The ANNIKA driven by Gainbridge at Pelican

Pelican Golf Club|Belleair,FL | Nov. 12-15, 2026

First-Round Notes

November 12, 2026

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Course Setup: 35-35 – 70; 6,349 yards

Weather: Thursday Forecast

Race to CME Globe Points: 500 (winner)

Purse: $3.25 million ($487,500 – winner's purse)

TV/Streaming Times: How to Watch

QUICK LINKS

Interview Transcripts

LPGA Tour Online Media Center (OMC):

Tournament Website

SOCIAL MEDIA

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

Tournament: @theannikalpga

LEADERBOARD			
	Player	To par	Score
T1	Minami Katsu	-9	61
T1	Hye-Jin Choi	-9	61
3	Lindy Duncan	-8	62
4	Nelly Korda	-7	63

COMPETITION HIGHLIGHTS

- Leaders: **Hye-Jin Choi** and **Minami Katsu**
  - This is the second time this season that there were two rounds of 61 or better in one round. At the Ford Championship in March, **Lydia Ko** shot a 60 and **Hyo Joo Kim** shot a 61
  - Choi tied the lowest 18-hole tournament score first set by **Amy Yang** in R3 in 2023
    - Her 61 also sets her career-low 18-hole score on the LPGA Tour
      - It is her lowest since the final round of the 2024 Buick LPGA Shanghai, 62
      - It is her fourth round of 66 or lower in the past month
    - She went bogey-free with nine birdies; she was one of 11 players to go bogey-free in R1
  - Katsu also tied the 18-hole tournament scoring record
    - Her 61 ties her lowest career 18-hole score first set during R2 of the 2025 Buick LPGA Shanghai

    - Did not miss a fairway in her first round
- 3rd: **Lindy Duncan**
    - Duncan recorded her second career ace in the first round
        - She hit her 6-iron 163 yards on the par-3 3rd
        - It is her first hole-in-one since the 2019 season
    - Her 62 ties her lowest raw score on the LPGA Tour and is her lowest score since the 2022 CPKC Women's Open
    - Leads the field in putts needed for the first round with 22
- 4th: **Nelly Korda**
    - Korda has shot 66 or better in her opening round of this event in now four of her seven playings
        - In her previous three, she has gone on to win the event
    - She went bogey-free with seven birdies
        - It is her seventh bogey-free round of the season
    - Korda is making her first start on Tour since the FM Championship in August
- **Allisen Corpuz** recorded her second career ace in the first round
    - Hit her 6-iron 163 yards on the No. 3 par 3
    - Her first hole-in-one of 2026 and first since the 2022 season

A LOOK AT THE LEADERS

CATEGORY	Hye-Jin Choi	Minami Katsu
2026 Race to CME Globe Rank	7	28
2026 LPGA Tour Wins	0	0
2026 LPGA Tour Top 10s	7	4
2026 Official Season Earnings	$1.6 M	$1.1 M
Career LPGA Tour Wins	0	0
Career LPGA Tour Top 10s	36	14
Career Official Money	$7.8 M	$3.7 M

ABOUT THE LEADERS

Rolex Rankings No. 17 Hye-Jin Choi

- Fourth appearance at The ANNIKA driven by Gainbridge at Pelican
    - 2025 – T29, 2024 – T29, 2023 – T51
- 2026: 20 cuts made in 25 starts, seven top-10 finishes, $1.6M in season official earnings
    - Has three consecutive top-10 finishes in her last three starts at Buick LPGA Shanghai, BMW Ladies Championship, and Maybank Championship
    - Choi was the runner-up in at both Buick LPGA Shanghai and BMW Ladies Championship
    - Finished runner-up at the Dow Championship with partner Hyo Joo Kim
- Career: 36 top 10s and $7.8M in official career earnings
    - Represented the Republic of Korea in the Hanwha LIFEPLUS International Crown (2023 and 2025)
    - 12th-time winner on the KLPGA
    - Finished second in the 2022 Louise Suggs Rolex Rookie of the Year standings behind Jeeno Thitikul

Rolex Rankings No. 35 Minami Katsu

- Fourth start at The ANNIKA driven by Gainbridge at Pelican
  - 2025 – T62, 2024 – T14, 2023 – T7
- 2026: 18 cuts made in 26 starts, four top 10 finishes, and $1.1 in season official earnings
  - Her best finish was third at the Ford Championship presented by Wild Horse Pass
  - Currently ranks first in putts per round average with 28.44
- Career: 14 top 10 finishes, $3.7 in official career earnings
  - Eight-time winner on the JLPGA Tour
  - Two major victories on the JLPGA Tour, winning the 2021 and 2022 Japan Women's Open Golf Championship

TOURNAMENT SCORING RECORDS:
18 holes – **61, Minami Katsu and Hye-Jin Choi (R1, 2026)** and Amy Yang (R3, 2023)
36 holes – 128, Emily Kristine Pedersen (2023)
54 holes – 192, Emily Kristine Pedersen (2023)
72 holes – 261, Linn Grant (2025) and Lilia Vu (2023)

QUOTABLES
Minami Katsu (T1, -9) on the importance of hitting the fairway to succeed
"On this course, it's important to hit the fairway. I focused on doing what I needed to do and making sure to get the ball on the fairway first."

Hye-Jin Choi (T1, -9) on how to keep the score low on this course
"As I told before, I think it's really important to keep the green. For me every time I come to Florida I feel like I kind of struggle with the grass, but because of the green it's kind of make my shot a little difficult, too. So it's just really important to decide how you're going to hit the ball."

Lindy Duncan (3, -8) on her ace to start her round
"Yeah, the start was incredible. I've never been 4-under through three, that's for sure. And a birdie on the second hole is always pretty nice because that's a tough hole. So, I mean, to make that hole-in-one, it was just wild. I have so many family and friends out watching and they were going crazy. We had to actually try to get them to calm down a little because the holes are pretty close together out here. They were just cheering me on all day. The whole day felt pretty amazing."

Nelly Korda (4, -7) on her first round of action since she took her eight week break
"It feels great. Definitely when you're playing out and practicing there is not as much I would say pressure, but it was nice to kind of feel those juices flowing again, especially playing with Hye-Jin who just had a great round today. And then Auston played really well, too. I feel like all of us were flowing with our round really well. Yeah, it feels nice. There are times where you can't do anything about it but you get a little burnt out mentally and it's nice to take a break. After like week three I was already ready to get back out here. Feel really good to be back. But it's really important to take that break as well."

Julia Lopez-Ramirez (T5, -6) on playing this week knowing her position in the Race to the CME Globe

“Yeah, no, I think it's very important to not try to go too far ahead because obviously next week is ooh big week for everyone and everyone wants to go there. So everyone is going to be fighting for getting there, and I think the most important for me is try to get one round at a time and try to get my job done every day. If do I that, then I can see myself playing next week and that's all my goal is this week. Try to take it one step at time, don't get too ahead, and let the golf take care of itself.”