



## 2026 Fortinet Founders Cup

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

### Second-Round Notes

March 20, 2026

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**Course Setup:** 36-36 – 72, 6,452 yards

**Scoring Average:** R1: 72.564; R2: 72.675

**Weather:** Sunny to mostly sunny skies around throughout the day with morning temperatures in the upper 50s warming into the mid-80s. Light and variable winds will trend NNW peaking around 5-10 mph.

**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	-11	63-70 – 133
2	Gaby Lopez	-7	67-70 – 137
T3	Seven players	-6	138

### COMPETITION HIGHLIGHTS

- Sixty-five players made the cut at even or better
  - The longest current made-cut streaks at 20 or more tournaments, including this cut:
    - **Nelly Korda** (25)
    - **Rio Takeda** (23)
    - **Andrea Lee** (22)
    - **Miyu Yamashita** (20)
  - Seven rookies made the cuts this week:
    - **Carla Tejado Mulet** from Spain – Made cut at first career LPGA Tour event
    - **Erika Hara** from Japan – Second made cut in 2026
    - **Nastasia Nadaud** from France – Second made cut in 2026
    - **Dongeun Lee** from the Republic of Korea – Second made cut on the LPGA Tour

- **Helen Briem** from Germany – First made cut in 2026 and second on the LPGA Tour
  - **Natasha Andrea Oon** from Malaysia – First made cut since 2023
  - **Leah John** from Canada – First made cut on the LPGA Tour
- Notables to miss the cut include:
  - Sponsor invite **Victoria Cui** (+1)
  - Stanford players **Albane Valenzuela** (+5)
  - Defending champion **Yealimi Noh** (+9)
- **Hyo Joo Kim** is the leader in the clubhouse by four shots at 11-under par
  - This is the third time that she has held the lead after each of the first two or more days on the LPGA Tour
    - Wire-to-wire en route to her win at the 2023 Ascendant LPGA benefitting the Volunteers of America
    - Led after the first three round of the 2016 Dana Open
  - This is just the second time since the start of the 2025 season that a player held a 4+ stroke lead after the second round. Hye-Jin Choi had a 5-shot lead after Round 2 of the 2025 Maybank Championship
  - Won both of the tournaments in which she had a multiple-stroke lead after R1:
    - 2014 Amundi Evian Championship (led by 4, won by 1 stroke over Karrie Webb)
    - 2023 Ascendant (led by 2, won by 4 strokes over Jeeno Thitikul and Bianca Pagdanganan)
- **Natasha Andrea Oon** made her first cut on the LPGA Tour in more than two years
  - Had a hole-out eagle, seven birdies, four pars, five bogeys and one double bogey in round 2
    - Look at her [scorecard](#)
    - View her [hole-out eagle](#)
    - Watch her [interview with Golf Channel in the booth](#)
  - Is the second player this season to break par in a round after carding four or fewer pars. **Manon De Roey** did that three weeks ago in the final round of the HSBC Women's World Championship (4 pars, 8 birdies, 6 bogeys); she shot 70 (-2).
    - Last year, there was just one such round (by **Brooke Matthews** in the third round of The ANNIKA driven by Gainbridge at Pelican.)
    - This is a rare occurrence; it has only happened three times in the past three seasons
- Notable statistics:
  - There were just four tournaments in 2025 in which **Nelly Korda** and **Jeeno Thitikul** found themselves among the top 5 on the leaderboard together at the conclusion of a round. That happened at the CME Group Tour Championship (R2,R3,R4); Kroger Queen City (R2,R3); Mizuho Americas (R2, R3, R4) and Ford Championship (R2).

#### A LOOK AT THE LEADER

CATEGORY	<a href="#">Hyo Joo Kim</a>
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)

**36 holes – 133, Hyo Joo Kim (2026)**

## QUOTABLES

*Hyo Joo Kim (1, -11) on winning this event in 2015*

“It’s been so long. I think I won my rookie year. It was an unforgettable memory because it was my first win as a LPGA member. But I don’t really remember the details.”

*Nelly Korda (T3, -6) on her first impressions of the course*

Yeah, just tricky. You know, yesterday played different to today for me as for tee shots. I backed down off driver a couple times; hit my 3-wood. It's tricky. You really have to shape it out here. I would say some of the holes -- I wouldn't say it's a draw-biased golf course or fade-biased golf course. You kind of have to work it both ways here. Some of the trees are a little bit intimidating and the greens are tough, too. Not only are they really undulated, but sometimes they're a little bit harder to read, too, where I thought it was going to go -- I've had like a bunch of putts inside of ten feet that I missed this week where I thought it was going to go one way and I hit it really solid and just kind of went the other way. So the greens do get a little bumpy in the afternoon. That's pretty typical with this type of grass. Yeah, happy with my first two days and ready for the next two.”

*Minjee Lee (T3, -6) on her four consecutive birdies on the back nine*

I was a little bit fed up with myself because I made two bogeys in a row. They were a little bit soft. Then I was like, I do not want to be over par today. I just kind of tried to kick myself in the bum a little bit and get cracking. I did hit a few really nice -- two were from off the greens so the putts from off the greens were nice to like see go in. Then the next two were just nice. One was short and one was a little longer. I think maybe

like seven meters or something. It was just a nice stretch to finish. I finished with a bogey which is okay, despite the score.”

*Jeeno Thitikul (T3, -6) on playing with Lydia Ko and Linn Grant*

Before the pro-am party this week and then I sit with Lydia and then she said oh, I am wondering what's the pairing going to be like and then she said I want to play with you. Like you're my number one. You're easy. You're chillin'. I was like, yes, I am. And I always I love playing with her. And then also Linn hitting bombs as always and then Lydia is just my -- in Korean they call eonni which is like older sister. I just love everything on her. Her game, her personality.

### **ON LPGA.COM**

[Natasha Oon Golf Channel Booth](#)

[Robyn Choi Second Round Interview](#)

[Natasha Oon Second Round Interview](#)

[Nelly Korda in the Mix to Win Her Second Event of the Year at Fortinet Founders Cup](#)

[Nelly Korda Second Round Interview](#)

### **ON LPGA SOCIAL**

[This scorecard is NUTS 🤖](#)

[Rookie & Bay Area Native Natasha Andrea Oon joins @GolfChannel in the booth! 📺](#)

[A in depth look at Rose Zhang's decision to pursue her education while playing on Tour 🗣️](#)

[Fridays mornings are for @nellykorda #SloMos 🙌](#)

[Portraits from Sharon Heights 📷](#)

[Sharing a night with the Legends of Golf ✨](#)