



2025 Hanwha LIFEPLUS International Crown

PRE-TOURNAMENT INTELLIGENCE PACK

KPMG Insight of the Week

*While they are the number 2 seed this week, Team Japan is number one in terms of strokes gained, averaging +1.47 per round as a team on the LPGA Tour this season. The top seeded USA team, conversely, ranks just 6th, averaging +0.47 strokes gained per round this season:

Strokes Gained Total Per Round – 2025 Season Teams in Field

	SG Total
Japan	+1.47
Republic of Korea	+1.43
World Team	+1.20
Australia	+1.01
Thailand	+0.81
United States	+0.47
People's Republic of China	+0.39
Sweden	+0.13

^{*}Japan and the Korea are the only two teams where all 4 players are averaging over a full stroke gained per round this season:

All 4 Players Averaging 1+ SG per Round Teams in Field

Japan		Republic of Korea	
Miyu Yamashita	+1.93	Hye-Jin Choi	+1.70
Rio Takeda	+1.57	Hyo Joo Kim	+1.68
Mao Saigo	+1.23	Jin Young Ko	+1.17
Ayaka Furue	+1.02	Haeran Ryu	+1.15





No. 1 United States

*The United States team has a mixed bag of strengths, with Lauren Coughlin and Yealimi Noh excelling from tee to green, while Angel Yin and Lilia Vu both rank inside the top 10 in strokes gained putting:

United States Strokes Gained Ranks LPGA Tour – This Season

Lee to Green	Putting
T-95th	6th
157th	T-7th
T-19th	T-116th
T-8th	101st
	T-95th 157th T-19th

Yealimi Noh SG Total

LPGA Tour – Last 3 Seasons

	SG Total	Rank
2023	-0.53	120th
2024	+0.85	31st
2025	+1.17	24th

Lilia Vu

Driving Distance – Last 3 LPGA Seasons

Avg Distance	LPGA Rank
258.9	62nd
255.0	107th
242.5	150th
	258.9 255.0

^{*2} years ago when the International Crown was last held, Yealimi Noh ranked well outside the top 100 on the LPGA Tour in strokes gained total, losing more than a half a stroke per round to the field. This season, she ranks inside the top 25 and will be a crucial piece of the top ranked United States team:

^{*}Lilia Vu was well above tour average in driving distance two seasons ago. This year, she's dropped all the way to 150th, her average distance dipping more than 15 yards in that span.





No. 2 Japan

*Team Japan has 27 top 10 finishes combined on the LPGA Tour this season, the most of any team in the field:

Most Combined Top 10s Teams in Field

Top 10s
27
22
20
17

Lowest Bogey Avoidance Rate Teams in Field

Japan	12.6%
Republic of Korea	12.8%
World Team	14.4%
United States	14.8%
Australia	14.9%

Most Strokes Gained Putting Per Round LPGA Tour This Season

1.29
1.23
1.10
1.08
1.06
0.96

^{*}The Japanese team has the lowest bogey avoidance rate of any team this week, showing a steadiness that can frustrate opponents in match play:

^{*}Miyu Yamashita leads the LPGA Tour in strokes gained putting this season, picking up 1.29 strokes per round on the greens in 2025.





*All 5 major winners from 2025 are in the field this week, including 2 on the Japanese team (Saigo, Yamashita), one of two teams with multiple major winners from this season (Australia):

2025 Major Winners in Field This Week

	Team	Major Won
Mao Saigo	Japan	Chevron Championship
Miyu Yamashita	Japan	AIG Women's Open
Minjee Lee	Australia	KPMG Women's PGA Championship
Grace Kim	Australia	Amundi Evian Championship
Maja Stark	Sweden	U.S. Women's Open

No. 3 Republic of Korea

*All four players from the Republic of Korea rank inside the top 25 in strokes gained tee to green this season, a major advantage for the home team this week:

Strokes Gained Tee to Green Republic of Korea Team

	SG Tee to Green	Rank
Haeran Ryu	+1.92	1st
Hyo Joo Kim	+1.21	11th
Jin Young Ko	+1.05	16th
Hye-Jin Choi	+0.87	24th
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^{*}Only team with all 4 players in top 25

Highest Strokes Gained Approach Average Teams in Field

	SG Approach
Republic of Korea	+0.77
Japan	+0.69
Thailand	+0.48
World Team	+0.24
Australia	+0.18

^{*}They have also been the best team in terms of approach play, averaging over three-quarters of a stroke gained per round in that area:





*No team in the field this week has a higher birdie or better percentage than the Republic of Korea, a crucial skill in match play:

Highest Birdie or Better Percentage Teams in Field

Republic of Korea	22.3%
Japan	21.6%
Australia	21.5%
World Team	21.4%
Thailand	20.9%

No. 4 Australia

*World number 3 Minjee Lee headlines team Australia and enters this week in incredible form. She finished T-10 at the BMW Ladies Championship, her 12th consecutive top 25 finish on the LPGA Tour:

Minjee Lee Performance LPGA Tour – Last 12 Starts

Top 3 Finishes	4
Top 25 Finishes	12
Score to Par	-108
Birdie or Better Pct.	26.2%
SG Total	+2.47

No. 5 Thailand

*Jeeno Thitikul is the only returning player from the winning 2023 Thailand team at the International Crown, going a perfect 5-0-0 that week in helping her team to victory:

Jeeno Thitikul Record 2023 International Crown

Result

Round 1 Four-ball Thitikul/Tavatanakit 1 UP def. Furue/Saso Round 2 Four-ball Thitikul/Tavatanakit 3&2 def. Ko/Kim

Round 3 Four-ball

Semifinals

Thitikul/Tavatanakit 1 UP def. Lee/Kyriacou

Jeeno Thitikul 3&2 def. Lexi Thompson

Jeeno Thitikul 4&2 def. Stephanie Kyriacou





*Number one for a reason: Jeeno leads the LPGA Tour this season in scoring average, strokes gained total, birdie or better rate, bogey avoidance and more:

Jeeno Thitikul LPGA Tour Ranks This Season

Birdie or better Pct 1st
Bogey avoidance 1st
Par 3 scoring 1st
Par 4 scoring 1st
Strokes gained total 1st
Top 10 finishes 1st
AON Risk Reward Challenge 1st

No. 6 Sweden

*Among players competing this week, Linn Grant is tied with Haeran Ryu for the highest average strokes gained off the tee per round:

Strokes Gained Off the Tee Leaders Players Competing This Week

SG Off the Tee
Linn Grant +0.78
Haeran Ryu +0.78
Minjee Lee +0.64
Charley Hull +0.61
Brooke Henderson +0.59

No. 7 World Team

*The 7th seeded World Team has averaged more than half a stroke per round with their short games this season, the most of any team in the field this week:

Highest Strokes Gained Short Game Average Teams in Field

World Team	+0.59
Australia	+0.42
United States	+0.42
Japan	+0.41
Thailand	+0.25





*The World Team has combined for 41 victories in their LPGA Tour careers (including victories as a non-member), 16 more than any other team this week:

Most Combined Career LPGA Tour Victories Teams in Field

	LPGA Tour Victories
World Team	41
Republic of Korea	25

Republic of Korea 25
Australia 19
Thailand 13
United States 10
*Includes non-member wins

No. 8 People's Republic of China

*The People's Republic of China team has averaged +0.40 strokes gained off the tee per round this season, the most of any of the 8 teams this week:

Highest SG Off the Tee Average Teams in Field

People's Republic of China	+0.40
Republic of Korea	+0.34
Australia	+0.26
Sweden	+0.23
World Team	+0.22

People's Republic of China Team Strokes Gained – This Season

Strokes Gained

Ball Striking +0.42 Short Game -0.23*

*Lowest of any team

^{*}They have been solid as a group with their ball striking, but will need to be better with their short game if they hope to pull off the upset as the 8 seed this week: