



Presented by **MGM REWARDS**

This Week on the LPGA Tour
T-Mobile Match Play presented by MGM Rewards
Shadow Creek Golf Course | Las Vegas, NV | April 3-7, 2024

Tuesday Pre-Tournament Notes

April 2, 2024

THINGS TO KNOW ABOUT THE 2024 T-MOBILE MATCH PLAY PRESENTED BY MGM REWARDS

- This is the fourth edition of the T-Mobile Match Play presented by MGM Rewards
 - This is the first year of T-Mobile as the title sponsor of the event
 - In 2021, the event was the first official match-play event since the 2017 Lorena Ochoa Match Play
 - Other past official Tour match-play competitions include the 2010-2012 Sybase LPGA Match Play Championship, the 2005-2007 HSBC Women's World Match Play Championship and the 1950-1954 Women's Western Open (then a major championship)
- Shadow Creek has hosted the event since it first began in 2021
 - The course was built in 1989 by renowned golf architect Tom Fazio
 - In 2018, the course served as host for The Match: Tiger vs. Phil, and also hosted the PGA Tour's CJ Cup in 2020
- The LPGA Tour's history in Las Vegas dates back to 1961
 - Stardust CC hosted the KPMG Women's PGA Championship from 1961-1966, with champions including **Mickey Wright** (1961, 1963) and **Sandra Haynie** (1965)
 - Other past tournaments in the Las Vegas area include the Desert Inn Classic (1971-1974), the J&B Scotch Pro-Am (1971-1985), the Las Vegas LPGA (1990-1993), the ITT PGA Tour Championship (1996-1999), the LPGA Takefujii Classic (2003-2006) and the Wendy's 3-Tour Challenge, an unofficial event with the LPGA Tour, PGA Tour and PGA Tour Championship (1992-2013)
- All three past champions are in the field this week including **Ally Ewing** (2021), **Eun-Hee Ji** (2022) and **Pajaree Anannarukarn** (2023)
 - Ewing defeated **Sophia Popov** (2&1) in the championship match to earn her second career Tour victory
 - This is Ewing's fifth start of her ninth LPGA Tour season; her best finish came at her season debut, the Hilton Grand Vacations Tournament of Champions (T4)
 - Popov is making her third start of the 2024 season, missing the last two cuts
 - She made her return to Tour at the FIR HILLS SERI PAK Championship since becoming a #LPGAMom
 - Her last event on Tour prior to this season was the 2022 CPKC Women's Open
 - Ji defeated **Ayaka Furue** (3&2) in the final match, becoming the oldest LPGA Tour winner from the Republic of Korea at age 36 and the first player since **Katherine Kirk** in 2017 to win the event prior to the U.S. Women's Open and clinch the final spot in the major's field
 - Ji is making her sixth start of the 2024 season, only missing one cut thus far
 - Her best finish (T49) was in her season debut at the Honda LPGA Thailand
 - Her win in 2022 was her most recent of six career victories
 - Since her win, her best finish is the 2023 Mizuho Americas Open (T4)
 - Anannarukarn defeated **Ayaka Furue** (3&1) on the final day to earn her second LPGA Tour victory, and first in the U.S.
 - Anannarukarn is making her seventh start of the season, missing two cuts
 - Last week, she finished T45 after shooting 9-under in R1 to be the first-round leader
 - Her best finishes since her win in 2023 are two T13 at the 2024 HSBC Women's World Championship and 2023 Maybank Championship
- There are five players in the field within the top-10 of the Rolex Women's World Golf Rankings including **Nelly Korda** (No. 1), **Celine Boutier** (No. 3), **Minjee Lee** (No. 5), **Lydia Ko** (No. 8) and **Hyo Joo Kim** (No. 9)
- There are four Las Vegas residents in the field this week including MGM Ambassador and 10-year LPGA Tour player **Alison Lee**, MGM Ambassador and six-time LPGA Tour winner **Danielle Kang**, LPGA Tour veteran **Jenny Shin** and 2023 Mizuho Americas Open winner **Rose Zhang**
- There are five rookies in the field this week including **Isabella Fierro**, **Mone Inami**, **Minji Kang**, **Auston Kim** and **Gabriela Ruffels**
 - Fierro is looking to make her first cut since the LPGA Drive On Championship
 - 2023 TOTO Japan Classic winner Inami is making her seventh LPGA Tour start since becoming a Member
 - The rookie had a solo eighth finish at the LPGA Drive On Championship in January
 - Kang will make her fourth Tour start this year; she missed the cut in her last two starts and finished 66th in her first start
 - This is Kim's fifth event of the 2024 season
 - In her rookie debut, she finished T6 at the LPGA Drive On Championship
 - Her only missed cut was at the Ford Championship presented by KCC last week
 - Ruffels will also make her fifth start this week
 - She finished one shot behind **Nelly Korda** at the FIR HILLS SERI PAK Championship (T3)
 - Last week, she finished in a T13 at the Ford Championship presented by KCC
- This week's sponsor exemptions are **McKenzi Hall (a)** and **Brittany Lincicome**
 - Hall is a local resident of Las Vegas and is in her junior year on the University of Nevada, Las Vegas women's golf team
 - She has twice been named a WCGA All-American Scholar
 - In 2023, she finished just outside the top-25 at the NCAA Pullman Regional
 - MGM Ambassador Lincicome is in her 20th year on the LPGA Tour
 - She is making her 3rd start this week, missing the cut at last week's Ford Championship presented by KCC
 - She has 8 LPGA Tour victories, with her most recent win being the 2018 Pure Silk Bahamas LPGA Classic
 - Lincicome was [announced](#) as an assistant captain with the 2024 U.S. Solheim Cup team in February, playing on the team 6 previous times over her career (2007, 2009, 2011, 2013, 2015, 2017)

LPGA ON-SITE COMMUNICATIONS TEAM

Matt Jesus
Coordinator, LPGA Communications
Matt.Jesus@lpga.com
+1 (402) 957-4674

Carly Lyvers
Coordinator, LPGA Communications
Carly.Lyvers@lpga.com
+1 (386) 214-9105

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: @LPGAMatchPlay (X, Instagram), #LPGAMatchPlay, #SurviveandAdvance

TV/STREAMING TIMES (All times ET)

Wednesday, April 3: 6-9 p.m. (Golf Channel/Peacock)

Thursday, April 4: 6-7 p.m. (Peacock); 7-9 p.m. (Golf Channel/Peacock)

Friday, April 5: 5:30-7 p.m. (Peacock); 7-8:30 p.m. (Golf Channel/Peacock)

Saturday, April 6: 6-9 p.m. (Golf Channel/Peacock)

Sunday, April 7: 6-9 p.m. (Golf Channel/Peacock)

NOTABLE PLAYERS IN THE T-MOBILE MATCH PLAY PRESENTED BY MGM REWARDS FIELD

NELLY KORDA (Rolex Rankings No. 1)

"I would say that every victory I've had or every single time I've played well I've felt more in the zone. But I would say that the past two weeks everything has just kind of clicked a little bit more. Even my mistakes I've made the right mistakes in a sense. And just playing really smart. Just not taking too much risk on. But, yeah, I feel like even in '21 I played really, really well. Even last year I had little glimpses of me playing really well, but I wasn't consistent enough to get the win. Overall, yeah, I think the past two weeks have just clicked." – Korda on if this stretch she is in is the best of her career

- Korda currently ranks No. 1 in the Rolex Rankings, Race to CME Globe and Olympic Golf Ranking
 - Coming into the week, she also leads the LPGA Tour in scoring average (68.875), Rolex Player of the Year points (90), eagles (6) and official money (\$924,216)
- This will be her fifth start of the 2024 season and her first start in a LPGA Match Play event
 - She has recorded three wins in her last three starts
 - Her only non-win finish this season is a T16 at the Hilton Grand Vacations Tournament of Champions
- She became the first player to win in three consecutive starts since **Ariya Jutanugarn** in 2016
 - She became the seventh player in the history of the LPGA Tour to win three consecutive scheduled events joining:
 - 4: **Mickey Wright** (1962 and 1963); **Kathy Whitworth** (1964), **Annika Sorenstam** (2001 and 2002), **Lorena Ochoa** (2008)
 - 3: **Annika Sorenstam** (2002, 2005), **Lorena Ochoa** (2007), **Inbee Park** (2013), **Ariya Jutanugarn** (2016)
- She joins **Kathy Whitworth** (1969) as the only other American golfers to win three of their first four starts in a season on the LPGA Tour
- Korda joins **Karrie Webb** (2000), **Annika Sorenstam** (2005) and **Lorena Ochoa** (2008) as the fourth player to win three of their first four starts in a season
- She is just the fifth American player in LPGA Tour history to win three or more times in a single season before April 1
 - She joins **Patty Berg** (1951), **Louise Suggs** (1954), **Kathy Whitworth** (1969) and **JoAnne Carner** (1980)

- o She is the first player, regardless of country, to do so since **Yani Tseng** in 2012
- Korda is the first American player to win three or more consecutive starts on Tour since **Nancy Lopez** in 1978
- This is Korda's eighth season on the LPGA Tour
 - o Her 11 wins include a major championship at the 2021 KPMG Women's PGA Championship
 - o She is a three-time U.S. Solheim Cup Team member (2019, 2021, 2023)
 - o She was a member of the third-place U.S. Team at the 2023 Hanwha LIFEPLUS International Crown
 - o She is the reigning Olympic Gold Medalist in women's golf (2020 Tokyo Olympics)

LYDIA KO (Rolex Rankings No. 8)

- This is Ko's sixth start of the season and her first start at a LPGA Match Play event
 - o She has one win and two top-five finishes
 - o Her last start was at the Ford Championship presented by KCC and she finished T13
 - o Her best non-win finish of the season came at the LPGA Drive On Championship where she finished second
- Ko enters another week one-point shy of LPGA Hall of Fame induction (26 points currently)
- Heading into this week, Ko is ranked second in the Race to CME Globe (1,039.458), third in scoring average (69.200), second in Rolex Player of the Year points (49) and tied for fourth in eagles (4)
- According to KPMG Performance Insights, Ko's success can be attributed to her ability to keep bogeys off her scorecards
 - o She leads the LPGA Tour in bogey avoidance and bogey-free rounds
 - o Since 2014, she has had the most bogey-free rounds on the LPGA Tour, 130
 - **Lizette Salas** is the next closest player with 83

Lydia Ko Bogey Avoidance Last Two Seasons		
	2023	2024
Bogey or Worse Percentage	16.7%	8.6%
Bogey-Free Rounds	4	6

- This is Ko's 11th season on the LPGA Tour
 - o She is a 20-time LPGA Tour winner and two-time major champion
 - o She also won the inaugural Grant Thornton Invitational in 2023 with playing partner Jason Day
 - o She is a two-time Rolex Player of the Year (2015, 2022), two-time Vare Trophy winner (2021, 2022) and was the 2014 Louise Suggs Rolex Rookie of the Year
 - o She is a two-time Olympic medalist representing New Zealand (2016 – Silver, 2020 – Bronze)

AYAKA FURUE (Rolex Rankings No. 21)

- This is Furue's eighth start of the 2024 season and her third start at T-Mobile Match Play presented by MGM Rewards
 - o She has finished as the runner-up in her previous two starts at the event
 - o She has three four top-10 finishes with three of those being top-five finishes
 - Her best finish of the season came at Blue Bay LPGA, third
- She is tied for first among the Tour for top-10 finishes (4) with **Sarah Schmelzel**
- She also is ranked inside the top-five of multiple LPGA Tour statistical categories heading into this week including; birdies (115, first), driving accuracy (88.8%, second) Race to CME Globe (727.058, third)
- Over her last two seasons, she leads the LPGA Tour in rounds in the 60s with 54
 - o **Xiyu Lin** is the next closest with 48 and three players with 47
- This is her third season on the LPGA Tour
 - o She has one career victory at the 2022 Women's Scottish Open with 15 additional top-10 finishes
 - o She has earned \$3,006,727 throughout her career, the fifth most by a player from Japan
 - o She has represented Japan at the 2023 International Crown
 - o She is an eight-time winner on the JLPGA and was the 2020-21 Player of the Year on that tour

QUOTABLE

Angel Yin on her why she chose this event to be her first of the season and if it is because of the success she's had here:

"Well, it wasn't just this week. Obviously everyone wants to come back to Vegas because it's fun. I do. The course, Shadow Creek, pretty legendary itself. Weather is similar to California, warm. But obviously two weeks from now it's a major, so this is now or never. I don't really think I'm fully ready, but I have to take a chance to prep myself for the upcoming major which I think is pretty important to me. Especially since this is an Olympic year."

2023 Match Play champion Pajaree Anannarukarn on approaching this week as defending champion:

"I think just try to be -- just try to approach the week as what I normally do. You know, it's always great to be back as a defending champion obviously. Again, like this is one of my favorite stop on tour, not because I win last year, but the course itself, just every time we come back the course is always in great conditions, and I just feel like whenever I play out here, every time I look around, every angle I look to, it's always a great like line sceneries and giving me such a good feeling, so it's nice to be back."

MGM Ambassador and Las Vegas resident Alison Lee on what she likes about Shadow Creek:

"Yeah, I love this course. I love Shadow Creek. It's definitely like one of my Top 5 favorite courses I ever played. I definitely always love coming out here. It's always a challenge as well. No matter how many times I played here it's always tough. Even though I know all the places to miss, all the places I need to be, even though you have all that inside knowledge, you still need to hit it good. Yeah, that's what I love about this golf course. You can -- you really need to play smart out here, and if you don't hit good shots, you're not going to be rewarded in any way. I feel like last week, even though the weather was tough touch on the weekend, it was definitely an easier course. You could get away with a few missed shots. But out here, like if you miss it in the wrong spot it's really difficult to make par, which I really like about this golf course. It should be a good test and a good challenge for everyone in the field, including me. I saw that the wind is going to follow us for the third week in a row. That should be really interesting. I've never really played out here when it's super windy. I tend to stay at home. We don't always get huge wind out here in Vegas. We do once in a while, and usually those days I just stay at home because it's really, really tough to play in. So I think that's just going to add like a huge extra challenge to everyone in the field this week."

NOTABLE

[The Format: 2024 T-Mobile Match Play presented by MGM Rewards](#)

[Making Moves: Hira Naveed Rockets Up In Rankings](#)

[Featured Groups: 2024 T-Mobile Match Play presented by MGM Rewards](#)

[Field Breakdown: 2024 T-Mobile Match Play presented by MGM Rewards](#)

[Five Things to Know About The T-Mobile Match Play presented by MGM Rewards](#)

[Hope Barnett and Emma Talley Sit Down to Talk About the New Match Play Format](#)

[Celebrating the Success of our LPGA Foundation Grads to Golf Program](#)

2024 LPGA TOUR STATISTICS

Official Money: Lydia Ko, \$924,216

Scoring Average: Lydia Ko, 68.875

Birdies: Ayaka Furue, 115

Eagles: Nelly Korda, 6

Holes in One: Jennifer Song and Danielle Kang, 1

Greens in Regulation: Mel Reid, 77.8%

Average Driving Distance: Natthakritta Vongtaveelap, 288.083 yards

2024 AWARD STANDINGS

Rolex Player of the Year		
1	Nelly Korda	90 points
2	Lydia Ko	49 points
3	Patty Tavatanakit	33 points

Louise Suggs Rolex Rookie of the Year		
1	Gabriela Ruffels	159 points
2	Mao Saigo	108 points
3	Mone Inami	93 points

#AonRiskReward Challenge		
T1	Mina Harigae	-1.250
T1	Lizette Salas	-1.250

T1	Mel Reid	-1.250
----	----------	--------

Vare Trophy (Scoring Average)		
1	Nelly Korda	68.875
2	Nira Naveed	69.000
3	Lydia Ko	69.200

Race to the CME Globe Points		
1	Nelly Korda	1,552.000 points
2	Lydia Ko	1,039.458 points
3	Ayaka Furue	727.058 points

Aon Risk Reward Challenge: *There is no Aon Risk Reward Challenge hole this week*

Through the Ford Championship presented by KCC, three players are currently tied for first in the Aon Risk Reward Challenge at -1.250. LPGA Tour veteran **Mina Harigae**, two-time LPGA Tour winner **Lizette Salas** and new #LPGAMom **Mel Reid** are in the lead after seven tournaments. Both Salas and Reid moved up after being in a tie the previous week, while Harigae maintained her position in first place. **Ashleigh Buhai** and LPGA Tour Rookie **Auston Kim** sit in fourth and fifth places respectively.

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 an equal \$1 million prize.

Race to CME Globe Update:

The Race to CME Globe Race continues at the T-Mobile Match Play presented by MGM Rewards as players look to claim victory at the Tour’s eighth event of the 2024 season, and last before the first major of the year, The Chevron Championship. With her third victory of the season, **Nelly Korda** maintained her position as first in the Race to the CME Globe Points List at 1,552 points. With a T13 finish last week and a win at her season debut at Hilton Grand Vacations Tournament of Champions, **Lydia Ko** also stays in second place with 1,039.458 points. **Ayaka Furue** also finished in T13 alongside Ko at the Ford Championship presented by KCC, resulting in no moment on the Points List. Furue sits in third place with 727.058 points. **Patty Tavatanakit** is in fourth place at 623.429 points and **Sarah Schmelzel**, who has earned four top-10 finishes in her last four starts, is in fifth place with 576.500 points.

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. After the Ford Championship presented by KCC, the 2024 donation total jumped to \$60,000 after **Jennifer Song** made an ace in her second round. Last season, there were 20 aces on Tour, including two from **In Gee Chun**, the most of any player on Tour in 2023.