

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

Saturday Notes

November 2, 2024

Please see attached for the updated starting times for the third and final round of the TOTO Japan Classic.

Media Contact: Carly Lyvers +1 (386) 214- 9105 Course Setup: 36-36 – 72; 6,503 yards Scoring Average: R1: 70.024; R2: 69.949 Weather: Steady rain throughout the day, third-round suspended at 7:30 a.m. local time due to rain and course conditions 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 | Hana Wakimoto | -13 | 63-68 – 131 | |
| T2 | Yealimi Noh | -11 | 68-65 – 133 | |
| T2 | Ariya Jutanugarn | -11 | 67-66 – 133 | |
| 4 | Rio Takeda | -10 | 69-65 – 134 | |
| T5 | Saiki Fujita | -9 | 69-66 – 135 | |
| T5 | Marina Alex | -9 | 68-67 – 135 | |
| T5 | Jin Young Ko | -9 | 65-70 – 135 | |

THIRD ROUND OF THE TOTO JAPAN CLASSIC SUSPENDED UNTIL SUNDAY

The LPGA Rules, JLPGA Rules and Seta Golf Course teams have assessed the golf course and have determined that Seta Golf Course will be closed on Saturday due to the effects of Tropical Storm Kong-Rey. The third round of the TOTO Japan Classic is suspended until Sunday, Nov. 3, and the tournament has been currently shortened to 54 holes. Pairings remain the same for Sunday but starting times have been adjusted. Play is expected to resume tomorrow with the first groups schedule to tee off at 7:30 a.m. local time.

WITH A WIN

Hana Wakimoto

- Would earn her first LPGA Tour win and first JLPGA Tour win
- Would be her third top-10 finish of the season
- Would earn her first LPGA Tour win in her second start on the LPGA Tour
 - She also competed at the 2023 U.S. Women's Open and missed the cut
- Would be the first wire-to-wire winner since Hannah Green at the 2024 BMW Ladies Championship
- Would be the 19th different player to win on Tour this season
- Would be the third Japanese player to win on Tour this season following Yuka Saso (U.S. Women's Open) and Ayaka Furue (Amundi Evian Championship)
- Would be the first non-member win on the LPGA Tour since Mone Inami won the 2023 TOTO Japan Classic
- Would be the second consecutive Japanese player to win the TOTO Japan Classic following Inami in 2023
- Would be the 11th time a player from Japan won the TOTO Japan Classic since 1980
- Would be 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)

<u>Yealimi Noh</u>

- Would earn her first LPGA Tour win in her 116th start on the LPGA Tour
- Would earn her fifth top-10 finish of the season and first since the Buick LPGA Shanghai (4th)
- 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)
- Would be the sixth different American to win this season joining Nelly Korda, Lauren Coughlin, Bailey Tardy, Lilia Vu and Rose Zhang
- Would be the 19th different player to win on Tour this season
- Would be the ninth different American to win the TOTO Japan Classic since 1980
- Would be the first American to win the TOTO Japan Classic since **Stacy Lewis** in 2012

<u>Ariya Jutanugarn</u>

- Would earn her 13th LPGA Tour victory and first since her win at the 2021 Dow Championship with her sister Moriya
- Would earn her fifth top-10 finish of the 2024 season, and her 79th top-10 finish of her career
- Would be the 19th different player to win on Tour this season
- Would earn the sixth Thai player to win on Tour this season joining her sister, **Moriya Jutanugarn** (Portland Classic), **Jasmine Suwannapura** (Walmart NW Arkansas Championship), **Patty Tavatanakit** (Honda LPGA Thailand), **Jeeno Thitikul** (Dow Championship), **Chanettee Wannasaen** (Dana Open)
- Would surpass the \$1 million mark in 2024 season earnings with the \$300,000 check (\$1,232,387)
- Would be the first Thai player to win the TOTO Japan Classic since 1980

<u>Rio Takeda</u>

- Would earn her eighth JLPGA Tour win of the 2024 season
- Would earn her first LPGA Tour win in her sixth start on the LPGA Tour
- Would be the 19th different player to win on Tour this season
- Would be the third Japanese player to win on Tour this season following Yuka Saso (U.S. Women's Open) and Ayaka Furue (Amundi Evian Championship)
- Would be the first non-member win on the LPGA Tour since **Mone Inami** won the 2023 TOTO Japan Classic
- Would be the second consecutive Japanese player to win the TOTO Japan Classic following Inami in 2023
- Would be the 11th time a player from Japan won the TOTO Japan Classic since 1980
- Would be 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)

A LOOK AT THE LEADER

| CATEGORY | Hana Wakimoto |
|-------------------------|---------------|
| 2024 Rolex Rankings | 236 |
| 2024 LPGA Tour Wins | 0 |
| 2024 JLPGA Tour Wins | 0 |
| 2024 JLPGA Tour Top 10s | 2 |

| Career LPGA Tour Wins | 0 |
|--------------------------|--------------|
| Career LPGA Tour Top 10s | 0 |
| Career JLPGA Tour Wins | 0 |
| Career JLPGA Tour Money | ¥121,418,259 |

ABOUT THE LEADER

Rolex Rankings No. 236 Hana Wakimoto

- She recorded a second-round 68 to have a two-day total of 131
 - Wakimoto hit 10 of 14 fairways, 13 of 18 greens in regulation with 27 putts
 - \circ $\;$ She had five birdies and one bogey in round two
- She currently leads the field in most birdies made over both rounds (14)
- She is tied for second in the least amount of putts over the two rounds with 51 putts
- In the first round, she shot a 63, her lowest round on the JLPGA Tour
 - Her previous best score was a 65, shot twice in round one of the 2019 AXA Ladies Golf Tournament in Miyazaki and in round one of the 2023 Ai Miyazato Suntory Ladies Open Golf Tournament
- She holds the second-round lead, and also held the first-round lead
 - o Prior to this week, the last time she held the lead or co-lead was after the third round of the 2024 Nitori Ladies
- This is her first start at the TOTO Japan Classic
 - She previously played the West course at Seta Golf Course in a junior tournament
- This is her 22nd start of the 2024 JLPGA Tour season
 - o Her best finish this season is a sixth-place finish at the Stanley Ladies Honda Golf Tournament
 - Wakimoto has two top-10 finishes on the JLPGA this year
 - She has missed the cut in eight of her previous 21 starts
- She has been a Member of the JLPGA Tour since 2018
 - o Her best finish on the Tour is tied for fourth place at the 2019 AXA Ladies Golf Tournament in Myazaki
 - o She has one professional win on the JLPGA developmental tour at the 2022 Hanasaka ladies Yanmar Golf Tournament
- Correction: Wakimoto has made one previous start in an LPGA Tour event, the 2023 U.S. Women's Open, where she missed the cut

THINGS TO KNOW

- The third round of the TOTO Japan Classic is suspended until Sunday, Nov. 3, and the tournament has been currently shortened to 54 holes.
- Two players are tied for second place
 - Yealimi Noh recorded a second-round 65 to tie for her lowest round of the 2024 season
 - She had only 20 putts in the second round, the lowest of any player in the field on Friday
 - The only other time she shot 65 or better this season was in the third round of the BMW Ladies Championship, where she finished T16
 - This is her second start at the TOTO Japan Classic
 - She also played in 2022 when the tournament was hosted at Seta Golf Course
 - In 2022, she finished T51 with rounds of 72-71-76-68
 - Noh has played every event of the fall Asia swing, the Buick LPGA Shanghai (4th), BMW Ladies Championship (T16) and Maybank Championship (T30)
 - She has four top-10 finishes this season, most recently at the Buick LPGA Shanghai
 - Noh is making her 24th start of the 2024 season this week
 - She is in her fifth season on the LPGA Tour, recording 12 top-10 finishes since she began her rookie year in 2020
 - Ariya Jutanugarn shot a bogey-free 66 on Friday
 - She is one of 15 players to record a bogey-free round on Friday
 - She is bogey free through the first two rounds at the TOTO Japan Classic
 - Jutanugarn is one of three players to do so
 - This is her seventh start at the TOTO Japan Classic
 - Her best finish at the event is a fifth place finish in 2015
 - She has one additional top-10 finish at the event in 2016 (T10)
 - She has never recorded three or more rounds in the 60s in this tournament
 - This is also her 24th start of the 2024 season
 - Jutanugarn has four top-10 finishes including back-to-back top-10 finishes at the AIG Women's Open and FM Championship
 - She is in her 10th season on the LPGA Tour
 - She has 12 career victories including two major championships
 - Her last win came at the 2021 Dow Championship with her sister and partner, Moriya
- **Rio Takeda** recorded a 65 with an eagle, six birdies and a bogey
 - This was her fourth round of 65 or better on the JLPGA Tour this season
 - This is her second start at the TOTO Japan Classic
 - Last year, she finished T8
 - o This is her 29th start of the 2024 JLPGA Tour season
 - She won seven times Japan Women's Open Golf Championship, SONY JLPGA Championship, Golf5 Ladies, Hokkaido Meiji Cup, Bridgestone Ladies Open, 42nd Fujisankei Ladies Classic and KKTcup Vantelin Ladies Open
 - Takeda has an additional 13 top-10 finishes in 2024
 - She missed the cut in three events
- Yuna Nishimura recorded her lowest round of the 2024 LPGA Tour season on Friday
 - She shot a 65 with eight birdies and a bogey
 - This was her third round of 65 or better on the LPGA Tour, bested only by a 64 at the 2023 TOTO Japan Classic and a 64 at the 2023 Walmart NW Arkansas Championship presented by P&G
 - This is her third start at the TOTO Japan Classic
 - Her best finish was fourth place in 2022 when she participated as a JLPGA Member
 - 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

 Nishimura and Kotone Hori are currently tied for the most fairways hit with 25 of 28 through two rounds
- 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.
 - Wakimoto currently has the most birdies over two rounds with 14

QUOTABLES

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Jiyai Shin on her best memories of the TOTO Japan Classic

"Well, I won already two times this tournament, so every time when I coming to here, well, like at the party they showing the past champions and I can see how much I look different. (Laughter.) Yeah, so that much I have a lot of experience with this tournament. And then very hard to say the best -- hard to pick best one. Every time it comes new best memory coming every year."

Yealimi Noh on playing every event in the fall Asia swing

"Yeah, it's really nice. I was like, man, being I'm barely getting through the weeks and the travel. It's been weighing on me. Eating a lot of good food. It's so nice to be here and eating great food every day. And then just leaving after I finish. I'm like I'm out of here, back to the hotel and rest."

Rio Takeda on her 2024 JLPGA Tour season

"I think I would say this season has been really impressive for me and I could have won a couple tournaments, but I still need to keep going and I try to get better."

Nanna Korstz Madsen on the greens at Seta Golf Course

"It's just very severe from the back to the front. If you're long off the pin you're going to have super, super fast putts coming down the hill and sometimes it's just impossible to stop it."

ON LPGA.COM

<u>Third Round of the 2024 TOTO Japan Classic Suspended Until Sunday</u> <u>LPGA Now: TOTO Japan Classic Round 2</u> <u>Wakimoto maintains her lead after the 2nd round of the TOTO Japan Classic</u> <u>Lucky break leads to birdie run for Noh in Japan</u> <u>Brittany Lincicome Plans to Retire from LPGA Tour Full-Time After ANNIKA driven by Gainbridge at Pelican</u> <u>Three LPGA Moms Announced New Additions to Family in October</u>

LPGA VIDEOS

- KPMG Performance Insights After Second Round
- Hana Wakimoto Round 2 Highlights
- Yealimi Noh Round 2 Highlights
- Marina Alex Round 2 Highlights

- Round 2 Highlights
- Aon Risk Reward Challenge Feature Second Round
- LPGA Now Round 2
- Jin Young Ko Second Round Interview
- Yealimi Noh Second Round Interview
- Yuna Nishimura Second Round Interview

SOCIAL SNAPSHOT

A lucky break boosted Yealimi Noh to a 7-under 65 and a tie for second after Round 2 in Japan Friday 5-under 67 and Marina Alex is in contention at the TOTO Japan Classic Another great round for Hana Wakimoto leaves her leading going into Moving Day The latest #AonRiskReward Challenge leaderboard Shot her best round of the season today

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