



TOTO Japan Classic

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

Tuesday Pre-Tournament Notes

October 29, 2024

MEDIA AVAILABILITY SCHEDULE

(All times are local to Otsu-shi, Shiga, Japan, 13 hours ahead of Eastern Time and subject to change.)

Wednesday, Oct. 30

Following the conclusion of their pro-am – Mao Saigo (Press Conference)

Following the conclusion of their pro-am – Hinako Shibuno (Press Conference)

THINGS TO KNOW ABOUT THE TOTO JAPAN CLASSIC

- This is the 47th playing of the TOTO Japan Classic, which is co-sanctioned by the LPGA Tour and the LPGA of Japan (JLPGA) Tour
 - The TOTO Japan Classic was an unofficial event from 1973-1975
 - In 2020 and 2021, the event was contested as a JLPGA event only
- From 1976 to 2014, the event was formerly known as the Mizuno Classic with notable winners including Hall-of-Fame members Patty Sheehan (1981, 1988), Nancy Lopez (1982), Pat Bradley (1983), Betsy King (1992, 1993) and Karrie Webb (2006), Annika Sorenstam (2001-2005), Stacy Lewis (2012) and Shanshan Feng (2016, 2017)
- This year, the event is held at Seta Golf Course for the 14th time in the tournament's history
 - Sorenstam won five consecutive titles at this event, four of them took place at Seta Golf Course
 - The last three times that the tournament was held at Seta Golf Course, **Gemma Dryburgh** (2022), **Ai Suzuki** (2019) and **Nasa Hataoka** (2018) won the TOTO Japan Classic
- This is the third year in the co-sanctioned event's history that the event will be contested over 72 holes instead of 54 holes
 - Dryburgh won the event in its first edition as a 72-hole event in 2022
 - 2023 champion **Mone Inami** broke Dryburgh's 72-hole scoring record with a four-day total of 266
- There are 78 players in the field this week including 43 LPGA Tour players and 35 JLPGA Tour players
 - Of the LPGA Tour players:
 - There are six 2024 champions including major champions **Ayaka Furue** and **Yuka Saso**, **Moriya Jutanugarn**, **Haeran Ryu**, **Linnea Strom** and **Chanettee Wannasaen**
 - There are six LPGA Tour players that represent Japan including Furue, **Minami Katsu**, **Yuna Nishimura**, **Yuka Saso**, **Hinako Shibuno**, **Mao Saigo**
 - Of the JLPGA Tour players:
 - There are 14 2024 JLPGA champions including Chisato Iwai (3), Ai Suzuki (2), Sakura Koiwai (2), Miyuu Abe, Rio Takeda (7), Haruka Amamoto, Akie Iwai (3), Momoko Osato, Shiho Kuwaki (2), Haruka Kawasaki (3), Yui Kawamoto, Yuka Yasuda, Miyuu Yamashita and Min Young Lee
 - Miyuu Yamashita represented Japan in the 2024 Paris Olympics alongside Yuka Saso
- There are four former TOTO Japan Classic champions in the 2024 field: Dryburgh (2022), **Ai Suzuki** (2019), **Mi Hyang Lee** (2014) and **Jiyai Shin** (2010, 2008)
 - Dryburgh became a Rolex First-Time Winner when she won the TOTO Japan Classic in 2022; she was the tournament's first winner from Europe since Sorenstam won the event from 2001-2005
 - Suzuki won in three consecutive starts on the JLPGA Tour in 2019, including the 2019 TOTO Japan Classic in her second start
 - She has won 20 times on the JLPGA Tour since 2014
 - Lee also became a Rolex First-Time Winner when she won in 2014; she is one of five players from the Republic of Korea to win the event (Woo-Soon Ko, Bo Bae Song, Ahn Sun-ju, Jiyai Shin)
 - Shin is a multiple-time winner of the TOTO Japan Classic
 - In addition to winning in 2008 and 2010, she also won in 2020 when the tournament was not co-sanctioned by the LPGA Tour
 - She won the 2008 TOTO Japan Classic, as well as two other LPGA Tour events that year, as a non-member
 - LPGA Tour player **Ayaka Furue** also won the event in 2021 when it was not co-sanctioned by the LPGA Tour
- There are seven LPGA players making their first starts at the TOTO Japan Classic (excluding rookies) includes **Allisen Corpuz**, **Grace Kim**, **Lucy Li**, **A Lim Kim**, **Leona Maguire**, **Alexa Pano** and **Haeran Ryu**
 - The five rookies making their first starts at the TOTO Japan Classic are **Nataliya Guseva**, **Jin Hee Im**, **Somi Lee**, **Hira Naveed** and **Gabriela Ruffels**
 - Former JLPGA player and LPGA Tour rookie **Mao Saigo** is making her third start at the TOTO Japan Classic

LPGA ON-SITE COMMUNICATIONS TEAM

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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)
JLPGA Tour: @JLPGA_Official (Instagram, X)
Tournament: @TOTO_JP_CLASSIC (X)

TV/STREAMING TIMES (All times ET)

Wednesday, Oct. 30: 11:00 p.m. – 2:00 a.m. (Golf Channel)
Thursday, Oct. 31: 11:00 p.m. – 2:00 a.m. (Golf Channel)
Friday, Nov. 1: 11:30 p.m. – 2:30 a.m. (Golf Channel)
Saturday, Nov. 2: 11:00 p.m. – 2:00 a.m. (Golf Channel)

2024 LPGA TOUR STATISTICAL LEADERS

Official Money: Nelly Korda, \$3,676,930

Scoring Average: Jeeno Thitikul, 69.54

Birdies: Haeran Ryu, 334

Eagles: Carlota Ciganda, 12

Hole-in-Ones: Jiwon Jeon and Auston Kim, 2

Greens in Regulation: Jeeno Thitikul, 77.26%

Average Driving Distance: Natthakritta Vongtaveelap, 291.19

2024 Award Standings

Rolex Player of the Year		
1	Nelly Korda	244 points
2	Lydia Ko	144 points
3	Ayaka Furue	124 points

Louise Suggs Rolex Rookie of the Year		
1	Mao Saigo	895 points
2	Jin Hee Im	783 points
3	Gabriela Ruffels	533 points

Rolex ANNIKA Major Award		
1	Nelly Korda*	84 points
2	Ayaka Furue	70 points
T3	Amy Yang	60 points
T3	Lydia Ko	60 points
T3	Yuka Saso	60 points

*clinched

#AonRiskReward Challenge		
1	Jeeno Thitikul	-0.900
2	Haeran Ryu	-0.825
3	Ruoning Yin	-0.813

Vare Trophy (Scoring Average)		
1	Jeeno Thitikul	69.54
2	Nelly Korda	69.92
3	Ayaka Furue	70.09

Race to the CME Globe Points		
1	Nelly Korda	3,735.819 points
2	Haeran Ryu	2,599.392 points
3	Lydia Ko	2,562.758 points

Aon Risk Reward Challenge: No. 13, par 5

The 13th hole at Seta Golf Course is a shorter par 5, which should provide plenty of birdie opportunities for the field mid-way through the back nine. Bunkers protect the right side of the landing zone off the tee, with the longer players in the field able to carry the risk. Four greenside bunkers protect the putting surface, requiring a great shot to find the green in two. From the fairway, 31% of the field is expected to successfully reach the green in two. Finding the fairway rough or bunkers on the right side will force players to lay up and play the 13th as a three-shot hole. Weighing factors such as wind, lie, and position within the tournament, players must decide whether they go for the green in two or try to lay up short of the green side bunkers.

With three events to go in the Aon Risk Reward Challenge, the LPGA Tour moves to Japan for the TOTO Japan Classic. With an average to par of -0.9000, **Jeeno Thitikul** maintains her place ranked No. 1 following her performance at the Maybank Championship, where she recorded two birdies on the challenge hole. **Haeran Ryu** made a jump to No. 2 with an average to par of -0.825 after recording a birdie on the challenge hole. Three-time 2024 LPGA Tour winner **Ruoning Yin** dropped into No. 3 with an average to par of -0.813. In No. 4 is **Nelly Korda** with an average to par of -0.808 and was not in the field at the Maybank Championship, and also not at the TOTO Japan Classic. Rounding out the top 5, **Lilia Vu** has an average to par of -0.800 in the No. 5 spot.

The Aon Risk Reward Challenge is a season-long competition on 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 scores from each Aon Risk Reward Challenge hole, with the winners having the best average score to par at the end of the regular season. The winner will take home the Aon trophy and a \$1 Million prize.

Race to CME Globe

After the Maybank Championship, the LPGA Tour makes its last stop of the fall Asia swing at the TOTO Japan Classic. **Nelly Korda** maintains her spot in the No. 1 position with 3,735.819 points with four events left in the 2024 season. With a solo third-place finish and her second consecutive top-10 finish, **Haeran Ryu** (2,599.392 points) surpassed **Lydia Ko** (2,562.758 points), who did not compete in the Maybank Championship. Ryu now sits as No. 2 in the Race to the CME Globe and Ko sits in No. 3. 2024 major champion **Ayaka Furue** is still No. 4 with a total of 2,338.277 points. **Ruoning Yin** moved up to spots in the Race to the CME Globe and is now No. 5 with 2,316.983 points after earning her third victory of the 2024 season at the Maybank Championship.

More notable moves in the Race to the CME Globe following the Maybank Championship include:

- **Ruoning Yin** moved from No. 7 to No. 5 with her win
- **Maja Stark** moved from No. 21 to No. 15 after her T4 place finish
- **Pajaree Anannarukarn** moved from No. 50 to No. 44 with her T10 finish
- **Bailey Tardy** moved within the top-60 and from No. 65 to No. 50 with her T4 finish
- **Marina Alex** moved from No. 67 to No. 61 with her T6 finish
- **Wei-Ling Hsu** moved from No. 82 to No. 72 with her T6 finish

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

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. At last week's Maybank Championship, there were a total of five holes-in-one from Emily Kristine Pedersen, Kristen Gillman, Anna Nordqvist, Carlota Ciganda and Wei-Ling Hsu. There have been 26 total holes-in-one made this season, bringing the 2024 donation total to \$520,000. The total now surpasses the guaranteed donation of \$500,000.

2024 Wins by Country (29 tournaments, 8 countries)

11 – United States of America (Nelly Korda (6), Lauren Coughlin (2), Bailey Tardy, Lilia Vu, Rose Zhang,)
5 – Thailand (Moriya Jutanugarn, Jasmine Suwannapura, Patty Tavatanakit, Jeeno Thitikul, Chanettee Wannasaen)
3 – Australia (Hannah Green)
3 – New Zealand (Lydia Ko)
3 – People's Republic of China (Ruoning Yin)
2 – Japan (Yuka Saso, Ayaka Furue)
2 – Republic of Korea (Haeran Ryu, Amy Yang)
1 – Sweden (Linnea Strom)

2024 Wins by Player (29 tournaments, 18 players)

6 – Nelly Korda (LPGA Drive On Championship, FIR HILLS SERI PAK Championship, Ford Championship presented by KCC, T-Mobile Match Play presented by MGM Rewards, The Chevron Championship, Mizuho Americas Open)
3 – Hannah Green (HSBC Women's World Championship, JM Eagle LA Championship presented by Plastpro, BMW Ladies Championship)
3 – Lydia Ko (Hilton Grand Vacations Tournament of Champions, AIG Women's Open, Kroger Queen City Championship presented by P&G)
3 – Ruoning Yin (Dow Championship, Buick LPGA Shanghai, Maybank Championship)
2 – Lauren Coughlin (CPKC Womens Open, ISPS HANDA Women's Scottish Open)
1 – Ayaka Furue (The Amundi Evian Championship)
1 – Moriya Jutanugarn (Portland Classic)
1 – Haeran Ryu (FM Championship)
1 – Yuka Saso (U.S. Women's Open presented by Ally)
1 – Linnea Strom (ShopRite LPGA Classic presented by Acer)
1 – Jasmine Suwannapura (Walmart NW Arkansas Championship presented by P&G)
1 – Bailey Tardy (Blue Bay LPGA)
1 – Patty Tavatanakit (Honda LPGA Thailand)
1 – Jeeno Thitikul (Dow Championship)
1 – Lilia Vu (Meijer LPGA Classic for Simply Give)
1 – Chanettee Wannasaen (Dana Open)
1 – Amy Yang (KPMG Women's PGA Championship)
1 – Rose Zhang (Cognizant Founders Cup)

Average Age of 2024 Winners: 25.600

Youngest Winner: Chanettee Wannasaen (20 years, 3 months, 5 days)

Oldest Winner: Amy Yang (34 years, 10 months, 26 days)