



## 2026 Fortinet Founders Cup

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

### Third-Round Notes

March 21, 2026

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**Course Setup:** 36-36 – 72, 6,437 yards

**Scoring Average:** R1: 72.564; R2: 72.675; R3: 70.445

**Weather:** Partly cloudy skies with morning temperatures in the 50s and warming to mid-70s in the afternoon. Light and variable NW winds peaking around 5-10 mph this afternoon.

**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	-17	63-70-66 – 199
2	Nelly Korda	-12	70-68-66 – 204
T3	Ruixin Liu	-11	69-70-66 – 205
T3	Gaby Lopez	-11	67-70-68 – 205

### COMPETITION HIGHLIGHTS

- **Hyo Joo Kim** is the leader in the clubhouse by five shots at 17-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
  - Recorded seven birdies, an eagle and four bogeys to match the low rounds of the day at a 6-under-par 66
  - Leads the field in fewest number of putts with 79 across three rounds
  - Currently holds a five-stroke lead

- The largest margin of victory at a 72-hole tournament was 14 strokes, by Cindy Mackey in 1986
- **Nelly Korda** sits at solo second after carding a bogey free third round
  - Matched the low round of the day with a 6-under-par 66
  - Leads the field in fewest number of bogeys made with only two across her first three rounds
  - Korda has trailed at the end of at least one round in 14 of her 15 tournament wins
    - In four of those she trailed after three rounds, all in 2024: The Ford Championship presented by KCC, The Chevron Championship and The ANNIKA driven by Gainbridge at Pelican
  - [Nelly Korda Third Round Highlights](#)
  - [Nelly Korda Third Round Interview](#)
- **Natasha Andrea Oon** made another hole-out eagle from the fairway
  - Made an eagle on No. 3 with a 54-degree wedge from 110 yards
  - View her [hole-out eagle](#) from the second round
- 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).

## WITH A WIN

### Hyo Joo Kim

- Would earn her eighth LPGA Tour win and first since the 2025 Ford Championship presented by Wild Horse Pass
  - Would become her second consecutive winning season on the LPGA Tour
- Would be the second winner from the Republic of Korea in 2026, joining **Mi Hyang Lee** (Blue Bay LPGA)
  - Would be the first time since the 2020 season that there were two winners from the Republic of Korea to win two of the first five tournaments of the year; Hee Young Park (ISPS Handa Vic Open, third event) and Inbee Park (ISPS Handa Women's Australian Open, fourth event)
- Would be the fifth different player to win in the first five tournaments of the 2026 season
- Would become the eighth player from the Republic of Korea to win eight or more times on the LPGA Tour, following Seri Pak (25 wins), Inbee Park (21), Jin Young Ko (15), Sei Young Kim (13), Jiyai Shin (11), Na Yeon Choi (9) and Mi Hyun (8)

### Nelly Korda

- Would earn her 17th LPGA Tour win and second of the 2026 season
- Would become her fourth season on the LPGA Tour with multiple victories
- Would be the first multiple-time winner of the 2026 season
- Would be the third consecutive American to win the Fortinet Founders Cup following Yealimi Noh (2025) and Rose Zhang (2024)
- Would become the 28th player with 17 or more wins on the LPGA Tour

## A LOOK AT THE LEADER

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

**54 holes – 199, Hyo Joo Kim (2026)**

## QUOTABLES

*Sei Young Kim (1, -17) on her third round*

“The start up to hole 6 I believe was unbelievable golf and I can’t even believe it. I had a lot of birdies and eagle too, but I did also have some bogeys I shouldn’t have done. The start felt like almost a game though.”

*Nelly Korda (2nd, -12) on how her process continues to evolve*

“I think it's always evolving. Mentally you could be in a different state a month from now and you were thinking just how good it was in a month ago. And then in two months you could be like, wow, this is the best I've ever felt. You're always adapting, not just like as a golfer but as a human being, right? So I would say it's just about finding comfort in your own skin and kind of being true to yourself and knowing like why am I out here is the big question. What's my passion? What do I love doing? I feel like if you answer those questions and you really enjoy being out here, it's always fun and you always enjoy the ups and downs.”

*Ruixin Liu (T3, -11) on what went well for her today*

Well, today my swing was just fabulous. I think I only missed one fairway which was still -- where it bounced was not like I struck it bad. And I put a lot of irons closer to the pin to give myself a chance. Overall very satisfied with my swing today.

*Jeenoo Thitikul (T5, -9) on the fan energy at Sharon Heights Golf and Country Club*

"I saw a lot of fans came out since yesterday, and then today Saturday so they can come out a lot. And then Nelly is play in front of me. Hear the sound of the fans shouting. Also behind me Hyo Joo makes every putts; fans shouting a lot. Obviously it's nice, nice to showing them how women's golf kind of good and obviously which want them more and more."

*Sei Young Kim (T18, -6) on her relationship to Hyo Joo*

"She's one of my favorite player since we grew up together. We were like National Team when we were young. I met her first time she was like nine or ten, little girl. I was like middle school. So first I got the really good impression. She's a really good personality and funny. Yeah, that's one of my favorite player and then good friend each other, yeah."

*Natasha Andrea Oon (T38, -3) on her hole-out eagle today*

"I think the club was 54 and I think it was a 90-yard shot on hole 3. Ayaka hit it so close and I was just like, okay, well, you know, let's just try and hit it hard because it was -- I needed a little more distance for the shot with this club. So hit it hard and hit up and spun back and then wen in and I collapsed and my caddie was like, not a fan. We were like in disbelief. It's kind of crazy. It is kind of crazy. So was it kind of a bit of a roller coaster."

### **ON LPGA.COM**

[Hyo Joo Kim Has a 5-shot Lead in the Founders Cup After a Fast Start in the 3rd Round](#)

[Rose Zhang Balances Education and Competing on the LPGA Tour](#)

[Kathryn Imrie: A Teacher, an LPGA Legend, and a Fan](#)

[Third Round Highlights](#)

[Hyo Joo Kim Third Round Highlights](#)

[Karis Davidson Third Round Interview](#)

[Ruixin Liu Third Round Interview](#)

[Sei Young Kim Third Round Interview](#)

[Jeongeun Lee6 Third Round Interview](#)

### **ON LPGA SOCIAL**

[Sharon Heights in shadow 🌑](#)

[Golf, but make it vintage 🎞️ ✨](#)

[Learn a little more about local legend and Pioneer Juli Inkster 🖱️](#)

[Natasha Andrea Oon's insane hole out & celly makes @SportsCenter's #SCTop10 📺](#)