



Walmart
NW ARKANSAS
CHAMPIONSHIP
 PRESENTED BY **P&G**

Walmart NW Arkansas Championship presented by P&G
 Pinnacle Country Club | Rogers, Arkansas | Sept. 19-21, 2025

Wednesday Pre-Tournament Notes

September 17, 2025

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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](#)

SOCIAL MEDIA

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

Tournament: @NWACHampionship (X, Instagram)

MEDIA AVAILABILITY SCHEDULE

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

Thursday, September 18

11:30 a.m. – Alison Lee, making her second start since her maternity leave

12:00 p.m. – Arkansas Razorback alumna Brooke Matthews

Approx. 12:15 p.m. – 2023 champion Haeran Ryu

2:00 p.m. – Arkansas Razorback alumna and two-time event winner Stacy Lewis

NOTABLE PLAYERS

- **Rolex Rankings No. 2 Nelly Korda**
 - Korda is making her fifth start at the Walmart NW Arkansas Championship presented by P&G and her first since the 2022 season
 - 2022 – MC, 2020 – T3, 2018 – T37, 2017 – MC
 - 2025: 16 cuts made in 16 starts with seven top-10 finishes
 - Finished T5 in her last outing
 - Her best finish of the season is runner-up at the U.S. Women's Open presented by Ally and the Hilton Grand Vacations Tournament of Champions
 - Has not missed a cut this season

- Career: 15 wins, two major championship victories, 73 top 10s, \$15.4 million in official career earnings
 - In 2024, earned seven wins, including five in consecutive starts
 - Became the first player since 2011 to win seven times in a single season
 - Became the third player in LPGA Tour history to have a season with six or more wins, a team victory in the Solheim Cup and earn Player of the Year honors, alongside Beth Daniel (1990) and Annika Sorenstam (2003)
 - 2024 Rolex Player of the Year and Rolex ANNIKA Major Award winner
 - Two-time major champion (2024 The Chevron Championship, 2021 KPMG Women's PGA Championship)
 - Two-time Olympian for the United States, 2020 Gold Medal winner in Tokyo
 - Four-time U.S Solheim Cup Team Member
 - Member of the U.S. Team at the 2023 and 2025 Hanwha LIFEPLUS International Crown
- Rolex Rankings No. 6 Miyu Yamashita
 - Making her first career start at this event
 - 2025: 16 cuts made in 18 starts with one win and nine top 10s in her rookie season
 - Won the AIG Women's Open to claim her first career victory
 - Became the first player since 2022 to make the AIG Women's Open their first career win
 - The 12th player to make the AIG Women's Open their first major championship victory
 - Became the sixth Japanese player to win a major championship
 - Currently leads the standings for the Louise Suggs Rolex Rookie of the Year award
 - Third in the Race to the CME Globe
 - Will represent Japan at the 2025 Hanwha LIFEPLUS International Crown in South Korea
 - Career: Earned medalist honors at the Final Qualifying portion of LPGA Q-Series to earn LPGA Membership for the 2025 season
 - Made 12 starts on the LPGA Tour before earning Membership
 - Finished T4 at the 2024 Paris Olympics
 - Competed on the JLPGA and won 13 times including three major championships
 - Earned JLPGA Player of the Year honors in 2022 and 2023
 - Leading money winner on the JLPGA in 2022 and 2023
- Rolex Rankings No. 12 Haeran Ryu
 - Making her third start at the Walmart NW Arkansas Championship presented by P&G
 - 2024 – MC, 2023 – Won
 - 2025: 15 cuts made in 19 starts with one win and three top-10 finishes
 - Won the inaugural Black Desert Championship presented by Greater Zion earlier this season
 - Has gone three-straight seasons with at least one win
 - Missed the cut her last time out, her first missed cut since The Amundi Evian Championship

- Will represent South Korea at the Hanwha LIFEPLUS International Crown later this season in her home country
- Ryu has been one of the most precise iron players from 150-200 yards out this season according to KPMG Performance Insights

Average Proximity to the Hole - 2025		
Distances	Distance to Hole	Rank
150-175 yards	25'9"	1st
175-200 yards	34'5"	3rd

- Career: Three wins, 22 top 10s, \$5.5 million in official career earnings
 - Won the 2025 Black Desert Championship presented by Greater Zion, the 2024 FM Championship and the 2023 Walmart NW Arkansas Championship presented by P&G
 - Recorded the most top-10 finishes on Tour in 2023 (13 top-10s)
 - Named the Louise Suggs Rolex Rookie of the Year in 2023
- **Rolex Rankings No. 41 Nasa Hataoka**
 - Eighth start at the Walmart NW Arkansas Championship presented by P&G
 - Won this event in 2021 and 2018 and finished T7 last season
 - Missed the cut once in 2017
 - 2025: 15 cuts made in 17 starts with four top 10s
 - Had her best finish of the season at the Kroger Queen City Championship presented by P&G last week
 - Coming off back-to-back top 10 finishes this season after finishing T7 at the FM Championship the week before
 - Has not missed a cut since the U.S. Women's Open presented by Ally
 - Career: Six career wins, 51 top 10s with \$10.2 million in official career earnings
 - Her last win was at the 2022 FIR HILLS SERI PAK Championship
 - Has represented Japan at the 2018 and 2023 Hanwha LIFEPLUS International Crown
 - Competed in the 2020 Tokyo Olympics (T9)
 - Has six victories on the JLPGA

NOTABLE TOURNAMENT INFO

- This is the 19th playing of the Walmart NW Arkansas Championship presented by P&G all held at Pinnacle Country Club
- The second LPGA Tour event to become [GEO Certified for its sustainability efforts and results](#)
- Former winner of the Walmart NW Arkansas Championship and Razorback alumna [Stacy Lewis announced her retirement today](#)
 - Lewis won this event in 2014 and has seven top-10 finishes at Pinnacle Country Club
 - Lewis joined the LPGA Tour in 2009 and has captured 12 wins including two major championships
 - She has represented the United States in multiple instances including the 2016 Rio Olympics (T4) and at the 2014 and 2016 Hanwha LIFEPLUS International Crown

- She is a four-time member of the U.S. Solheim Cup team (2011, 2013, 2015, 2017) winning the cup in both 2015 and 2017 as a player
- She was named captain for the U.S. in the 2023 and 2024 playings of the Solheim Cup
 - Captained the Americans to a victory at Robert Trent Jones Golf Club in 2024
- Defending champion [Jasmine Suwannapura](#) claimed her third career victory at this event last season
 - She defeated **Lucy Li** in a playoff on the second extra hole
 - Suwannapura shot a career-low 18-hole score of 61 in her final round, including a 28 on the back nine
 - She became the 32nd player since 1980 to shoot a raw score of 28 on nine holes
 - She became the third player from Thailand to win at least three times on the LPGA Tour
 - Suwannapura has never missed a cut at this event in six previous starts
- There are six Arkansas Razorbacks in the field this week; Lewis (class of 2008), **Maria Fassi** (class of 2019), **Gaby Lopez** (class of 2016), **Brooke Matthews** (class of 2021), **Kendall Todd** (class of 2025), **Maria Jose Marin** (a) (current junior)
 - Fassi and Marin are sponsor invites for the week
 - Marin is the 2025 NCAA Individual Champion
 - Todd Monday Qualified with a 6-under 66 at Blessings Golf Club

KPMG PERFORMANCE INSIGHTS OF THE WEEK

Over the last two editions of this championship, approach play has been, far and away, where contenders have built their advantage over the competition. During that time span, players to finish in the top-10 at the Walmart NW Arkansas Championship have gained 49.9% of their strokes with approach shots.

Top-10 Finishers Last 2 Years	
Percentage of Strokes Gained Total – Walmart NW Arkansas	
Off the Tee	5.5%
Approach	49.9%
Around Green	5.2%
Putting	39.4%

2025 HANWHA LIFEPLUS INTERNATIONAL CROWN UPDATE

- The 2025 Hanwha LIFEPLUS International Crown field will comprise teams from the United States, the Republic of Korea, Japan, Thailand, Sweden, Australia and the People's Republic of China
 - Countries were determined by the combined Rolex Women's World Golf Rankings of the top four players from each country as of the Rankings published after the KPMG Women's PGA Championship
- The final field of 32 players and the country seedings were determined via the Rolex Women's World Golf Rankings published after the conclusion of the 2025 AIG Women's Open
 - The United States secured the top seed with 42 points
- One World Team will be included for the first time this year and was determined at the Player deadline following the AIG Women's Open
 - **Brooke M. Henderson, Charley Hull, Wei-Lin Hsu** and **Lydia Ko** will make up the World Team
- See here for the full release: [United States, Japan Secure Top Seeds for 2025 Hanwha LIFEPLUS International Crown](#)

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.

- 1st: **Jeeno Thitikul** continues her lead of the Race to the CME Globe with 2,939.950 points
 - Won the Mizuho Americas Open
 - Ten additional top-10 finishes this season
 - Finished runner-up at The Amundi Evian Championship, FM Championship and Kroger Queen City Championship presented by P&G
- 2nd: **Minjee Lee** remains in second with 2,340.295 points
 - Won the 2025 KPMG Women's PGA Championship
 - Has six additional top-10 finishes this season, including a solo second at the CPKC Women's Open
- 3rd: **Miyu Yamashita** took over third place with her third place finish at the Kroger Queen City Championship
 - Has 1,843.528 points
 - Won the AIG Women's Open
 - Has eight additional top-10 finishes
- Additional moves following the Kroger Queen City Championship presented by P&G
 - **Charley Hull** moved into the No. 9 spot after her win at TPC River's Bend last week
 - Fellow countrywoman **Lottie Woad** moved up 10 places to No. 34 following a top-five finish
 - **Mary Liu** finished T5, propelling her to No. 74 heading into the final stretch of the season

Aon Risk Reward Challenge: No. 14, par 5 at Pinnacle 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.

- **Perrine Delacour** and **Jeeno Thitikul** share first place in the Aon Risk Reward Challenge with a -0.900 score to par
- **Minjee Lee** is in third with -0.875 score to par
- No. 14: The 14th hole at Pinnacle CC is a dogleg left par 5 with sloping fairways and slight elevation changes, requiring precision from players throughout the hole, and plays drastically different depending on which tees are in play
 - Overall, the hole plays 0.34 strokes easier on average when playing from the forward tees. Depending on which tee is in play, players must decide which club to take for their tee shot. Traditionally, the back tees are in use for rounds one and two

- Players have decided to use driver from that tee 85% of the time, with the hole playing more than one-third of a stroke easier in relation to par
- More information on No. 14 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.

- There have been 15 hole-in-ones so far in the 2025 season
 - There were no aces at the Kroger Queen City Championship presented by P&G
 - **Ariya Jutanugarn** recorded an ace in the final round of the FM Championship on the 16th hole at TPC Boston
 - Two aces were recorded at The Standard Portland Classic
 - **Haeran Ryu** aced the 16th hole during R3
 - **Caroline Masson** made a hole-in-one during R1 on hole 2
- The total for 2025 is now \$300,000 donated toward St. Jude Children's Research Hospital