TOTO Japan Classic
Seta Golf Course | Otsu-shi, Shiga, Japan | Oct. 31 – Nov. 3, 2024

Final-Round Notes
November 3, 2024

Media Contact: Carly Lyvers +1 (386) 214- 9105
Course Setup: 35-37 – 72; 6,523 yards
Scoring Average: R1: 70.024; R2: 69.949; R3:71.142
Weather: Sunny skies with a maximum temperature of 70F. North winds gusted from 15-25 mph in the morning and diminished into the afternoon
Race to CME Globe Points: 500 points (winner)
Purse: $2 million; winner's portion is $300,000
TV/Streaming Times: How to Watch the 2024 TOTO Japan Classic

QUICK LINKS
Interview Transcripts
LPGA Tour Online Media Center
LPGA Statistical Database
Stats Box
Media Assets
Tournament Website

LEADERBOARD			
	Player	To par	Score
1	Rio Takeda	-15	69-65-67 – 201
2	Marina Alex	-15	68-67-66 – 201
3	Haeran Ryu	-14	67-69-66 – 202
T4	Saiki Fujita	-13	69-66-68 – 203
T4	Yealimi Noh	-13	68-65-70 – 203
T6	Four players	-12	204

RIO TAKEDA WINS THE 2024 TOTO JAPAN CLASSIC
After 60 holes of golf at Seta Golf Course, **Rio Takeda** is the winner of the 2024 TOTO Japan Classic after she made a birdie on the sixth playoff hole to defeat LPGA Tour veteran **Marina Alex** and claim her first victory on the LPGA Tour and her eighth victory on the JLPGA Tour.

Teeing off this morning, Takeda was paired with Alex and fellow JLPGA player **Saiki Fujita** and sat three shots behind leader **Hana Wakimoto**. She carded two birdies in her first three holes to begin her movement up the leaderboard. Takeda parred the next four holes – all par 4s – before bogeying the par-3 8th and the par-4 9th. Her bogeys set her back to where she began, but this time, she was three shots behind new leader, **Yealimi Noh**, as Wakimoto slipped down the leaderboard with two bogeys in her first nine holes.

Takeda bounced back after the turn and responded with a birdie on the par-4 10th to move to 11-under par. Another birdie on the par-5 13th helped as she sat one shot back from current leader and fellow playing partner, Alex. Takeda needed something big in her last six holes to ensure a chance for victory, and it came on No. 16 when she made an eagle to move to 14-under par. Entering the last two holes, she still sat one shot behind Alex who had just recorded back-to-back birdies on Nos. 14 and 15 to get to 15-under par. Alex made two last pars in her final round and Takeda carded a clutch birdie on the par-5 18th to force a playoff. The duo waited to start the playoff until the final group of Wakimoto, Noh and Ariya Jutanugarn finished.

Takeda and Alex entered into the playoff with no prior experience. Starting on hole 18, each player opened the playoff strong with a birdie. The two would go on to play four more holes where they would practically replicate each other's shots and find themselves in similar situations. Both Takeda and Alex had birdie putts that lipped out or narrowly missed the hole to win the title. On the sixth playoff hole, No. 18, both players found themselves with another birdie putt. Farther away, Alex putted first and missed her birdie putt, while Takeda made hers to earn her first victory on the LPGA Tour.

"So this week I could manage to have my eighth win and I'm surprised with that, but I have three more tournaments to go in Japan so I need to brace myself, and I just try to finish my year in a great way," said Takeda, who has eight wins and 13 additional top-10 finishes on the JLPGA Tour in 2024.

She is currently ranked No. 25 in the Rolex Women's World Golf Rankings and because of her win at the TOTO Japan Classic, a co-sanctioned event with the LPGA and JLPGA Tours, she is eligible for LPGA Tour Membership. She is eligible to accept immediate LPGA Tour Membership or, similarly to **Mone Inami** after the 2023 TOTO Japan Classic, she can defer her Membership to the 2025 LPGA Tour season.

With a runner-up finish, Alex earned her best finish on Tour since her win at the 2022 FIR HILLS SERI PAK Championship. Additionally, after back-to-back top-10 finishes at the Maybank Championship and TOTO Japan Classic following a couple weeks spent at home, Alex is projected to move from No. 61 to No. 32 in the Race to the CME Globe points list. The top 60 players in the Race to the CME Globe points list are eligible to play in the season-finale, the CME Group Tour Championship where players compete for one of the highest purses in women's golf. Alex heads to Hawai'i next for the LOTTE Championship.

"Really excited. I added Hawai'i a few weeks ago in an effort to try and get into CME," said Alex. "I'm still excited to go there, but I think it kind of motivated me to get the job done. And so it's nice to have these next couple weeks not worried about that as trying to get in and actually just keep building on my game and get geared up for CME."

Haeran Ryu finished in solo third place after a final-round 66. Her scorecard from Sunday consisted of birdies on every par 5 and just one bogey. Her finish at the TOTO Japan Classic is her 13th top-10 finish of the 2024 season in just 24 starts. JLPGA player **Saiki Fujita** and American **Yealimi Noh** finished in a tie for fourth place at 13-under par. Noh earned her fifth top-10 finish of the season, and second in her last four events. Fujita recorded her ninth top-10 finish of the JLPGA Tour season.

Next, the LPGA Tour heads to Oahu, Hawaii, for the LOTTE Championship presented by Hoakalei, which starts on November 6.

A LOOK AT THE WINNER

CATEGORY	Rio Takeda
2024 Rolex Rankings	25
2024 LPGA Tour Wins	1
2024 LPGA Tour Top 10s	2
2024 JLPGA Tour Wins	8
2024 JLPGA Tour Top 10s	21
Career LPGA Tour Wins	1
Career LPGA Tour Top 10s	3
Career JLPGA Tour Wins	8
Career JLPGA Tour Money	¥252,201,016

ABOUT THE WINNER
Rolex Rankings No. 25 Rio Takeda

- Takeda earns her eighth JLPGA Tour win of the 2024 season
- She earns her first LPGA Tour win in her sixth start on the LPGA Tour
- She is the 19th different player to win on Tour this season
- She is the third Japanese player to win on Tour this season following **Yuka Saso** (U.S. Women's Open) and **Ayaka Furue** (Amundi Evian Championship)
- She is the first non-member win on the LPGA Tour since **Mone Inami** won the 2023 TOTO Japan Classic
- This was her first playoff on the LPGA Tour and her first playoff on the JLPGA Tour
    - This was the sixth playoff of the 2024 LPGA Tour season and first since the Walmart NW Arkansas Championship
    - This was the 12th playoff to take place at the TOTO Japan Classic and first since 2015 when Sun-Ju Ahn defeated Angela Stanford and Ji-Hee Lee with a birdie on the first playoff hole
    - This was the longest playoff at the TOTO Japan Classic, lasting six holes
        - Previously, the longest playoffs were in 2014 and 1978 and each went five holes
- She is the second consecutive Japanese player to win the TOTO Japan Classic following Inami in 2023
- It is the 11th time a player from Japan won the TOTO Japan Classic since 1980

- She is able to accept immediate LPGA Tour Membership, or defer Membership until the 2025 season
- If she accepts Membership, she would be the fourth Rolex First-Time Winner in 2024, joining **Bailey Tardy** (Blue Bay LPGA), **Linnea Strom** (ShopRite LPGA Classic presented by Acer) and **Lauren Coughlin** (CPKC Women's Open)
- If she accepts Membership, she would be the third consecutive player to become a Rolex First-Time Winner at this event following Inami (2023) and **Gemma Dryburgh** (2022)
- This is her third season on the JLPGA Tour
- She has made five previous starts on the LPGA Tour
    - Takeda played in every major championship in 2024 except The Chevron Championship

THINGS TO KNOW

- The 2024 TOTO Japan Classic was shortened to 54 holes following the delay of the third round to Sunday due to effects of Tropical Storm Kong-Rey
- The playoff between **Marina Alex** and Takeda lasted six holes, with Takeda making a birdie on the last hole to win
    - The two were paired together for the final round, and also played together at the Amundi Evian Championship this year
    - This was Alex's and Takeda's first playoffs on the LPGA Tour
    - This was the longest playoff of the 2024 LPGA Tour season
    - This was the sixth playoff of the 2024 LPGA Tour season and first since the Walmart NW Arkansas Championship
    - This was the 12th playoff to take place at the TOTO Japan Classic and first since 2015 when Sun-Ju Ahn defeated Angela Stanford and Ji-Hee Lee with a birdie on the first playoff hole
    - This was the longest playoff at the TOTO Japan Classic, lasting six holes
        - Previously, the longest playoffs were in 2014 and 1978 and each went five holes
- Alex shot a final round 66 and was defeated by Takeda in a six-hole playoff
    - She had six birdies and no bogeys
    - She was one of seven players to record a bogey-free round on Sunday
    - This is her second consecutive top-10 finish after finishing T6 at the Maybank Championship
    - This is her best finish on Tour since she won the 2022 FIR HILLS SERI PAK Championship
    - She is projected to move from No. 61 to No. 32 in the Race to the CME Globe points list, making her eligible to compete in the CME Group Tour Championship since she is in the top 60
    - This was her 22nd start of the 2024 season
        - She has five top-10 finishes this season including Hilton Grand Vacations Tournament of Champions (T9), Mizuho Americas Open (T7), ShopRite LPGA Classic presented by Acer (T6), Maybank Championship (T6) and now the TOTO Japan Classic (2nd)
        - She did not compete in the first two events of the fall Asia swing and prior to the Maybank Championship, had not started in an event since the Walmart NW Arkansas Championship
    - Alex is in her 12th season on the LPGA Tour
        - She has two career victories, the 2018 Portland Classic and the 2022 FIR HILLS SERI PAK Championship
        - She was a member of the 2019 U.S. Solheim Cup Team
    - She is an Epson Tour graduate, competing there during the 2012 and 2013 seasons
    - Alex played collegiately at Vanderbilt University and was inducted into Vanderbilt's Hall of Fame in 2015
- **Haeran Ryu** shot a final-round 66 to finish solo third
    - She recorded seven birdies and a bogey on Sunday
    - She birdied every par 5 at Seta Golf Course in the final round
    - This is her 13th top-10 finish of the 2024 season
        - She has made 24 starts on the LPGA Tour, meaning she has finished in the top 10 in more than 50% of the events she has played in
        - This is her third consecutive top-10 finish in consecutive weeks
    - This is her 19th career top-10 finish since she started on the LPGA Tour in 2023
- Leader after round one and two, Hana Wakimoto finished T6 after a final-round 73
    - She carded two birdies and three bogeys on the last day
    - This was her second start on the LPGA Tour after competing at the U.S. Women's Open last year
    - This was her first start at the TOTO Japan Classic
- The player that hits the most fairways over the four rounds of the TOTO Japan Classic will receive ¥1,000,000, provided by the Meiji Yasuda Life Insurance Company
    - **Yuna Nishimura** and **Kotone Hori** each hit 36 of 42 fairways over three rounds and will each receive ¥500,000
- The player that makes the most birdies over the four rounds of the TOTO Japan Classic will receive ¥1,000,000, provided by Ono Pharmaceutical Co., Ltd.
    - **Yealimi Noh** made 19 birdies over third rounds, the most of any player in the field, and will receive the prize
- The player that recorded the lowest 18-hole score this week will receive ¥1,000,000
    - Round one and round two leader **Hana Wakimoto** recorded the lowest round of the week, a 63 on Thursday
- **Ai Suzuki** withdrew prior to the final round of the TOTO Japan Classic

QUOTABLES

Haeran Ryu on her stretch of golf

"I think everything is so calm. My driver goes right and my iron next to pin and my putt is sometime miss it, but probably almost the pin and just a par or just the one week or twice or once a bogey, and that is good for me. Yeah, and then I think my golf is so calm these day and that makes me a lot of birdies and good score."

Yealimi Noh on her golf game throughout the fall Asia swing

"Definitely my ball striking has gotten a lot better and more consistent, and my putting has gotten a lot better. Always room for improvement. Yeah, just keep doing that and hope for a good year next year, too, or good finish. One more."

Nanna Koerstz Madsen on her final round at the TOTO Japan Classic

"Yeah, I played well. I was striking the ball very well. I had two oops today that cost me a little bit, but overall happy with the week."

ON LPGA.COM

Brittany Lincicome Plans to Retire from LPGA Tour Full-Time After ANNIKA driven by Gainbridge at Pelican
Three LPGA Moms Announced New Additions to Family in October

SOCIAL SNAPSHOT

Rio's winning putt on the 60th hole
Haeran. So good.
Haeran's excellent form continues
Time for the final round
Last chance at TOTO Japan Classic #AonRiskReward Challenge hole!

TOURNAMENT SCORING RECORDS

18 holes – 63 (-9), shot 10 times, most recently by Hana Wakimoto (R1, 2024)
36 holes – 126, Annika Sorenstam (2003)
54 holes – 192, Annika Sorenstam (2003)
72 holes – 266, Mone Inami (2023)
**2022 was the first time the co-sanctioned tournament played as a 72-hole event*