



2026 Fortinet Founders Cup

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

Wednesday Pre-Tournament Notes

March 18, 2026

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

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

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

PRE-TOURNAMENT AVAILABILITY HIGHLIGHTS

Rolex Rankings No. 1 Jeeno Thitikul

[Video](#) | [Transcript](#)

Thitikul on acting like a Founder and giving back to her community in Thailand

"At my position right now I think I have, you know, take a lot from the people, people like giving a lot of things to me, and I feel like when you receive it you feel fulfil. Once you giving back it's more happier and more like fulfil to your heart than taking. So I think once I have an opportunity to give it back to my country, to like the people that they don't have opportunities like us, I just, why not? It's just no why at all reason to be not doing that. I know the position I be like now, my why is really important."

Rolex Rankings No. 2 Nelly Korda

[Video](#) | [Transcript](#)

Korda on Sharon Heights Golf and Country Club

"I think it's pretty just demanding overall. Greens are softer. I heard they were shut maybe for two years doing some renovations. Not 100% if that's accurate. But pretty demanding off the tee. There is no first cut so it's

either fairway or rough and it's pretty tight. The bunkers are pretty penal. So, yeah, just going to be a very demanding off the tee. If you are hitting it really good you feel like you do have a good opportunity to kind of shoot a low one."

Rolex Rankings No. 6 and Bay Area Resident Lydia Ko

[Video](#) | [Transcript](#)

Ko discussing the Founders' legacy and what it means to her as a member of the LPGA Hall of Fame

"I was fortunate enough to be able to meet a few of the Founders when I first came out on Tour. It was always a treat when we played in Arizona and they would be sitting in the chairs, especially on the weekend, and to see them, I felt like there was a bit more of a connection with me and the Tour just through them. And we know that without their courage, the 13 ladies back then, there would be no "now," and not to the extent it is - it already is. We just had our 75th year anniversary of the LPGA. And golf started as a men's game. You know it was a men's sport. So to see how much it has grown and in that era for them to come out and pretty much play for nothing and play because they loved the competition and they really laid out the foundations, and we can only thank them for what they have done. And also the pioneers who have, that are the generations behind them. Because without the start and the people in the middle there would be no "now." I think years down the road, we are probably going to be the pioneers, 20, 30 years, for the next generation. So I think as players that are competing on tour right now, it's our duty to carry that Founders' spirit and think about not only us to give us this opportunity and to make our dreams come true but for the new generations that are coming up behind us."

Defending Champion and Rolex Rankings No. 41 Yealimi Noh

[Video](#) | [Transcript](#)

Noh on becoming a Rolex First-Time Winner at the 2025 Fortinet Founders Cup

"It was one of my biggest goals forever, so to be able to cap it off at the beginning of the season last year was an incredible feeling. Gave me a lot of confidence, a lot more calmness as well. So, yeah, I don't think it's changed my life drastically. It's just what I was waiting for and got it done. But not over there; I still want to get more."

2024 Fortinet Founders Cup Champion and Rolex Rankings No. 78 Rose Zhang

[Video](#) | [Transcript](#)

Zhang on approaching her graduation at Stanford University

"Honestly I think this was probably one of the most important achievements for my personal development as a person. I feel like there is obviously a lot of noise about whether it was a good decision or not. Personally, I think when I turned pro end of sophomore year I've always envisioned wanting to finish, regardless of how difficult it would be, regardless of how much my body would break down or feasibility-wise how that would work. Never really gave it a second thought. To see the end of the finish line coming very close, I'll be walking in June, so officially close for me, yeah, means the world."

2026 Rookie Natasha Andrea Oon

[Video](#) | [Transcript](#)

Oon on Pioneer and friend Juli Inkster

"Juli has always looked out for me and always mentored me. Her husband was out there, too. He's my coach. They drove all the way here. Juli was like such an idol to me growing up. What she did with like San Jose State and then having to hold this award to help us start our careers, I feel like her name should be talked about

more. She's paving roads and making it easier for us to be here. I think I aspire to be her. I aspire to inspire like her in the future. Yeah, she inspires me and I can hear her on the 18th like, hey. So, yeah."

2026 U.S. Solheim Cup Captain Angela Stanford

[Video](#) | [Transcript](#)

Stanford on what it means to her to act like a Founder

"Well, because I think for a ton of reasons, but if I don't keep trying to do the things that Meg and Juli and all of those women that came before me, I'm letting them down. I'm not doing my part to give the next generation a chance. I always just thought that was our responsibility. Playing women's sports, at any moment it can be taken away. That's how I always felt growing up. I never felt entitled to anything in sports because I just thought, it could easily go away. I think we have a responsibility to – that's one of the ways we can honor the ladies of the past is to continue to grow and do the things to help this younger generation continue to give back."

2026 Pioneer Honoree Meg Mallon

[Video](#) | [Transcript](#)

Mallon on how she has seen the women's golf landscape change in the last 75 years

"Just the fact that we endured those years. I can't imagine what they faced in 1950 when they decided to charter this women's professional golf league. There was nothing else like it. Where it's come to today and what they developed. So what they did in the '50s and '60s developed Mickey Wright and then you got the Carol Manns and Joanne Carners and Judy Rankins, and that era, and then what I call fed into the greatest generation to date, what I call the Alcott/Bradley/Daniel/King/Lopez/Sheehan, the six. Just go look at their records and you'll see what I'm talking about. That group was incredible. I don't think players understand what we played -- like I started my career with them. We would have galleries six, seven deep of people watching that group of players. That's what they did, how many people they brought to the women's game, starting with the Nancy Lopez era in 1978 through the '90s. We had tremendous galleries, tremendous fans, loyal followers. It was just really a fun time to be out there. You're right, then kick started the next era of Karrie and Annika and Seri and Lorena, and then we got more of an international flair, and it just really grew the game of women's golf. One generation helped the next to be ready for that success to come forward, and so it's been really fun to watch. It's really a fabulous success story for women's sports, no doubt."

2026 Pioneer Honoree Juli Inkster

[Video](#) | [Transcript](#)

Inkster on what she learned from the LPGA Founders

"It's crazy what they did to grow the game of golf. Here we are 75 years later and I'm looking at the range and it's amazing. I reaped that benefit. I reap the benefits from Betsy King and Pat Bradley and Carner and Patty Sheehan. I learned a ton. And Lopez. I learned a ton from them. I played a little longer in my career than most people so have gotten to know the younger players a little bit, but I think that's the beauty of this game. Your clubs don't know how old you are."

ON LPGA.COM

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[She's so real for this](#)

[Natasha Andrea Oon, PERIODT](#)

[Nothing but green for St. Patricks Day on Tour](#)

[Yealimi Noh is ready to defend her title in front of a hometown crowd](#)