



**Mizuho Americas Open**  
Liberty National Golf Club | Jersey City, NJ | May 16-19, 2024

Wednesday Pre-Tournament Notes  
May 15, 2024

**NOTABLE PLAYERS IN THE FIELD**

**Nelly Korda** (Rolex Rankings No. 1)

“It’s been so much fun getting to travel all over the U.S., mainly being happy and healthy. I feel like that’s what has caused me the most joy, is like going out and enjoying myself and being healthy compared to years before when I was struggling maybe with injuries. But, yeah, it’s been a wild, wild ride winning those five in a row... it’s been an amazing ride, and hopefully I can continue building on that throughout the entire season, because it’s still a long year ahead.”

- Korda is making her first start at the Mizuho Americas Open
- Last week, Korda was chasing history at the Cognizant Founders Cup, looking to win in her sixth consecutive start on Tour
  - She ultimately finished T7
  - According to the KPMG Performance Insights, Korda lost more than a stroke on shots around the green last week at the Cognizant Founders Cup, the first time she has had negative strokes gained in that statistic in any tournament all season
- Korda has made seven starts on Tour this season with five wins, a T7 finish and a T16 result
  - Korda most recently won The Chevron Championship to become a two-time major champion and a five-time winner in 2024
    - With her win at The Chevron Championship, she tied the record for most wins in consecutive starts on Tour held by **Annika Sorenstam** and **Nancy Lopez**
      - Lopez won in five straight starts in 1978 and Sorenstam did so in 2004-05
      - Both Lopez and Sorenstam finished outside the top-10 in their bid for a sixth consecutive victory in LPGA Tour starts
        - Lopez finished T13 at the 1978 Lady Keystone Open to end her win streak
        - Sorenstam finished T12 at the 2005 Michelob Open at Kingsmill
    - Korda began her win streak in January at the LPGA Drive On Championship in her hometown of Bradenton, FL
    - She won four straight scheduled events starting at the FIR HILLS SERI PAK Championship, then the Ford Championship presented by KCC, the T-Mobile Match Play presented by MGM Rewards and The Chevron Championship
    - Korda is the first American player to win five times in an LPGA Tour season since Inkster did so in 1999
    - Korda has accounted for five of the seven wins by American players on the LPGA Tour so far in 2024
      - The last time Americans won more than seven LPGA titles before June 1 in a given season was back in 1998
      - The other American players who have won in 2024 are **Bailey Tardy** (Blue Bay LPGA) and **Rose Zhang** (Cognizant Founders Cup)
  - Here are some of the statistics Korda currently leads the LPGA Tour in this season, according to the KPMG Performance Insights

Nelly Korda – LPGA Tour Ranks This Season			
Top-10 finished	1st	Rounds in 60s	1st
SG Total	1st	Birdie or better pct.	1st
Scoring Average	1st	Par 4 scoring	1st
SG Tee to Green	1st	Greens in regulation	1st

- The KPMG Performance Insights also show that Korda is hitting the green in regulation more than 84% of the time from the fairway in 2024

Nelly Korda Greens in Regulation – This Season on LPGA Tour		
		LPGA Rank
From the fairway	84.3%	1st
After missed fairway	60.8%	4th
Overall	76.5%	1st

- This is Korda’s eighth season on the LPGA Tour
  - She has won 13 LPGA Tour titles and is a two-time major champion
  - She has amassed \$11,361,489 in career earnings, with 13 career victories and 60 career top-10s
  - She has been on three U.S. Solheim Cup teams (2019, 2021, 2023) and one U.S. International Crown team (2023)
  - She is the reigning Olympic gold medalist after finishing 1st in Tokyo in 2020
- Tune into her pre-tournament press conference [here](#)

**Rose Zhang** (Rolex Rankings No. 6)

“It’s always an honor to be able to come back, especially now I guess I’m not really a rookie anymore considering this is the first event that I played in back then. I guess it’s a little bit of a start to I guess more familiar territory.”

- Zhang is the defending champion at this year’s Mizuho Americas Open
  - She won the inaugural event in 2023 with a birdie on the second playoff hole, defeating **Jennifer Kupcho**
  - Zhang won the Mizuho Americas Open in her professional debut and as a non-member on the LPGA Tour
    - She accepted immediate LPGA Tour membership following her win
    - She was the first player to win while making their professional debut since **Beverly Hanson** did so in 1951
    - She was the first player to win their first start as a professional on the LPGA Tour since **Hinako Shibuno** won the 2019 AIG Women’s Open
    - She was the eighth player since 1992 to win in their first professional start on Tour
    - She was the first non-member to win on the LPGA Tour since **Maja Stark** won the 2022 ISPS Handa World Invitational
    - She was the fourth sponsor invite to win on Tour, joining **Lydia Ko** (2012 & 2013 CPKC Women’s Open), **Lexi Thompson** (2011 Navistar LPGA Classic) and **Hee Kyung Seo** (2010 JTBC Classic presented by Barbasol)
- KPMG Insight of the Week – Each of the top-3 finishers at Liberty National last season ranked inside the top-4 for the week in strokes gained tee to green, but Zhang led the field in that metric, gaining more than 3.3 strokes per round on the competition in her historic breakthrough victory

SG Tee to Green Leaders – 2023 Mizuho Americas Open		
	SG Tee to Green	Finish
Rose Zhang	+3.35	Won
Haeran Ryu	+3.15	3rd
Jin Young Ko	+2.68	T13
Jennifer Kupcho	+2.53	2nd

- This is Zhang’s eighth start of her 2024 season
  - She won the Cognizant Founders Cup last week after shooting four rounds in the 60s
    - Before last week’s breakout, Zhang had struggled to make birdies at a high rate in 2024 with just an 18.1% birdie or better percentage (80th on Tour)

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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:** @MizuhoLPGA (X, Instagram)

**TV/STREAMING TIMES** (All times EST)

**Thursday, May 16:** 3-6 p.m. (Golf Channel/Peacock)  
**Friday, May 17:** 3-6 p.m. (Golf Channel/Peacock)  
**Saturday, May 18:** 3-6 p.m. (Golf Channel/Peacock)  
**Sunday, May 19:** 3-6 p.m. (Golf Channel/Peacock)

- Her birdie or better percentage last week was 37.5% and ranked first in the field
- After her stellar performance last week, Rose Zhang now leads the LPGA Tour in strokes gained approach per round in 2024

Most SG Approach Per Round – LPGA Tour This Season	
Rose Zhang	1.50
Minjee Lee	1.40
Jin Young Ko	1.38
Albane Valenzuela	1.30
Megan Khang	1.21

- Rose Zhang had a less than 10 percent probability of winning as she played the 14th hole in the final round on Sunday at the Cognizant Founders Cup, but she birdied four of her last five holes to win
    - 14<sup>th</sup> tee – 9.9%
    - 15<sup>th</sup> tee – 14.3%
    - 16<sup>th</sup> tee – 26.4%
    - 17<sup>th</sup> tee – 50.4%
    - 18<sup>th</sup> tee – 83.7%
  - She has two top-10 finishes including the season opener, Hilton Grand Vacations Tournament of Champions (T7) and the T-Mobile Match Play presented by MGM Rewards (T5)
  - She has missed two cuts including the Ford Championship presented by KCC and The Chevron Championship
  - She took a break between the season opener and the FIR HILLS SERI PAK Championship due to classes at Stanford (see [here](#))
- Zhang has been an LPGA Tour Member for less than a year (June 4, 2023)
  - She has two wins (2023 Mizuho Americas Open, 2024 Cognizant Founders Cup)
  - She competed as a member of the 2023 U.S. Solheim Cup team
  - In 2023, she had four top-10 finishes including her win
  - She is the fastest player to reach \$1 million; reaching it at The Amundi Evian Championship after five events
- Listen to her pre-tournament press conference [here](#)
- Watch [“Reflecting with Rose Zhang”](#) as Rose sits down with Hope Barnett ahead of her first title defense
- Tune into [Episode 3 | Rose Zhang on Beast Mode ft. Michelle Wie West](#) to hear more about Rose’s game and dominance in New Jersey, featuring Mizuho Americas Open tournament host, Michelle Wie West

#### Lydia Ko (Rolex Rankings No. 12)

“I played this event last year and obviously that was our inaugural event. I really enjoyed it. Got to play all four days, and especially on the weekend playing with the AJGA players, I think I was out there with them, they’re playing better than me. But it’s such a fun event. We get to stay in New York. It’s not often you say you ferry over to the golf course. And we’re at a championship golf course here. So, yeah, it’s been a fun week so far. I really enjoyed to last year. Especially now that Michelle is officially retired it’s great to be able to have these opportunities to run into her. It’s awesome to see how she’s giving back to the game of golf and really bringing generations together.”

- Last year, Ko finished T33 at the inaugural Mizuho Americas Open shooting rounds of 69-69-77-73
- Ko is making her ninth start of the 2024 season this week
  - She won the season opener, the Hilton Grand Vacations Tournament of Champions
  - She finished runner-up at the LPGA Drive On Championship after losing to Korda in a playoff
  - She has one additional top-5 finish at the Blue Bay LPGA (T4)
  - Last week, she finished T35 at the Cognizant Founders Cup
- According to the KPMG Performance Insights, Ko leads the LPGA tour with six bogey-free rounds and is tied for third in bogey avoidance. This comes after ranking outside the top-50 in each category last season

Lydia Ko Bogey Avoidance LPGA Tour – Last Two Seasons		
	2023	2024
Bogey Avoidance	16.7%	12.5%
Bogey-free Rounds	4	6*

\*Tied with Maja Stark for most of any player this season

- Ko also leads the LPGA Tour in green in regulation percentage after a missed fairway according to KPMG Performance Insights

Highest GIR Percentage From Other than Fairway – LPGA Tour in 2024	
Lydia Ko	64.6%
Laetitia Beck	62.8%
Frida Kinhult	61.9%
Nelly Korda	60.8%

- Ko is in her 11th year on the LPGA Tour
  - She has won 20 times including two majors (2015 Amundi Evian Championship, 2016 Chevron Championship)
  - Ko currently sits at 26 points, one point shy of LPGA Hall of Fame induction
    - With one more win, Ko would earn her last point and reach the points threshold
    - To learn more about the LPGA Hall of Fame, click [here](#)
  - Ko has won 10 LPGA Awards, most recently the Rolex Player of the Year, Vare Trophy and the Race to the CME Globe Winner in 2022
  - She is the silver medalist from the 2016 Olympics and bronze medalist from the 2020 Olympics
- Watch her pre-tournament press conference [here](#)

#### Yana Wilson (Rolex AJGA Rankings No. 1)

“I think that’s huge. Playing at venues like these is just great prep for us juniors and amateurs for the Tour. I know most of us in the field want to take that path of the professional route after high school or even college, so I think just being able to play there is something really special. I think it’s just great prep for us in to the future off golf.”

- Wilson is the defending champion of the AJGA portion of the Mizuho Americas Open
  - She won by three points (total 147 points) last year over Anna Davis (144 points)
  - Wilson is one of the 24 juniors in the Mizuho Americas Open field this week
- She is No. 1 in the Rolex AJGA Rankings
  - She has two AJGA wins within the last year including the Mizuho Americas Open and AJGA Girls Invitational
  - Wilson has three runner-up finishes including the Rolex Girls Junior Championship, Girl’s Junior PGA Championship and the AJGA invitational presented by PING
  - In her last eight AJGA events, her worst finish was at the Hilton Grand Vacations ANNIKA Invitational (T18)
- In February, Wilson won a professional event on the Cactus Tour
- Wilson has collected numerous accolades over her amateur career including:
  - Competitor at Augusta National Women’s Amateur in 2022, 2023 and 2024
  - AJGA Girls Player of the Year (2023)
  - Rolex Junior Player of the Year (2023)
  - U.S. Girls’ Junior Champion (2022)
  - Two-time First-Team Rolex Junior All-American
  - Two-time PING Junior Solheim Cup member
  - Three-time Wyndham Cup West Team member
  - Junior Ryder Cup Team member
- She is committed to play collegiate golf at the University of Oregon
- She is 17 years old, and graduated high school a few days ago
- She announced that she will be playing in the LPGA Qualifying Series later this year
- Watch her pre-tournament press conference [here](#)

#### THINGS TO KNOW ABOUT THE MIZUHO AMERICAS OPEN

- The Mizuho Americas Open is played in a one-of-a-kind format, with AJGA amateurs playing alongside LPGA Tour professionals
  - 120 LPGA Pros and 24 AJGA Juniors will play two separate tournaments, with AJGA using [Stableford Scoring](#) all four rounds and playing from different yardages
  - During Rounds 1 & 2, AJGA juniors will all be paired together
  - After 36 holes, LPGA will cut to low 50 and ties; there is no cut for the AJGA Juniors
  - During Rounds 3 & 4, one AJGA junior will play with two LPGA Tour pros with groupings made based on scores (ie. the AJGA player with the lowest score will play with the lowest scoring LPGA pros)
  - LPGA Tour Players making the 36-hole cut of low 50 players & ties will receive CME Points and Official Money based upon their finish after 72 holes

- New in 2024, players who miss the 36-hole cut, but are within the low 65 players & ties will also receive CME Points and Official Money based upon their finish after 36 holes

#### **OLYMPIC CORNER**

**43 Past Olympians in the field:** Aditi Ashok (India), Laetitia Beck (Israel), Celine Boutier (France), Ashleigh Buhai (South Africa), Matilda Castren (Finland), In Gee Chun (Republic of Korea), Carlota Ciganda (Spain), Perrine Delacour (France), Jodi Ewart Shadoff (United Kingdom), Maria Fassi (Mexico), Hannah Green (Australia), Nasa Hataoka (Japan), Brooke Henderson (Canada), Wei-Ling Hsu (Chinese Taipei), Mone Inami (Japan), Ariya Jutanugarn (Thailand), Danielle Kang (United States), Sei Young Kim (Republic of Korea), Jin Young Ko (Republic of Korea), Lydia Ko (New Zealand), Nanna Koerstz Madsen (Denmark), Nelly Korda (United States), Minjee Lee (Australia), Stacy Lewis (United States), Xiyu Lin (People's Rep. of China), Pernilla Lindberg (Sweden), Gaby Lopez (Mexico), Leona Maguire (Ireland), Caroline Masson (Germany), Stephanie Meadow (Ireland), Azahara Munoz (Spain), Anna Nordqvist (Sweden), Bianca Pagdanganan (Philippines), Emily Kristine Pedersen (Denmark), Sophia Popov (Germany), Mel Reid (United Kingdom), Madelene Sagstrom (Sweden), Yuka Saso (Philippines\*), Kelly Tan (Malaysia), Patty Tavatanakit (Thailand), Lexi Thompson (United States), Albane Valenzuela (Switzerland), Amy Yang (Republic of Korea)

*\*has since played under the Japanese flag*

**Olympic hopefuls in the field (currently in the top 60 of the Olympic Golf Ranking as of May 13):** Aditi Ashok (India), Celine Borge (Norway), Celine Boutier (France), Ashleigh Buhai (South Africa), Matilda Castren (Finland), Peiyun Chien (Chinese Taipei), Carlota Ciganda (Spain), Perrine Delacour (France), Maria Fassi (Mexico), Linn Grant (Sweden), Hannah Green (Australia), Georgia Hall (United Kingdom), Nasa Hataoka (Japan), Brooke Henderson (Canada), Esther Henseleit (Germany), Charley Hull (United Kingdom), Megan Khang (United States), Jin Young Ko (Republic of Korea), Lydia Ko (New Zealand), Nanna Koerstz Madsen (Denmark), Nelly Korda (United States), Minjee Lee (Australia), Xiyu Lin (People's Rep. of China), Gaby Lopez (Mexico), Leona Maguire (Ireland), Stephanie Meadow (Ireland), Azahara Munoz (Spain), Bianca Pagdanganan (Philippines), Emily Kristine Pedersen (Denmark), Paula Reto (South Africa), Maja Stark (Sweden), Patty Tavatanakit (Thailand), Atthaya Thitikul (Thailand), Albane Valenzuela (Switzerland), Ruoning Yin (People's Rep. of China), Rose Zhang (United States)

#### **Moves on the Olympic Golf Ranking (OGR) following the Cognizant Founders Cup**

- Rose Zhang of Team USA replaces Virginia Elena Carta of Team Italy on the OGR following her second LPGA Tour victory; Zhang currently sits at No. 6 in the Olympic Golf Ranking
  - There are now four representatives from the United States in the OGR within the top 15
  - Due to Zhang's move, Maja Stark moved out of the top 15; she is still the highest representative from Sweden on the OGR
- Miyu Yamashita replaces Ayaka Furue for Japan
- Chia Yen Wu replaces Wei-Ling Hsu for Chinese Taipei
- Chiara Tamburlini replaces Morgane Metraux for Switzerland

#### **Countdown to the beginning of the Women's Golf Competition (Aug. 7-10):**

Thursday, May 16: 83 days until August 7

Friday, May 17: 82 days

Saturday, May 18: 81 days

Sunday, May 19: 80 days

**Overview on the Olympic Golf qualification process:** the Olympic field is restricted to 60 players for each of the men's and women's competitions. For the women's golf competition, the International Golf Federation (IGF) uses the Rolex Women's World Golf Rankings to create the Olympic Golf Rankings as a method of determining eligibility. The top-15 world-ranked players will be eligible for the Olympics, with a limit of four players from a given country. Beyond the top 15, players will be eligible based on their Rolex Rankings position, with a maximum of two eligible players from each country that does not already have two or more players among the top-15. The host country – France – gets a minimum of one spot in each competition, regardless of rankings.

The OGR Top-15:

OGR	Player	Country
1	Nelly Korda	United States
2	Lilia Vu	United States
3	Celine Boutier	France
4	Ruoning Yin	People's Rep. of China
5	Jin Young Ko	Rep. of Korea
6	Rose Zhang	United States
7	Charley Hull	United Kingdom
8	Minjee Lee	Australia
9	Hannah Green	Australia
10	Brooke Henderson	Canada
11	Hyo Joo Kim	Rep. of Korea
12	Lydia Ko	New Zealand
13	Xiyu Lin	People's Rep. of China
14	Atthaya Thitikul	Thailand
15	Megan Khang	United States

For the full Women's Olympic Golf Ranking, click here: <https://www.iqfgolf.org/olympic-golf-ranking/overview>

#### **ON LPGA.COM**

[How to Watch the Mizuho Americas Open](#)

[Five Things to Know About the Mizuho Americas Open](#)

[Field Breakdown: 2024 Mizuho Americas Open](#)

[Making Moves: Rose Zhang on the Rise](#)

[Michelle Wie West Announces Second Pregnancy on The Tonight Show starring Jimmy Fallon](#)

[LPGA Foundation Announces Inaugural LPGA\\*USGA Girls Golf National Championship](#)

[Caddie Knows Best: Ayaka Furue](#)

[Pathway to the Pros: Rose Zhang and Ludvig Aberg](#)

[Reflecting with Rose Zhang](#)

[Episode 3 | Rose Zhang On Beast Mode ft. Michelle Wie West](#)

[Nelly Korda Pre-Tournament Press Conference | 2024 Mizuho Americas Open](#)

[Lydia Ko Pre-Tournament Press Conference | Mizuho Americas Open](#)

[Rose Zhang Pre-Tournament Press Conference | 2024 Mizuho Americas Open](#)

[Yana Wilson Pre-Tournament Press Conference | 2024 Mizuho Americas Open](#)

[Ayaka Furue Pre-Tournament Press Conference | 2024 Mizuho Americas Open](#)

#### **SOCIAL SNAPSHOT**

[Positive vibes only from the defending champ](#)

[We caught up with Michelle on the Inside the LPGA pod ahead of this exciting week!](#)

[The #AonRiskReward Challenge hole at Liberty National Golf Club](#)

[As part of our new multi-year engagement, @knowwhatisnext has committed \\$100,000 to support the LPGA Foundation](#)

[What a night we had at the Pro-Am Pairings Party last night!](#)

[KPMG Performance Insights for the Week!](#)

[Up in the clouds with Dani Holmqvist](#)