**CME Group Tour Championship**

Tiburon Golf Club| Naples, Fla.| November 19-22, 2026

## Wednesday Pre-Tournament Notes

November 18, 2026

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**QUICK LINKS**

Interview Transcripts
LPGA Tour Online Media Center (OMC)
Tournament Website

**SOCIAL MEDIA**

LPGA Tour: @LPGA, @LPGAMedia (X), @lpga_tour (Instagram, TikTok)
Tournament: @CMEgrouptourchamp (Instagram, Facebook), @CMEGroupLPGA (X)

**PRE-TOURNAMENT AVAILABILITY HIGHLIGHTS**

**LPGA Commissioner Craig Kessler**

Video | Transcript

*Kessler on where he see the LPGA in ecosystem of golf*

"By the way, thanks for being here. I think this might be your first CME Tour Championship, and it's a real honor to have you here, so thank you. I think the LPGA has a very real voice, and I'm proud to be a part of it. I'll give you a few examples. I had the privilege along with a few of you in this room to be at the World Golf Hall of Fame voting process a couple of weeks ago at Baltusrol, and the LPGA got as much airtime as any of the other organizations that were out there. That matters. When we show up in sponsor conversations we're getting real looks, and when you see the list of partners that I anticipate we will announce over the next three to six months, these are, again, blue chip names that have taken not just golf, but sports, other sports leagues to the next level. And one of the things I've learned in this job is that our sponsors are very sophisticated. They only make investments when they know they're going to get a return on those investments, and the fact that they're showing up to invest behind the LPGA gives me an enormous amount of confidence that we have a very real seat at the table."

**Rolex Rankings No. 1 Nelly Korda**

Video | Transcript

*Korda on winning the U.S. Women's Open presented by Ally to clinch the Rolex Annika Major Award*

"Yeah, it was definitely a dream come true. I mean, kind of that's what we prep for, is to kind of peak at the majors, so to be able to get the first two of the year was amazing. Obviously, all the hard work that I put in, not just on the golf course, but in the gym, mentally, everything I've gone through over my X amount of years competing in majors really helps. Really proud of myself and my team, how we all handled kind of the pressure of, you know, people asking when will it happen. So it was definitely a dream come true because that dream started when I was 14 years old, and to finally get that win there at the U.S. Women's Open, and honestly at such an iconic venue like Riviera was so, so special. To look back at this year you do see a lot of highs, but you see some lows: missing the cut at the major, at Evian; not really having that course really figured out throughout my career. I've kind of maybe struggled out there a little bit more than I would've liked to, especially off last year. Still have a lot to figure out. That's what's great about golf, right?"

**Rolex Rankings No. 2 Jeeno Thitikul**

Video | Transcript

*Thitikul on what aspects of the course has allowed her to be so dominant here*

"I think every time I play this course it's just because it's always in a great shape. I mean, the yardages-wise not that long. I mean, it's just, you know, we had a lot of par-5 that reachable, and then we also have -- I would say this course wasn't that hard, hard to not be able to be aggressive on it. I think it's a course that you just need to go aggressive on it because like you don't have anything to lose. I think everyone who came here, we just came here for bonus. It's the last event of the year. I feel like going to the pin is just only answer to be able to hoist the trophy."

**Rolex Rankings No. 3 Haeran Ryu**

Video | Transcript

*Ryu on winning her two major championships this season*

"Yeah, a lot of great memory at this season. I'm just grateful every moments. But my highlights on my memory is the KPMG Women's Open, the last round, the last champion putts after that, and then all the Korean players and a lot of another country players waiting for me and the champagne ceremony for me. A lot of champagne for me. So that's a great memory, and then just don't forget for my life, yeah."

**Rolex Rankings No. 4 Miyu Yamashita**

Video | Transcript

*Yamashita on what has been the key to her success and consistency this year on the LPGA Tour*

"I would think the course conditions are great, and also I think my swings were pretty good and performance was good. And being able to win gave me additional confidence and continue to win."

**Rolex Rankings No. 38 Lindy Duncan**

Video | Transcript

*Duncan on what memories have set in after her first career win last Sunday*

Yeah, a lot of positive memories, a lot of good vibes. Played nine holes this morning with Greg and we were talking about some of the shots that we had going into the back nine, kind of what we were thinking. It was really cool to kind of relive some of those moments. Yeah, we just talked about what a cool back nine it was. We were 2-down at one point but we were both -- we didn't even talk about it, but we were on the same page

and thinking, there is just a lot of golf left, and so we just kind of waited for the opportunity and then just kind of took it."

**Rolex Rankings No. 54 Alison Lee**

Video | Transcript

*Lee on her excitement to be back at the CME Group Tour Championship*

"Yeah, excited about this week. I haven't been here the last two years. The last time I was here I got second place, so I have some good memories here. The course does look a little bit different. It's playing a lot more challenging than it did three years ago. A lot -- quite a few tees are further back and it's soft out there from the rain this week. It's playing pretty tough. So I think historically the scores here are always pretty low, so I don't think it'll get as low as it did in the past, but, yeah, like I said, I have high hopes for myself this week. At the end of the day I just want to win. I'm going to play pretty aggressive and do everything I can to make as many birdies when I can, and hopefully it all comes together at the end of the week."

**Rolex Rankings No. 76 Erika Hara**

Video | Transcript

*Hara on the difference between competing on the JLPGA and the LPGA Tour*

"I didn't really feel the difference between JLPGA and LPGA, but of course I had to travel much longer distance and takes time to get here. That will be the major difference. But there are many players from various countries here, but at the same time you have a very warm hospitality, so I feel really all home here to play in this tournament."

**Rolex Rankings No. 186 Yana Wilson**

Video | Transcript

*Wilson on experiencing the CME Group Tour Championship fan fare*

"It's been very cool. Honestly, I've been watching this tournament kind of growing up. I've seen people really, you know, win tournaments on the back nine and really kind of lose a tournament on the back nine, so it was kind of cool to just see it for myself. Also the green carpet I've also kind of watched through like the LPGA socials in the past couple years because I wasn't on Tour, but to walk that green carpet has been a dream for me. Yeah, hopefully I can do well this week and kind of learn from what I watched on TV."

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