

**2026 Fortinet Founders Cup**

Sharon Heights Golf & Country Club | Menlo Park, Calif. | March 19-22, 2026

First-Round Notes

March 19, 2026

Media Contact: [Christina Lance](#), +1 (908) 963-1691; [Carly Lyvers](#), +1 (386) 214-9105; [Annika Mayers](#), +1 (386) 212-2128**Course Setup:** 36-36 – 72, 6,542**Scoring Average:** R1: 72.564**Weather:** Sunshine throughout the day with morning temperatures in the 50s warming into the mid to upper 80s by the afternoon. Light winds throughout the day.**Race to CME Globe Points:** 500 (winner)**Purse:** \$3 million; winner's prize is \$450,000**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: @Founders.Cup (Instagram), @Founders_Cup_

LEADERBOARD

	Player	To par	Score
1	Hyo Joo Kim	-9	63
2	Dongeun Lee	-7	65
T3	Gemma Dryburgh	-6	66
T3	Polly Mack	-6	66
T3	Jin Hee Im	-6	66

COMPETITION HIGHLIGHTS

- **Hyo Joo Kim** opened with a nine-under 63 in R1
 - Hit 10/14 fairways, 13/18 greens in regulations with 22 putts
 - Least number of putts across the field
 - This is the second time this season she has had 22 or fewer putts in a round
 - Also had 22 putts in round 2 at the Honda LPGA Thailand
 - First round on U.S. soil since the 2023 Ascendant LPGA where she had 22 putts or less
 - Her last two holes were birdie, eagle
 - This is the first time in her LPGA Tour career (over 750 career rounds) she has finished a round birdie, eagle or eagle, birdie

- Is the defending champion at next week's Ford Championship presented by Wild Horse Pass
- Rookie **Dongeun Lee** opened with a seven-under 65, recording her lowest round on the LPGA Tour in her second start of the 2026 season
 - Finished T7 at the 2025 LPGA Q-Series, Final Qualifying to earn LPGA Tour Status for the 2026 season
 - Had one LPGA start before becoming a member at the 2025 AIG Women's Open where she missed the cut
- There are four Stanford players **Aline Krauter**, **Andrea Lee**, **Albane Valenzuela** and **Rose Zhang** in the field. Each player shot under-par on Thursday.
 - Zhang opened with one-under par 71
 - Watch her [post-round interview](#)
 - Watch her [last day of classes at Stanford University](#) from last Thursday
 - Submitting her final assignment tonight; will officially be done with her academics at Stanford upon submission
 - Will walk at graduation in June
- Sponsor invite **Victoria Cui** (a) shot a one-under 71; her caddy is Haibin Zhang, Rose Zhang's dad
- Defending champion **Yealimi Noh** opened with seven-over 79
 - Listen to her [on-course interview from round 1](#)

A LOOK AT THE LEADER

CATEGORY	Hyo Joo Kim
2026 Race to CME Globe Rank	10
2026 LPGA Tour Wins	0
2026 LPGA Tour Top 10s	1
2026 Official Season Earnings	\$152.1K
Career LPGA Tour Wins	7
Career Official LPGA Tour Top 10s	64
Career Official Money	\$11.5M

ABOUT THE LEADER

[Rolex Rankings No. 7 Hyo Joo Kim](#)

- Eighth appearance at the Fortinet Founders Cup; 2015 champion
- Third start of the 2026 season; one top-10 finish at the Honda LPGA Thailand
- First joined LPGA Tour in 2015
- Seven-time LPGA Tour winner including one major championship as a non-Member
- Two-time Olympian representing the Republic of Korea (2020, 2024)
- Two-time participant at the Hanwha LIFEPLUS International Crown (2023, 2025)
- Fourteen-time KLPGA Tour winner

TOURNAMENT SCORING RECORDS

OVERALL:

18 holes – 61, Anna Nordqvist (R3, 2017) at Wildfire Golf Club

36 holes – 129, Sei Young Kim (2016) and Jee Young Lee (2013) at Wildfire Golf Club

54 holes – 195, Yealimi Noh (2025) at Bradenton C.C. and Anna Nordqvist (2017) at Wildfire Golf Club

72 holes – 261, Sei Young Kim (2016) at Wildfire Golf Club

SHARON HEIGHTS GOLF AND COUNTRY CLUB:

18 holes – 63, Hyo Joo Kim (R1, 2026)

QUOTABLES

Hyo Joo Kim (1st, -9) on her first-round 63

“Today, I think I went bogey free today, no bogey right? I didn’t check, sorry. I am just so satisfied I had no bogeys. I had some mistakes in the beginning, but I was able to save them. I ended with an eagle, so I ended pretty happily.”

Gemma Dryburgh (T3, -6) on seeing her son when she plays

“I was thinking this morning, I was with him and I was like, you know, trying to teach him to clap. Every time mom makes a birdie you're going to go, bravo. I was thinking every time I made a birdie, hopefully in the daycare they're going bravo. I taught them to do that. Hopefully he was clapping me on.”

Rose Zhang (T40, -1) on Thursday’s round

“Felt like it was a game of patience today. I didn't really have any putts drop. I was burning some edges and felt like I found a little bit of momentum towards the end, so I'm taking a lot of positives. But I felt like took a little bit of time for me to get adjusted and acclimated to playing golf again. But overall I'm actually very satisfied, even though score may not show as much.”

ON LPGA.COM

[Rose Zhang Shoots Under Par the Morning After Submitting Her Final Paper at Stanford](#)

[Yealimi Noh On Course First Round Interview](#)

[Polly Mack First Round Interview](#)

[Jin Hee Im First Round Interview](#)

[Rose Zhang First Round Interview](#)

[Natasha Oon First Round Interview](#)

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[Rose Zhang finishes her paper: Just under the wire 😊](#)

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