



2026 Fortinet Founders Cup

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

Tuesday Pre-Tournament Notes

March 17, 2026

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QUICK LINKS

[Interview Transcripts](#)
[LPGA Tour Online Media Center \(OMC\)](#): includes links to daily and archival tournament information, Stats Box, LPGA Statistical Database, photo/video assets and more
[Tournament Website](#)

SOCIAL MEDIA

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

Tournament: @Founders.Cup (Instagram), @Founders_Cup_

MEDIA AVAILABILITY SCHEDULE

(All times are local and subject to change)

Wednesday, March 18

Approx. 10:30 a.m. (following pro-am) – **Lydia Ko**, Bay Area resident and LPGA Hall of Fame member
2 p.m. – **Meg Mallon**, 2026 Pioneer Honoree

NOTABLE PLAYERS

- [Rolex Rankings No. 1 Jeeno Thitikul](#)
 - Fourth start at the Fortinet Founders Cup
 - 2024 – MC, 2023 – T5, 2022 – T8
 - Won in her second start of 2026 at her home event at the Honda LPGA Thailand
 - Finished T31 in her last start at the HSBC Women's World Championship
 - 2025: 19 cuts made in 20 starts with 14 top-10 finishes and three wins

- Successfully defended her title at the 2025 CME Group Tour Championship to close out the season
 - Won earlier in the year at the Mizuho Americas Open and the Buick LPGA Shanghai
- Had six consecutive top-10 finishes, including four top-two finishes
- Her 14 top 10s were the most she has recorded in a single season since her rookie year in 2022, when she recorded 16
- Earned Rolex Player of the Year honors for the first time in her career and earned the Vare Trophy for lowest scoring average for the second time
- Career: Eight wins, 57 top 10s, \$17.7 million in official career earnings
 - In 2024, earned two wins and recorded 12 top 10s in 17 starts
 - Won the Dow Championship and the CME Group Tour Championship
 - Won the 2024 Aon Risk Reward Challenge
 - Broke Lorena Ochoa's single-season earnings record with a season total of \$6,059,309
 - 2023 Vare Trophy recipient
 - 2022 Louise Suggs Rolex Rookie of the Year
 - Member of the Thailand Team at the 2023 and 2025 Hanwha LIFEPLUS International Crown and represented Thailand at the 2024 Paris Olympics
- **Rolex Rankings No. 2 Nelly Korda**
 - Korda is making her eighth start at the Fortinet Founders Cup
 - 2025 – T7, 2024 – T7, 2023 – MC, 2021 – T19, 2019 – T2, 2018 – MC, 2017 – T19
 - Won in the 2026 LPGA Tour season opener at the Hilton Grand Vacations Tournament of Champions
 - 2025: 19 cuts made in 19 starts with nine top-10 finishes
 - Finished runner-up three times in 2025
 - CME Group Tour Championship
 - U.S. Women's Open presented by Ally
 - Hilton Grand Vacations Tournament of Champions
 - Did not miss a cut in 2025, the first time in her career she did not miss a cut in a single season
 - Career: 16 wins, two major championship victories, 76 top 10s, \$16.4 million in official career earnings
 - In 2024, earned seven wins, including five in consecutive starts
 - Became the first player since 2011 to win seven times in a single season
 - Became the third player in LPGA Tour history to have a season with six or more wins, capture a team victory in the Solheim Cup and earn Player of the Year honors, alongside Beth Daniel (1990) and Annika Sorenstam (2003)
 - 2024 Rolex Player of the Year and Rolex ANNIKA Major Award winner
 - Two-time Olympian for the United States, 2020 Gold Medal winner in Tokyo
 - Four-time U.S. Solheim Cup Team member
- **Defending Champion and Bay Area native Yealimi Noh**
 - Became a Rolex First-Time Winner at the 2025 Fortinet Founders Cup

- Defeated Jin Young Ko by four strokes
- Currently ranked No. 40 in the Rolex Rankings
- Finished T65 in her last start of the season at the HSBC Women's World Championship
- 2025: 14 cuts made in 21 starts with a win and five top-10 finishes
 - Finished T12 at the KPMG Women's PGA Championship for her best finish at a 2025 major
 - Surpassed \$1 million in season official earnings
- Career: One win, 18 top 10s, \$3.5 million in official career earnings
 - Represented the U.S. in the 2021 Solheim Cup
 - Represented the U.S. at the 2025 Hanwha LIFEPLUS International Crown

NOTABLE TOURNAMENT INFO

- 15th edition of the Founders Cup
 - [First year with Fortinet as the title partner](#)
 - First year the event will be played at Sharon Heights Golf and Country Club
- Seven of the top 10 golfers in the Rolex Rankings are in the field this week
 - **Jeenoo Thitikul (No. 1), Nelly Korda (2), Minjee Lee (4), Miyu Yamashita (5), Lydia Ko (6), Hyo Joo Kim (7), Lottie Woad (8)**
- Two amateurs and sponsor invitations (**Victoria Cui, Sherry Zhong**) are in the field
- Of players with at least four appearances in the Fortinet Founders Cup, five players have a sub-69 scoring average (* = in this week's field)

Athlete	Total Appearances	Total Rounds	Scoring Average
Jin Young Ko	7	28	68.536
Hyo Joo Kim*	7	28	68.857
Inbee Park	8	30	68.867
Shanshan Feng	4	15	68.933
Jessica Korda	10	33	68.939
Ai Miyazato	6	20	69.05
Karrie Webb	7	25	69.08
So Yeon Ryu	8	28	69.143
Nelly Korda*	7	24	69.167
Lydia Ko*	10	38	69.289

STAT LEADERS

Official Money: Hannah Green, \$501,678

Scoring Average: Nelly Korda, 67.67

Greens in Regulation: Andrea Lee and Nelly Korda, 83.33%

Scrambling Percentage: Amy Yang, 100%

Average Driving Distance: Riley Smyth, 297.50 yards

SEASON-LONG INITIATIVES

[Race to CME Globe](#)

The Race to the CME Globe is a season-long points competition with LPGA Tour Members accumulating points in every official LPGA Tour event to qualify for the season-ending tournament, the CME Group Tour Championship. The player who wins the CME Group Tour Championship is named the "Race to the CME Globe Champion." The top 60 points earners and ties earn a spot into the season finale with the entire field competing for an \$11 million purse, highlighted by a \$4 million winner's check, which is the largest winner's prize in the history of women's golf.

- **Jeeno Thitikul** moved to first with her win at the Honda LPGA Thailand
 - Has 618 points
- **Hannah Green** moved to second after her win at the HSBC Women's World Championship and has 600 points
- **Auston Kim** moved to third following back-to-back top-three finishes at the HSBC Women's World Championship and Blue Bay LPGA and sits at 569 points
- In 2025, **Jeeno Thitikul** earned the most points with 4,066.950 in 20 starts

[Aon Risk Reward Challenge](#): No. 14 at Sharon Heights Golf and Country Club

The Aon Risk Reward Challenge is a unique, season-long competition on the LPGA Tour that highlights the game's best players as they navigate some of the most strategically challenging holes on tour. Players will take their best two scores from each Aon Risk Reward Challenge hole, with the winners having the best average score to par at the end of the regular season. The winner will take home the Aon trophy and a \$1 Million prize.

- **Bailey Tardy, Hannah Green** and **Erika Hara** lead at -1.500
- **Jennifer Kupcho** won the 2025 Aon Risk Reward Challenge
- No. 14 at Sharon Heights and Country Club
 - The 14th hole at Sharon Heights Golf and Country Club presents an early scoring opportunity, but it requires a thoughtful decision off the tee
 - Measuring just 244 yards from tee to green, players must decide whether to attempt to drive the green or lay up for a short pitch.
 - Accuracy is critical, as bunkers guard both sides of the hole. The first bunker is approximately 60 yards short of the green, while five greenside bunkers protect the putting surface from multiple angles.

[CME Group Cares Challenge](#)

The CME Group Cares Challenge is a season-long charitable giving program that turns aces into donations. CME Group donates \$20,000 for each hole-in-one made on the LPGA Tour in 2025, with a minimum guaranteed donation of \$500,000 to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, which is leading the way in how the world understands, treats and defeats childhood cancer and life-threatening diseases.

- **Ruoning Yin** made the first hole-in-one of the LPGA Tour season at Blue Bay LPGA
- \$20,000 was donated, bringing the all-time amount donated to \$3.4 million
- There were 22 holes in one throughout the 2025 season
- The total for 2025 was \$440,000 donated toward St. Jude Children's Research Hospital
- 333 all-time eligible holes-in-one since the program started in 2019