

# 2025 Honda LPGA Thailand

Siam Country Club, Old Course | Pattaya, Chonburi, Thailand | Feb. 20-23, 2025

# **Tuesday Pre-Tournament Notes**

Feb. 18, 2025

## LPGA ON-SITE COMMUNICATIONS TEAM

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# **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)

Tournament: @HondaLPGATh (X), @HondaLPGAThailand (Instagram)

#### MEDIA AVAILABILITY SCHEDULE

(All times are local to Pattaya, Chonburi, Thailand, and subject to change)

#### Wed., Feb. 19

10:00 a.m. – Lilia Vu, 2023 Honda LPGA Thailand champion

10:30 a.m. - Celine Boutier

10:50 a.m. – Jeeno Thitikul and Ruoning Yin

11:15 a.m. — Ariya Jutanugarn, Moriya Jutanugarn, Wichanee Meechai, Pimpisa Rubrong (a) and defending champion Patty Tavatanakit

11:45 a.m. – Pajaree Anannarukarn, Jaravee Boonchant, Trichat Cheenglab, Jasmine Suwannapura, Chanettee Wannasaen, Arpichaya Yubol

# **LPGA, TOURNAMENT NEWS**

<u>LPGA Announces New Pace of Play Policy</u> – Feb. 13, 2025 <u>LPGA and Hero Digital Debut New Mobile App with Enhanced Features for Fans</u> Feb. 12, 2025 Ready to Tee Off! Honda LPGA Thailand 2025 – Feb. 6, 2025

### **NOTABLE PLAYERS**

• World No. 2 Jeeno Thitikul

- Made her first appearance at Honda LPGA Thailand as an amateur in 2017, just three days after her 14th birthday
- This is Thitikul's first start of the 2025 LPGA Tour season
- o Last week, she won the LET's PIF Saudi Ladies International
  - Tavatanakit won the 2024 edition of that event, then won the 2024 Honda LPGA
    Thailand
- o In her last eight starts in professional golf, she has finished in the top 10
  - Her streak started at the 2024 FM Championship (4th) and continues as she won last week's LET event (PIF Saudi Ladies International)
- In 2024: made 15 cuts in 17 starts with 12 top-10 finishes and 2 wins (Dow Championship, CME Group Tour Championship)
  - Started her season in April at The Chevron Championship due to a thumb injury
  - Represented Thailand at the 2024 Paris Olympics (T18)
  - Recorded seven consecutive top-10 finishes in her last seven official starts on the LPGA Tour (from FM Championship to CME Group Tour Championship)
  - Won the 2024 Aon Risk Reward Challenge
  - Earned the largest prize in women's golf (\$4 million) after winning the season-ending CME Group Tour Championship
- Career: 4 wins
  - Received two LPGA Awards (2023 Vare Trophy, 2022 Louise Suggs Rolex Rookie of the Year)
  - Was on Team Thailand in the 2023 International Crown
  - Has five LET victories including the Ladies European Thailand Championship as a 14-yearold amateur
- World No. 4 Ruoning Yin
  - Second appearance at Honda LPGA Thailand (2024, T58)
  - This is Yin's first start of the 2025 LPGA Tour season.
  - In 2024: made 18 cuts in 20 starts with 7 top-10 finishes and 3 wins (Dow Championship, Buick LPGA Shanghai, Maybank Championship)
    - Was her second consecutive season with multiple victories
    - Was one of four players with 3 or more victories in 2024
    - Represented the People's Republic of China in the 2024 Paris Olympics (T10)
  - o Career: 5 wins, 1 major
    - Member of the LPGA Tour since 2022
    - Is the second player from the People's Republic of China to win on the LPGA Tour (Shanshan Feng)
    - Has three victories on the CLPGA Tour
- World No. 5 Lilia Vu
  - Third appearance at Honda LPGA Thailand (2024, T7; 2023, 1st)
    - Became a Rolex First-Time Winner at the 2023 Honda LPGA Thailand
  - This is Vu's first start of the 2025 LPGA Tour season
  - In 2024: made 16 cuts in 18 starts with 4 top-10 finishes and a win at Meijer LPGA Classic for Simply Give

- Recorded two T2 finishes at major championships (KPMG Women's PGA Championship, AIG Women's Open)
- Was a member of the U.S. Solheim Cup Team
- Represented the United States in the 2024 Paris Olympics (T36)
- Took a break due to a lingering back injury from April to June and won her first event back to competition
- o Career: 5 wins, 2 majors
  - Has two LPGA Awards (2023 Rolex Player of the Year, 2023 Rolex ANNIKA Major Award)
  - Was a member of the 2023 and 2024 U.S. Solheim Cup Teams
  - Was on Team United States at the 2023 International Crown
  - Tied for the winningest player of the 2023 season with Celine Boutier after both players recorded four victories
  - Has three Epson Tour victories
- World No. 25 Patty Tavatanakit
  - Fifth appearance at Honda LPGA Thailand (2024, 1st; 2023, 72nd; 2022, T19; 2021, T3)
  - o This is her second time defending an LPGA Tour title
    - She finished T4 in her first title defense at the 2022 Chevron Championship
  - In 2025: made one cut in one start at the Hilton Grand Vacations Tournament of Champions (T20)
  - o In 2024: made 15 cuts in 18 starts with 4 top-10 finishes and a win at Honda LPGA Thailand
    - Won in back-to-back weeks on the LET and LPGA Tour at Aramco Saudi Ladies International and the Honda LPGA Thailand
    - Represented Thailand in the Paris Olympics (T29)
    - Won the second inaugural Grant Thornton Invitational with partner Jake Knapp in December
  - o Career: 2 wins, 1 major
    - Represented Thailand twice in the Olympics (2024 Paris, T29; 2022 Tokyo, T23)
    - Was on Team Thailand at the 2023 International Crown
    - Received the 2021 Louise Suggs Rolex Rookie of the Year and 2021 Rolex ANNIKA Major
    - One of seven Thai players to win on the LPGA Tour
    - Has three victories on the Epson Tour

### **NOTABLE TOURNAMENT INFO**

- Siam Country Cub has hosted the Honda LPGA Thailand 16 of the last 17 editions
  - o 2007, 2010, 2013, 2015-present: Siam Country Club (Old Course)
  - o 2009, 2011, 2012, 2014: Siam Country Club (Plantation Course)
  - o 2006: Amata Spring Country Club
- Twelve sponsor invites are in the field including amateurs Pimpisa Rubrong and Gianna Clemente, Thai players Wichanee Meechai, Trichat Cheenglab and Jaravee Boonchant, Japanese players Akie Iwai, Chisato Iwai and Rio Takeda, and additional professionals Georgia Hall, Anna Nordqvist and Annabel Dimmock
  - 18-year-old Rubrong won the 2025 Honda LPGA Thailand National Qualifier to earn a spot in the field

- 16-year-old Clemente was named the 2024 Rolex Junior Player of the Year and won the AJGA division at the 2024 Mizuho Americas Open
- o 2025 LPGA Tour rookies, the Iwai twins are making their third starts at the event
- 2025 rookie and 2024 TOTO Japan Classic winner Takeda is making her third start of the season and first start in the event
- Europeans Hall, Nordqvist and Dimmock have a combined 11 LPGA Tour victories and 9 LET victories across their careers
- Brittany Altomare is making her first start since becoming an LPGA Mom
  - Her last event was the 2023 Ascendant LPGA
  - She gave birth to her son, Wyatt Giblin in March 2024
  - Altomare has been on Tour since 2014, competing in two Solheim Cups (2019, 2021)
  - Her career-best finishes are at the 2018 Buick LPGA Shanghai (T2), 2019 Meijer LPGA Classic
    (T2) and 2019 Volunteers of America Classic (T2) and The Amundi Evian Championship (2nd)
- Honda LPGA Thailand is the first LPGA Tour event that amateurs are in the field and can earn LEAP points
  - The LPGA Elite Amateur Pathway (LEAP) is a program providing top amateur female golfers a new path to LPGA Tour Membership starting in 2025
  - o Pimpisa Rubrong and Gianna Clemente are the two amateurs in the field
  - o For this week, the amateurs can earn 2 points for top-10 and ties or 1 point for top-40 and ties
  - o For more information on LEAP, view here

# KPMG PERFORMANCE INSIGHT OF THE WEEK

 Over the last three years, top-five finishers at this event have gained a higher percentage of their strokes gained with shots off the tee and around the green than the LPGA average. In turn, less has come from approach shots and putting:

Percentage of Strokes Gained Total		
Top-5 Finishers – Siam Country Club Last 3 Years		
	Siam CC	LPGA Average
Off the Tee	20.9%	14.6%
Approach	31.6%	37.9%
Around the Green	12.9%	7.7%
Putting	34.6%	39.8%

KPMG Performance Insights for the 2025 Honda LPGA Thailand

#### **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.

- Two players are currently tied for first with 500 points: A Lim Kim and Yealimi Noh
  - Kim won the 2025 Hilton Grand Vacations Tournament of Champions
  - o Noh won the 2025 Founders Cup presented by U.S. Virgin Islands
- Kim and Noh sit 17.5 points ahead of Jin Young Ko, who has 482.5 points
  - Ko recorded back-to-back top-5 finishes in first two starts of 2025

### Aon Risk Reward Challenge: No. 15 at Siam Country Club (Old Course)

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.

- Ariya Jutanugarn and Xiaowen Yin (-1.500) leads the Tour following the first two events of 2025
- No. 15 places greater value on extra length off the tee than any other hole on the course with the hole being as short as 265 yards
  - Players must decide whether to lay up short of the water with a tree in the middle of the fairway or try and drive the green surrounded by water and bunkers
- More information on No. 15 from this week's fact sheet is available 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