



## TOTO Japan Classic

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

### Wednesday Pre-Tournament Notes

October 30, 2024

#### **NOTABLE PLAYERS IN THE 2024 TOTO JAPAN CLASSIC FIELD**

##### Haeran Ryu (Rolex Rankings No. 6)

- Ryu is making her first start at the TOTO Japan Classic
  - There are four 2023 rookies in the field this week that did not play in this event last year – Ryu, **Grace Kim**, **Lucy Li** and **Alexa Pano**
- This is Ryu's 24th start of the 2024 LPGA Tour season
  - She has one victory this year, the FM Championship
  - She has an additional 11 top-10 finishes including seven top-5 finishes
  - She has missed two cuts this year and notably in her title defense of the Walmart NW Arkansas Championship presented by P&G
  - According to KPMG Performance Insights, she has finished in the top-10 in seven of her last nine LPGA Tour starts. During that span, she has gained nearly three strokes per round on the competition:

Haeran Ryu Last Nine Starts on LPGA Tour	
Top-10 Finishes	7
Strokes gained total	+2.92*
Scoring average	68.56

\*Leads all players in span

- This is her third event of the fall Asia swing
  - She earned top-10 finishes in her last two starts, the BMW Ladies Championship (T6) and the Maybank Championship (3rd)
- This is her second season on the LPGA Tour
  - She has won once each season, the 2023 Walmart NW Arkansas Championship presented by P&G and the 2024 FM Championship
  - Last year, she recorded six top-10 finishes including her win
  - She was the 2023 Louise Suggs Rolex Rookie of the Year
- She was the medalist at the 2022 LPGA Q-Series and earned LPGA Tour Membership
- Prior to joining the LPGA Tour, she played professionally on the KLPGA Tour
  - She has five KLPGA Tour victories
  - Ryu was the 2020 KLPGA Rookie of the Year

##### Ayaka Furue (Rolex Rankings No. 10)

"I'm a member of the U.S. LPGA and I have a Tour card, and that's why I'm here this week, but I'm also a Japanese player, so I feel like I'm visiting Japan. So this is one of the tournaments I'm looking forward to playing." – Furue on what it is like to be competing in her home country

- Furue is making her third start at the TOTO Japan Classic
  - Last year, she finished tied for 23rd after shooting rounds 67-70-67-69
  - In 2022, she finished tied for fifth when the event was hosted at Seto Golf Course
- She is one of six LPGA Tour players in the field this week that represent Japan including **Minami Katsu**, **Yuna Nishimura**, **Yuka Saso**, **Hinako Shibuno** and **Mao Saigo**
- This is Furue's 22nd start on the LPGA Tour this season
  - She earned one victory this season, the 2024 Amundi Evian Championship
  - Furue has nine additional top-10 finishes including five top-5 finishes
  - She finished in the top 10 in four consecutive starts from the Mizuho Americas Open to the Meijer LPGA Classic for Simply Give
  - She missed just one cut in her previous 21 starts, at the Dow Championship when she was partnered with **Xiyu Lin**
- This is her third start in the fall Asia swing
  - She finished T41 at the BMW Ladies Championship and T30 at the Maybank Championship
- Furue is in her third season on the LPGA Tour
  - She has two victories including the 2022 ISPS Handa Women's Scottish Open and the 2024 Amundi Evian Championship
  - She was a member of Team Japan at the 2023 Hanwha LIFEPLUS International Crown
  - She has made a total of 75 starts on the LPGA Tour (not including this week's start), and finished in the top 10 22 times
  - According to KPMG Performance Insights, Furue has gone from 16th in scoring average and strokes gained total last season to 3rd in both statistics in 2024

Ayaka Furue LPGA Tour Ranks – Last 2 Seasons		
	2023	2024
Scoring average	16th	3rd
Strokes gained total	16th	3rd
Par 3 Scoring	T22	2nd
Birdie or better %	47th	T22

- Prior to joining the LPGA Tour, she played on the JLPGA Tour
  - She is an eight-time winner on the JLPGA Tour, earning three victories in her last full-time year on the Tour in 2021
  - Furue was the 2020-2021 JLPGA Player of the Year
  - She won the 2019 Fujitsu Ladies on the JLPGA Tour and turned professional shortly afterwards

##### Brooke Henderson (Rolex Rankings No. 22)

- Henderson is making her third start at the TOTO Japan Classic
  - The last time she competed in the event was 2018 when she finished T41
  - She also competed in 2017, finishing T42
- This is her 22nd start of the 2024 season
  - She has eight top-10 finishes in 2024, including last week's T10 at the Maybank Championship
  - She has the most top-10 finishes without a victory this season amongst LPGA Tour players
  - Henderson also represented Canada for a third time in the women's golf competition at the 2024 Paris Olympics
    - She also competed in the 2016 Rio and 2020 Tokyo Olympics
- This is Henderson's third start of the fall Asia swing
  - In addition to T10 at the Maybank Championship, she also finished T46 at the BMW Ladies Championship
  - Prior to the BMW Ladies Championship, she had not competed since the AIG Women's Open
- Henderson is in her 10th season competing on the LPGA Tour
  - She has 13 career victories including two major championships
  - Her last win came at the 2023 Hilton Grand Vacations Tournament of Champions
  - She was honored as the 2019 Founders Award winner
  - She was granted immediate LPGA Tour Membership by Commissioner Mike Whan following her 2015 victory at the Portland Classic
  - According to KPMG Performance Insights, she is one of just five players to be ranked in the top 20 in strokes gained total each of the last three seasons on the LPGA Tour:

#### **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)

Top 20 in Strokes Gained Total Each of Last 3 LPGA Tour Seasons			
	2022	2023	2024
Jeeno Thitikul	3	2	2
Nelly Korda	4	7	1
Brooke Henderson	5	19	18
Charley Hull	14	14	15
Lilia Vu	18	5	16

#### Mao Saigo (Rolex Rankings No. 35)

“I was not able to play as I wanted early this year. I could not play well, like not achieving good results in the majors. I tried to make the cut every week, but that led to me making the cut. That was it. I changed my mindset: being in contention or finishing on the upper of the leaderboard. Gradually, I started to finish in good positions by accumulating small momentum. I have not won this year yet, so there are many things I need to brush up on. But, I assess that I am on the right track because I have given myself few chances to be in contention.” – *Saigo on her rookie year on the LPGA Tour*

- Saigo is making her third start at the TOTO Japan Classic
  - In her previous two appearances, she competed as a member of the JLPGA Tour
  - Last year, she finished in a tie for 53rd
  - In 2022, she finished in a tie for 36th
- This is her 26th start of the 2024 LPGA Tour season
  - Saigo has seven top-10 finishes this season including runner-up finishes at the CPKC Women’s Open and Buick LPGA Shanghai
  - She has missed four cuts over her previous 21 starts
  - Saigo has played 90 rounds on the LPGA Tour this season, more than any other player this year
  - She has competed in every event of the fall Asia swing
  - She ranks third on the LPGA Tour this season in both overall greens in regulation and greens in regulation percentage following a missed fairway, according to KPMG Performance Insights:

Mao Saigo Approach Play Ranks This Season		
		LPGA Rank
Greens in regulation	75.9%	3rd
GIR after missed fairway	59.3%	3rd
Proximity to the hole	24’7”	7th
SG Approach	+0.85	11th

- She is a rookie on the LPGA Tour this year
  - Saigo is in first place in Louise Suggs Rolex Rookie of the Year standings with 895 points
    - She currently leads Jin Hee Im by 112 points and Gabriela Ruffels by 362 points
    - Saigo is expected to compete in each of the last four remaining events of the season, while both Im and Ruffels are only expected to play three of the last four remaining events
  - Saigo finished tied for second at the 2023 LPGA Q-Series to earn Membership
- Prior to competing on the LPGA Tour, she played professionally on the JLPGA Tour since 2020
  - Saigo has six wins on the JLPGA including five wins during her 2022 season
  - She played in each major championship at least once before earning LPGA Tour Membership

#### KPMG PERFORMANCE INSIGHT OF THE WEEK

- Some of the game’s brightest young stars have put on ball striking shows over the last three weeks while the LPGA Tour shifted to Asia. Below is a look at the players with the most strokes gained ball striking per round during that stretch:

Most Strokes Gained Ball Striking Per Round LPGA Tour – Last 3 Weeks	
Haeran Ryu	3.09
Lucy Li	2.02
Minjee Lee	1.85
Ruoning Yin	1.81
Yealimi Noh	1.77

*\*Minimum eight rounds played*

#### THINGS TO KNOW

- Defending champion **Mone Inami** is not in the field this week at the TOTO Japan Classic
- Heading into the TOTO Japan Classic, the third to last event of the season before the CME Group Tour Championship, several players are around the bubble of the top 60 and vying for their chance to compete in the season-ending event. Players have the remaining events to earn points: TOTO Japan Classic, LOTTE Championship and the ANNIKA driven by Gainbridge at Pelican.

Race to the CME Globe Points List Through the Maybank Championship (55-65)		
Rank	Player	CME Globe Points
55	Stephanie Kyriacou	670.339
56	Hinako Shibuno	640.363
57	Carlota Ciganda	639.488
58	Mi Hyang Lee	629.685
59	Gaby Lopez	625.607
60	Ashleigh Buhai	609.194
61	Marina Alex	597.526
62	Alison Lee	594.069
63	Alexa Pano	593.105
64	A Lim Kim	590.911
65	Ryann O’Toole	581.060

*\*in the TOTO Japan Classic field*

#### ON LPGA.COM

[Five Things to Know About the TOTO Japan Classic](#)

[Field Breakdown: 2024 TOTO Japan Classic](#)

[How to Watch the 2024 TOTO Japan Classic](#)

[2025 Hanwha LIFEPLUS International Crown to be Held at New Korea Country Club in the Republic of Korea](#)

[Final 12 Teams Announced for Grant Thornton Invitational](#)

[Colton Herta and Marcus Ericsson Joins WNBA Star Caitlin Clark at The ANNIKA driven by Gainbridge at Pelican](#)

[Pelican Golf Club and The ANNIKA driven by Gainbridge at Pelican Launch ‘Florida Strong’ Shirt Campaign Benefiting the Florida Disaster Fund in Supporting Hurricane Recovery](#)

#### SOCIAL SNAPSHOT

[Frame-by-frame look at Mao Saigo’s swing](#)

[Wednesday with Yuna Nishimura at the TOTO Japan Classic](#)

[Featured groups at the TOTO Japan Classic](#)

[This or That with Hinako Shibuno ahead of the TOTO Japan Classic](#)

[The #RaceToCMEGlobe top-10 update we all needed](#)