



2025 Founders Cup presented by U.S. Virgin Islands
Bradenton Country Club | Bradenton, Fla. | Feb. 6-9, 2025

Tuesday Pre-Tournament Notes

February 4, 2025

LPGA ON-SITE COMMUNICATIONS TEAM

Christina Lance
Director, Communications
christina.lance@lpga.com
+1 (908) 963-1691

Emily Carman
Communications Coordinator
emily.carman@lpga.com
+1 (714) 742-8301

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

QUICK LINKS

[Interview Transcripts](#)
[LPGA Tour Online Media Center \(OMC\)](#):
Includes links to daily and archival
tournament information, Stats Box,
LPGA Statistical Database, photo/video
assets and more
[Tournament Website](#)
[How To Watch – TV/Streaming Times](#)

SOCIAL MEDIA

LPGA Tour: @LPGA, @LPGAMedia (X),
@lpga_tour (Instagram, TikTok)

LPGA TOUR NEWS

[LPGA*USGA Girls Golf Names New LPGA Player Brand Ambassadors](#) – Feb. 3, 2025

[LPGA to Commemorate Historic 75th Anniversary Throughout 2025](#) – Jan. 29, 2025

[U.S. Virgin Islands Named Presenting Sponsor of 2025 Founders Cup](#) – Jan. 15, 2025

MEDIA AVAILABILITY SCHEDULE

(Zoom link available upon request; all times are local and subject to change)

Wednesday, February 5

10:00 a.m. – **Minjee Lee**, past champion of the Founders Cup presented by U.S. Virgin Islands

Approx. 10:45 a.m. – **Nelly Korda**, defending champion at Bradenton Country Club

2:00 p.m. – **Brittany Lincicome**, eight-time LPGA Tour winner, two-time major champion and sponsor invite

NOTABLE PLAYERS

- World No. 1 [Nelly Korda](#):
 - Seventh appearance at the Founders Cup presented by U.S. Virgin Islands (2017: T19, 2018: MC, 2019: T2, 2021: T19, 2023: MC, 2024: T7)

- Second appearance at Bradenton Country Club
 - Won the LPGA Drive On Championship last season in a playoff against [Lydia Ko](#)
- In 2025: made one cut in one start with a top-5 finish at the Hilton Grand Vacations Tournament of Champions, 2nd
- In 2024: made 13 cuts in 16 starts; seven wins, one major (LPGA Drive on Championship, FIR HILLS SERI PAK Championship, Ford Championship, T-Mobile Match Play presented by MGM Rewards, **The Chevron Championship**, Mizuho Americas Open, The ANNIKA drive by Gainbridge at Pelican)
 - Represented the United States at the Solheim Cup and Paris Olympics
 - Became first player since [Yani Tseng](#) in 2011 to win seven times in one season
 - Was named the Rolex Player of the Year and won the Rolex ANNIKA Major Award
 - Became the third American to earn Rolex Player of the Year in the Tour's history
 - Twenty-seventh different player to earn the award since 1966
- Career: 15 wins, 2 majors, 67 total top-10 finishes
 - Twenty-eighth different American to win at least 15 titles on Tour
 - Forty-first different player to earn at least 15 titles on Tour
 - First player since [Jin Young Ko](#) in 2023 to earn 15 wins on Tour
- World No. 2 L. Ko
 - Tenth appearance at the Founders Cup presented by U.S. Virgin Islands (2014: T2, 2015: T6, 2016: 2, 2017: T8, 2018: MC, 2019: T8, 2022: T12, 2023: T42, 2024: T35)
 - Second appearance at Bradenton Country Club; lost to Korda in a playoff last season
 - In 2025: made one cut in one start with a top-10 finish at the Hilton Grand Vacations Tournament of Champions, 6th
 - Recorded her 140th round of bogey-free golf last week
 - In 2024: made 18 cuts in 20 starts; three wins, one major (Hilton Grand Vacations Tournament of Champions, **AIG Women's Open**, Kroger Queen City Championship presented by P&G)
 - Won her third Olympic medal at the Paris Olympics (gold)
 - Earned bronze in 2020 and silver in 2016
 - Was named to the LPGA Hall of Fame after her gold medal performance in Paris
 - Became the Tour's 35th member inducted and first since [Lorena Ochoa](#) in 2022
 - Became the first active inductee since [Inbee Park](#) in 2016
 - Is the first inductee to hail from New Zealand
 - Is the second player from the Australasia region to be inducted into the LPGA Hall of Fame after [Karrie Webb](#) (Australia) was inducted in 2005
 - Is the youngest player to be inducted into the LPGA Hall of Fame under its current criteria, at 27 years, 3 months and 17 days
 - Webb reached the 27-point threshold at age 25 with her victory at the 2000 U.S. Women's Open but did not reach the 10-year requirement until age 30 in 2005
 - Career: 22 wins, three majors, 112 total top-10 finishes
 - Has won at least once in three of her last four seasons
 - Has only played two seasons without a win on Tour
 - Has received 10 LPGA Tour awards
 - Won Rolex Player of the Year, Vare Trophy and Race to CME Globe Winner in 2022

- Three-time Founders Cup champion J.Y. Ko
 - Seventh start at the Founders Cup presented by U.S. Virgin Islands (2018: T46, 2019: won, 2021: won, 2022: T17, 2023: won, 2024: T12)
 - First appearance at Bradenton Country Club
 - Ko has won the Founders Cup at three different courses
 - 2023 – Upper Montclair Country Club in Clifton, NJ
 - 2021 – Mountain Ridge Country Club in Caldwell, NJ
 - 2019 – Wildfire Golf Club in Phoenix, AZ
 - In 2025: made one cut in one start with a top-10 finish at the Hilton Grand Vacations Tournament of Champions, T4
 - Has started each season with six top-10 finishes, including two wins, since joining the Tour in 2018
 - In 2024: 16 cuts made in 18 starts with seven top-10 finishes
 - Season-best runner-up finish at the FM Championship
 - First season on Tour she has not recorded a win since joining in 2018
 - Represented the Republic of Korea at the 2024 Paris Olympics (T25)
 - Career: 15 wins, two majors with 60 total top-10 finishes
 - Has five LPGA Tour awards
 - Named 2018 Louise Suggs Rolex Rookie of the Year, 2019 Rolex Player of the Year, 2019 Rolex ANNIKA Major Award, 2019 Vare Trophy and 2021 Rolex Player of the Year
 - Two-time Olympic athlete: 2020 Tokyo (T9), 2024 Paris (T25)
 - Competed for Team Korea at the 2023 Hanwha LIFEPLUS International Crown
 - 10-time winner on the KLPGA
- 2025 LPGA Tour rookies: [Ingrid Lindblad](#), [Miyu Yamashita](#), [Adela Cernousek](#)
 - Lindblad competed on the Epson Tour in 2024
 - Seven cuts made, nine starts with one win and four additional top-10 victories
 - Won the 2024 Tuscaloosa Toyota Classic
 - Finished sixth in the Epson Tour's Race for the Card to earn LPGA Tour status for the 2025 season
 - Played collegiately at Louisiana State University and won the 2024 ANNIKA Award presented by Stifel
 - Yamashita competed on the JLPGA from 2021 to 2024
 - Earned JLPGA Player of the Year honors in 2022 and 2023
 - Earned medalist honors at the Final Qualifying portion of LPGA Q-Series to earn membership for this season
 - Finished runner-up at the 2024 KPMG Women's PGA Championship
 - Represented Japan at the 2024 Paris Olympics (T4)
 - Cernousek played collegiately at Texas A&M University
 - Was the 2024 NCAA Individual Champion, the first in program history, and was a WGCA and Golfweek First Team All-American
 - Represented the International Team at the 2024 Arnold Palmer Cup
 - Turned professional after tying for medalist honors at the Qualifying portion of LPGA Q-Series in order to compete in Final Qualifying
 - Finished T13 at Final Qualifying to earn membership for the 2025 season

- [Watch Cernousek's pre-tournament press conference](#) alongside fellow rookies [Cassie Porter](#) and [Jessica Porvasnik](#)

NOTABLE TOURNAMENT INFO

- Fourth venue hosting the Founders Cup presented by U.S. Virgin Islands
 - 2011-2019; held at Wildfire Golf Club in Phoenix, A.Z.
 - 2021; held at Mountain Ridge Country Club in Clifton, N.J.
 - 2022; held at Upper Montclair Country Club in Clifton, N.J.
- Second LPGA Tour event held at Bradenton Country Club
 - Hosted 2024 LPGA Drive On Championship
- [Brittany Lincicome](#) and [Alexandra Swayne](#)
 - Lincicome is a resident of nearby St. Petersburg, FL
 - She has eight LPGA Tour victories including two major championships
 - She [announced her retirement](#) from a full-time LPGA schedule in November 2024
 - Swayne represents the U.S. Virgin Islands
 - She is believed to be the first player representing the U.S. Virgin Islands to compete on the LPGA Tour
 - This is her second start on the LPGA Tour
 - She competed in the 2021 U.S. Women's Open and missed the cut
 - She competes regularly on the Ladie's European Tour, having recorded three top-10 finishes in 49 starts
 - [Watch her pre-tournament press conference](#)

SEASON-LONG INITIATIVES

[Race to CME Globe](#)

The Race to the CME Globe is a season-long points competition with LPGA Tour Members accumulating points in every official LPGA Tour 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, highlighted by a \$4 million winner's check, which is the largest winner's prize in the history of women's golf.

- [A Lim Kim](#) won the 2025 Hilton Grand Vacations Tournament of Champions and leads the Tour with 500 points
 - **Nelly Korda** is in second with 320 points
 - [Linn Grant](#) is in third with 230 points
- In 2024, Korda earned the most points with 4,368.319 in 16 starts
 - Over 1500 points ahead of second, [Haeran Ryu](#) (2,888.392; 13 top 10s in 26 starts)
- 2024 Race to CME Globe champion was [Jeeno Thitikul](#) (winner of the CME Group Tour Championship)
 - Two wins in 17 starts, finished fourth in the Race to CME Globe standings (1,736.480)
 - Won by one shot over Yin

[Aon Risk Reward Challenge](#): No. 17 (par 5) at Bradenton Country Club

The Aon Risk Reward Challenge is a unique, 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 two 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.

- Players who find the fairway on No. 17 with their drive are expected to go for the green 67% of the time
 - The go-for-green rate dips to 40% for players who find the rough
- Last par 5 on the back nine
- [Minjee Lee](#) (-2.000) leads the Tour after last week's Hilton Grand Vacations Tournament of Champions
- More info on No. 17 from this week's fact sheet [here](#)

[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 2025, 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.

- In 2024: 29 aces counted towards the challenge, \$580,000 raised
- [Jiwon Jeon](#) recorded three aces last season (most on Tour)
 - Donation total from aces: \$60,000
- 310 all-time eligible holes-in-one
- \$2,940,00 all-time amount donated