for a 36-hole score of 137
  - Lee held the first-round lead on Thursday, the first time she has done so on the LPGA Tour
  - Lee's father carried her bag on Thursday, but he was replaced by her full-time caddie, Andrew Tomalis, on Friday
  - She has won five time on the KLPGA
  - [So Mi Lee Second Round Interview | 2024 Mizuho Americas Open](#)
- Four players are tied for third
  - **Ariya Jutanugarn** is -6 after rounds of 70 and 68
    - She made three birdies in a row on holes 11-13 on Friday
    - The Thai golfer is a 12-time LPGA Tour winner and two-time major champion
      - Her last win came at the 2021 Dow Great Lakes Bay Invitational alongside her sister and playing partner Moriya Jutanugarn
  - **Nelly Korda** also shot rounds of 70 and 68 to sit at T3
    - Korda made five birdies and one bogey during round two
    - She is a 13-time LPGA Tour winner and two-time major champion
    - Korda has five wins, including one major championship, this season on the LPGA Tour
    - Korda tied the record for most wins in consecutive starts earlier this season, joining **Annika Sorenstam** and **Nancy Lopez**
    - [Nelly Korda Second Round Golf Channel Interview | 2024 Mizuho Americas Open](#)
    - [Nelly Korda Second Round Highlights | 2024 Mizuho Americas Open](#)
  - **Gabriela Ruffles**, a 2024 rookie, is T3 as well

- Ruffels has just one bogey in two rounds, tied for least in the field
  - Ruffels finished solo third at last week's Cognizant Founders Cup, her second third place result this season
    - She finished T3 at the FIR HILLS SERI PAK Championship
- **Mao Saigo** was the first alternate on Thursday morning and is now T3
  - Saigo replaced **Caroline Masson** after she withdrew from illness on Thursday morning
  - Saigo is also a 2024 rookie
  - Watch Saigo's R2 post-round interview [here](#)
- Ten LPGA Tour players have withdrawn from the Mizuho Americas Open
  - Read the LPGA Tour's statement on the WDs [here](#)
- **Jasmine Koo** is the leading AJGA junior with 74 points ([Stableford Scoring](#))
  - The AJGA players are playing from different yardages
  - Koo was the low amateur at The Chevron Championship earlier this year
  - Koo is committed to play collegiate golf at USC
- AJGA player **Amy Lee** made a hole-in-one on No. 14
  - Watch her hole-in-one [here](#)
  - Lee hit her 8-iron 136 yards for the ace
- AJGA participant **Mia Hammond** was disqualified from the event after signing for a lower score (Rule 3.3b(3) in conjunction with 21.1b(3))
  - Hammond self-reported the infraction

#### QUOTABLE

*Gabriela Ruffels on being paired with a junior over the next two rounds*

"It'll be really cool. I mean, these girls, I was kind of in their shoes maybe, I don't know, five, six, seven years ago now. Getting old. But, no, yeah, I feel like it'll be cool to talk to them and maybe give them some insight about life on tour or kind of treat them as I would have wanted to be treated if I was in that situation playing with a pro. So it'll be fun and I'm excited to see who I'm paired with."

*Atthaya Thitikul on what it has been like to be playing golf again*

"Yeah, definitely. Like last year as everyone know I have been like talking with struggling with like, you know, mental-wise, emotional-wise on the course. But it's kind of really upset with my injury like in the beginning of the year because I not be able to, you know, come play here. But maybe like overall after that when I can come here, play in Chevron, be able to play golf again, it's just like -- it's just like click and change my mind. Just be able to play golf it's good enough for me. It's just go enjoy. Just do the best that you can do out there. Golf is golf. It's not our identity."

*Nelly Korda on the tricks to playing well at Liberty National Golf Club*

"Yeah, hitting the fairways. If you find yourself in these bunkers they're pretty high lipped so it's usually a pitch-out. And the rough is pretty thick as well, and with the greens being more or kind of linksy but being soft out here, you kind of have to land it on the green. But if you do land it on the green with the amount of over spin you have going from the rough, it can go over. And then also the hitching around the greens. If you do miss it, there is a lot of fall-offs and a lot of bumps-and-runs. In a sense you feel like you're playing a British, but it's a lot softer. Just hitting good quality shots really. It's a ball striking golf course and kind of plotting your way around. You can't just send one up there and not really think about it too much. You really have to plot your way around here."

*Ashleigh Buhai on her season thus far*

"A little up and down. I feel even the weeks that I missed the cuts, my coach came out week of Chevron. We made a few minor tweaks. Terrible first round at Chevron but followed it up with a good under par and played well the next week. I just feel it's just been little things. You know, something has been good one week and the others haven't been. He was out this week again and just is needed to fine tune. Same as last week. I hit a good -- I mean, it was one or two shots and I was in it for the weekend and had a chance. You know, I feel it's been close; I just haven't quite been putting it all together. Last week, too, my back just completely flared up in the cold weather. I'm getting a little old now. I just don't move very well anymore."

#### ON LPGA.COM

[Megan Khang Making the Most of Mizuho Americas Open](#)

[Second Round Highlights | 2024 Mizuho Americas Open](#)

[LPGA Now | 2024 Mizuho Americas Open Round 2](#)

[Frida Kinhult Happy to Be Back Competing on LPGA Tour After Surgery](#)

[Mao Saigo Second Round Interview | 2024 Mizuho Americas Open](#)

[Ashleigh Buhai Second Round Interview | 2024 Mizuho Americas Open](#)

[Megan Khang Second Round Interview | 2024 Mizuho Americas Open](#)

[Pajaree Anannarukarn Second Round Interview | 2024 Mizuho Americas Open](#)

[Golf Channel Second Round Interview with AJGA Gianna Clemente | 2024 Mizuho Americas Open](#)

#### SOCIAL SNAPSHOT

[Hope Barnett shows her commute to the Mizuho Americas Open](#)

[Out here grinding](#)

[Vibes are high going into round 2](#)

[Nelly Korda making moves](#)

[Rookie Gabriela Ruffels bringing her A game](#)

[Full round 2 leaderboard](#)

[We can't get enough of these swings](#)

#### TOURNAMENT SCORING RECORDS\*:

18 holes: 64, Marina Alex (R2, 2023), Minjee Lee (R2, 2023) and Ashleigh Buhai (R4, 2023)

36 holes: **135, Atthaya Thitikul (2024)**

54 holes: 205, Rose Zhang (2023)

72 holes: 279, Rose Zhang & Jennifer Kupcho (2023)

\*all scoring records are from 2023, the inaugural playing of the event