



—ROYAL LYTHAM &—
ST ANNES 2026

2026 AIG Women's Open

Lytham St Annes, Lancashire, England | Royal Lytham & St Annes Golf Club | July 30-August 2, 2026

First-Round Notes

July 30, 2026

Media Contacts: [Olivia McMillan](#) (The R&A), [Carly Lyvers](#) (LPGA), [Nicola Kenton](#) (LET)

Course Setup: 35-36—71, 6,601 yards

Weather: [Thursday Forecast](#)

Race to CME Globe Points: 650 (winner)

Purse: \$10 million (\$1.5 million winner's purse)

TV/Streaming Times: [How to Watch the 2026 AIG Women's Open](#)

QUICK LINKS

[AIG Women's Open Virtual Media Hub](#)

[Interview Transcripts](#)

[LPGA Tour Online Media Center \(OMC\):](#)

[Tournament Website](#)

SOCIAL MEDIA

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

Tournament: @AIGWomensOpen (X, Instagram)

LEADERBOARD

	Player	To par	Score
1	Jeeno Thitikul	-7	64
T2	Shiho Kuwaki	-5	66
T2	Haeran Ryu	-5	66

COMPETITION HIGHLIGHTS

- Each of the last 14 players of the AIG Women's Open have been within five shots of the lead after the first round
- Leader: **Jeeno Thitikul** opened with a seven-under 64 in R1
 - Made the most birdies across the field on Thursday
 - This is her lowest career major round outside of The Amundi Evian Championship
 - Second time she is leading after the first round of a major championship including the 2025 KPMG Women's PGA Championship
 - Shot 31 on her front nine, her lowest opening nine hole score to begin a major championship
 - This is the lowest 18-hole score at the AIG Women's Open at Royal Lytham & St Annes Golf Club
 - This is the lowest raw score at the AIG Women's Open since Michelle Wie West shot a 64 (-8) in 2017
 - This is the lowest score relative to par at the AIG Women's Open since Ashleigh Buhai shot a 65 (-7) in 2019
- T2: **Shiho Kuwaki** and **Haeran Ryu** each shot a 66 in the first round
 - Kuwaki recorded her lowest round in a major championship on the LPGA Tour
 - Birdied the same three consecutive holes that Thitikul did on the front nine (Nos. 4-6)

- Is her second start at the AIG Women's Open, missing the cut with opening rounds of 69-81 in 2025
- Has played in every major championship in 2026 except The Chevron Championship
- Plays on the JLPGA Tour, earning five wins since turning professional in 2021
- Ryu had six birdies and one bogey on Thursday
 - Hit 15 of 18 greens in regulation today, moving her season-long percentage to 80.44%
 - No qualified player in LPGA Tour history has finished a season with 80% greens in regulation or more
 - In her last two major starts where she went onto win, she opened with a:
 - 66 (T3), The Amundi Evian Championship
 - 73 (T70), KPMG Women's PGA Championship
 - Chasing her third major championship this season and would be the fifth player in LPGA Tour history to do so since 1950
- Amateur **Paula Martin Sampedro** opened with a two-under 69 and sits in a tie for eighth place
 - Best finish by an amateur at the AIG Women's Open is Michelle Wie West finishing T3 in 2005
- Amateur **Kiara Romero** opened with a five-over 76
 - Needs to make the cut to earn her last point to be eligible for LPGA Membership through the LPGA Elite Amateur Pathway
 - Earned a spot in the AIG Women's Open field as the 2025 McCormack Medal recipient

A LOOK AT THE LEADER

CATEGORY	Jeeno Thitikul
2026 Race to CME Globe Rank	5
2026 LPGA Tour Wins	2
2026 LPGA Tour Top 10s	6
2026 Official Season Earnings	\$1.5M
Career LPGA Tour Wins	9
Career Official LPGA Tour Top 10s	61
Career Official Money	\$18.9M

ABOUT THE LEADER

Rolex Rankings No. 2 Jeeno Thitikul

- Ninth start at the AIG Women's Open
 - One top-10 finished recorded in last eight appearances; T7 in 2022
- 2026: Two wins, six top-10 finishes in 13 starts
 - Wins at the Honda LPGA Thailand and Mizuho Americas Open
 - Last two starts were top-10 finishes
 - Missed the cut in two events including the first major of the year, The Chevron Championship
- Career: Nine wins, 61 top 10s, \$18.9 million in official career earnings
 - 2025 Rolex Player of the Year
 - 2024 Aon Risk Reward Challenge winner
 - Two-time Vare Trophy recipient (2025, 2023)
 - 2022 Louise Suggs Rolex Rookie of the Year
 - Two-time Hanwha LIFEPLUS International Crown participant representing Thailand (2025, 2023)

- Represented Thailand at the 2024 Paris Olympics

CHAMPIONSHIP SCORING RECORDS (SINCE IT BECAME A MAJOR IN 2001):

18 holes – 62, Minea Blomqvist (R3, 2004); Mirim Lee, (R1, 2016)

36 holes – 132, Ashleigh Buhai (2019)

54 holes – 199, In-Kyung Kim (2017); Ashleigh Buhai (2022)

72 holes – 269, Karen Stupples (2004)

QUOTABLES

Jeeno Thitikul (-7, 1st) on how a major championship raises her game

“I think major is really tests our games, you know, like mentally-wise, physically-wise. You know, when you play good in a major, even like Top 5 or Top 10, you're just like, dang, this is my -- like, you know, you feel great and then you have more confidence to play just regular tournaments. And, yeah, it just beating the course when you're in a major.”

Lottie Woad (-2, T8) on her strategy for bunker avoidance

“Hit it straight really. I think you're going to go in one at some point. I'm sure I'll probably go in one tomorrow. I mean, the green sides aren't the worst; it's probably the fairways that you need to try and avoid. There was a few I laid back of today, but honestly there is a bunker in play kind of no matter what club you hit. It's more do you want to be in a bunker further back or do you want to be in a bunker nearer to the hole, and I went with that game plan.”

Paula Martin Sampedro (-2, T8) on her feelings as the low amateur today

“Yeah, I think it's great. Obviously I'm just happy to be here and playing against the pros, so obviously that's like the goal of the week, but also looking up at the leaderboard. I was here last year as my first AIG Women's Open and getting that Smyth silver medal was very special, so looking forward to fighting for to this year, but more so being in contention.”

ON LPGA.COM

[First Round Highlights](#)

[Haeran Ryu in Hot Pursuit of Third Straight Major Following Day One of AIG Women's Open](#)

[Eight Industry Professionals Earn Their Place at the 2027 KPMG Women's PGA Championship](#)

[Maja Stark First Round Walk and Talk](#)

[Megan Khang First Round Walk and Talk](#)

[Patty Tavatanakit First Round Walk and Talk](#)

[Ashleigh Buhai First Round Walk and Talk](#)

SOCIAL SNAPSHOT

[A masterclass from Haeran](#)

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