

## 2025 Founders Cup presented by U.S. Virgin Islands

Bradenton Country Club | Bradenton, Fla. | Feb. 6-9, 2025

## **Wednesday Pre-Tournament Notes**

February 5, 2025

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## **QUICK LINKS**

Interview Transcripts
LPGA Tour Online Media Center (OMC)
Tournament Website

How To Watch – TV/Streaming Times

## **SOCIAL MEDIA**

LPGA Tour: @LPGA, @LPGAMedia (X), @lpga tour (Instagram, TikTok)

#### **LPGA TOUR NEWS**

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<u>LPGA\*USGA Girls Golf Names New LPGA Player Brand Ambassadors</u> – Feb. 3, 2025 <u>LPGA to Commemorate Historic 75th Anniversary Throughout 2025</u> – Jan. 29, 2025 <u>U.S. Virgin Islands Named Presenting Sponsor of 2025 Founders Cup</u> – Jan. 15, 2025

#### PRE-TOURNAMENT AVAILABILITY HIGHLIGHTS

Rolex Rankings No. 1, Nelly Korda

Video | Transcript

Korda on getting to play so close to home

"Yeah. It feels great. It's kind of weird sleeping in my own bed. I feel like my routine is a little off. But it feels great to be back here. I have not been in this area in a year though. I live like 45, 50 minutes away. My parents are 15 minutes. So many of my friends have already asked for tickets. So that's probably the most exciting part of playing in my home down, is having all the local support."

## Korda on the importance of the 13 founders

"Yeah, my favorite thing about playing out here and getting to do what I do for a living is growing the game and inspiring the next generation. If a kid comes up to me during the round I will always sign their hat, flag,

anything. That's my favorite thing about this game. Hopefully the 13 Pioneers that grew our game to what it is today, hopefully we can all continue to do that for the years to come."

#### Rolex Rankings No. 17, Minjee Lee

### <u>Video</u> | <u>Transcript</u>

Lee on the change in her putter and what she sees now

"I think the putter itself doesn't look that different to me because I was kind of using a similar head shape, and with the new square-to-square Callaway brought out, it goes straight into the middle of the face, I guess the shaft, so it wasn't too different. Just where more my hands are on the shaft and obviously it's a longer so you're a bit up taller so the way you look at the hole is a little bit different. So I mean, it's just kind of a new adventure. I have never done it before. It's something that doesn't feel too unnatural to me. I feel like over time I'll get much more comfortable and probably much more confident with all the length of like putts."

#### Lee on if she has any fond memories of the 13 founders

"Yeah, I think what I remember when I won last time at the Founders Cup, it was Shirley was still there so she was driving around and just saying hello to everyone. I got to play a pro-am with her like in Phoenix a while back and she was just so funny. She was just so fun. I think just they have done so much for us and the Tour. To be where we are now, it wouldn't have started without them, so we're just all very grateful. I think just seeing like before when a few of them were able to come to the tournament, they would be sitting just right where the 18th green was so it was always lovely to see their faces and give them a hug and just a hello at the end the round. Yeah, I think that's what most memorable to me."

#### Rolex Rankings No. 488, Alexandra Swayne

#### <u>Video</u> | <u>Transcript</u>

Swayne on being the first player to represent that U.S. Virgin Island

"Yeah, it's really cool. I'm super blessed and super grateful to be representing these three beautiful islands. I wouldn't want to be representing anyone else. It's just really cool that I have this opportunity and I can show the beauty of these islands."

#### Swayne on what LPGA players she looked up to

"Actually Lexi Thompson. I was part time in Cincinnati and the golf course that you guys play the Kroger Classic at was my home golf course. They had a -- when I was in Cincinnati. When I was growing up they had a junior event, I think PGA juniors. We had a girl staying at our house and her name was Sara Brown and she was best friends with Lexi, and Lexi showed up at my door and I was like, in shock. They going out to dinner. I followed her and Sara Brown. I think they were competing for the lead. I always grew up watching her and just her strength and ability and she's super powerful out there and something I emulate in my own game."

# Rolex Rankings No. 980, Adela Cernousek, No. 356 Jessica Porvasnik and No. 279 Cassie Porter Video | Transcript

Cernousek on her excitement for the week

"There is a lot of new things. Everything is so exciting. I've been waiting for this time for a long time. Like this whole offseason I've been like trying to like kind of talking to LPGA players trying to know how things are going to be prepared the best I can. Yeah, now I am just like I'm super excited and can't wait for the tournament to start."

Porter on how the Epson Tour prepared her for this week

"Yeah, I think it's the best thing you can do to prepare for out here. You're playing against the best in the world, but I feel like the depth on the Epson Tour is pretty matched. So, yeah, I'm feeling really good going into the week. Being able to survive a year on Epson and to finish in the top 10 is pretty -- it's a great achievement, and, yeah, really excited to keep that going this year and hopefully carry it through."

Porvasnik on what she is most anxious about this week

"Throughout the year just kind of getting out there, this week in particular, just trying to figure out how the week kind of starts off. I've got a lot of meetings and whatnot. I'm just super excited and I guess anxious, too. I'm kind of curious to see what the fan base is like. Playing on the Epson Tour we get some crowds; some are better than others. I am curious to see what that's like."

#### Rolex Rankings No. 446, Brittany Lincicome

#### Video | Transcript

Lincicome on what her schedule will look like this season

"Yeah, so prior to the offseason, before this week, Chevron was really the only one I knew I was playing being a past champion. So now this one and that one for sure. Probably something in the summer. Just when Emory doesn't have kindergarten. We can't miss that now. So probably something in the summer. I have no idea. I don't know what I'm going to get into. Do I need to ask for another sponsor invite being semi-retired, which sounds weird. So we just have to see."

Lincicome on what it means to be a woman in sports and role model for her daughters

"Yeah, it's is cool. Whether it's my daughters or any child, it's just cool to be able to be somebody that's influencing the next generation. I've always wanted to leave the game better than it was when I turned pro 20 years ago. So to have that ability to be able to sign one autograph out there for some child, male or female, to be able to inspire them to pick up the game, high school, college, professional, whatever it may be, later in life, for business, it's just such a wonderful game I feel like every child should play. I had my First Tee event on Monday and I love seeing the kids out there playing and picking up the game."

#### ON LPGA.COM

Field Breakdown: 2025 Founders Cup presented U.S. Virgin Islands

Players to Watch: 2025 Founders Cup presented by U.S. Virgin Islands

Hometown Hero Jeremy Johnson Serves Tampa Community After Catastrophic Hurricanes

How to Watch the 2025 Founders Cup presented by U.S. Virgin Islands

Five Things to Know About the 2025 Founders Cup presented by U.S. Virgin Islands

LPGA\*USGA Girls Golf Names New LPGA Player Brand Ambassadors

#### **ON LPGA SOCIAL**

Minjee Lee Giving Love to Our Founders

Happy National Girls and Women in Sports Day!

Welcome to the Tour Cassie Porter and Adela Cernousek

Shout Out Maui Kim for Gifting our Players New Shades

Angel Yin Calling out Punxsutawney Phil

What's the Best Super Bowl Party Snack