



LA CHAMPIONSHIP

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2026 JM Eagle LA Championship presented by Plastpro
El Caballero Country Club | Los Angeles, CA | April 16-19, 2026

First-Round Notes

April 16, 2026

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Course Setup: 36-36—72, 6,538 yards

Scoring Average: R1: 70.46

Weather: Dry conditions with partly cloudy skies and temperatures warming into the mid 70s by the afternoon. Calm winds through the morning increasing to 6-12 mph in the afternoon with gusts of up to 18 mph possible.

Race to CME Globe Points: 500 (winner)

Purse: \$3.75 million (winner's prize, \$562,500)

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: @jmeaglelachamp (Instagram, X)

LEADERBOARD

	Player	To par	Score
1	Chizzy Iwai	-9	63
T2	Suvichaya Vinijchaitham	-7	65
T2	Sei Young Kim	-7	65
T2	Patty Tavatanakit	-7	65

COMPETITION HIGHLIGHTS

- Leader: **Chizzy Iwai** leads after an opening round 9-under 63
 - Her 63 ties the course and tournament record
 - Ingrid Lindblad and Nasa Hataoka both shot a 63 at El Caballero Country Club in 2025
 - It is the lowest first-round score in her LPGA Tour career
 - Shot a 7-under 29 on the back nine
 - The lowest nine-hole score in her LPGA Tour career
 - Her previous low was a 6-under 30 at the 2026 Honda LPGA Thailand
 - Made seven birdies, one eagle, and was bogey-free in her first round

- Hit 11 of 14 fairways, 17 of 18 greens, and had 27 putts
 - This is the second time she has held the 18-hole lead or co-lead
 - Was tied for the lead after the first round at the 2025 MEXCO Riviera Maya Open, where she went on to win
- **T2: Suvichaya Vinijchaitham, Sei Young Kim and Patty Tavatanakit** opened their tournaments with a 7-under 65
 - Vinijchaitham carded nine birdies and two bogeys
 - Made six birdies on her second nine holes, including consecutive on Nos. 14-17
 - Ranks first in the field for number of birdies made
 - Is a 2026 LPGA Tour rookie and making her first appearance at this tournament
 - Her 65 is her best round on Tour, previous best was a 67 as a sponsor invitation at the 2024 Honda LPGA Thailand
 - Kim hit 17/18 greens in regulation en route to her 65
 - Making her eighth start at this tournament
 - 2025 – T52, 2024 – T32, 2023 – WD, 2022 – T6, 2021 – T17, 2019 – 2, 2018 – Cut
 - Had eight birdies and one bogey
 - Her average drive distance of 300 yards ranks second in the field during today's round
 - Tavatanakit carded eight birdies and one bogey
 - Making her fifth appearance at the JM Eagle LA Championship presented by Plastpro
 - 2024 – T25, 2023 – 64, 2022 – T35, 2021 – CUT
 - The 65 is the lowest round of her season
 - Lowest round of her career at the JM Eagle LA Championship
 - It is also her first round in the 60s this season
 - Hit 10 of 14 fairways, 16 of 18 greens in regulation, and had 28 putts
- **Yu Liu** recorded her first hole-in-one in a tournament on hole 15
 - She hit a 9-iron from 161 yards
 - It is the fourth hole-in-one of the season
 - CME Group donates \$20,000 for each hole-in-one made on the LPGA Tour in 2026, 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
 - The donation total is now \$80,000

A LOOK AT THE LEADER

CATEGORY	Chizzy Iwai
2026 Race to CME Globe Rank	10
2026 LPGA Tour Wins	0
2026 LPGA Tour Top 10s	2
2026 Official Season Earnings	\$308.4K
Career LPGA Tour Wins	1
Career Official LPGA Tour Top 10s	7
Career Official Money	\$2.1M

ABOUT THE LEADER

[Rolex Rankings No. 20 Chizzy Iwai](#)

- Making her second appearance at the JM Eagle LA Championship presented by Plastpro
 - 2025 – T11
- 2026: Six cuts made in six starts, with two top 10 finishes
 - Season-best runner-up result at the Honda LPGA Thailand
- Career: One win, 7 top 10s, and \$2.1M in official career earnings
 - First joined the LPGA Tour in 2025
 - Won the 2025 MEXICO Riviera Maya Open at Mayakoba to become a Rolex First-Time Winner in her rookie season
 - Recorded an additional four top 10 finishes in the 2025 season
 - Finished No. 10 in the Race to the CME Globe
 - Turned professional in 2021 on the JLPGA
 - Has eight wins on the JLPGA
 - Her most recent win was in 2025 at the Daikin Orchid Ladies Golf Tournament
 - Made 11 starts on the LPGA Tour before becoming a member in 2025

TOURNAMENT SCORING RECORDS

18 holes: 63, **Chizzy Iwai (R1, 2026)***, Nasa Hataoka (R4, 2025)*, Ingrid Lindblad (R2, 2025)*, Yan Liu (R1, 2025)*, Ashleigh Buhai (R1, 2025)*, Jin Hee Im (R3, 2024)

36 holes: 129, Jessica Korda (2021)

54 holes: 197, Jessica Korda (2021)

72 holes: 267, Ingrid Lindblad (2025)*

**Scoring record at El Caballero Country Club, other scoring records shot at Wilshire Country Club*

QUOTABLE

Chizzy Iwai (1, -9) on her mindset after making five birdies and an eagle during her first nine

“A little bit thinking 58 or 9 score. But golf is not easy. That's why I focus my routine. I try myself. I don't think too much.”

Patty Tavatanakit (T2, -7) on how important it is to be aware of your statistics and yardages

“I think that's what I find hard to adjust coming back into like full season tournament play. When you stop for a while just kind of been working on your swing and stuff, but you just kind of, you know, not think about hitting the numbers. I feel like I've been kind of building that ever since San Francisco, when we were there. I mean, I feel like my game has always been there. Just a little bit here and there is just kind of rusty. But, yeah, just I kept working and I kept hitting on TrackMan, quad, just to see the numbers, spin rate, to pick the right shot for the right situation.”

Sei Young Kim (T2, -7) on her 7-under opening round at El Caballero Country Club

“Yeah, very dry golf course conditions, so greens are really fast. I try to every putt to make the distance. So, yeah, it's tough, which means I'm not trying too hard, so it makes a lot of birdie on the course. And then, yeah, par-5 we got the downwind, like couple -- two is par-5, so it is big advantage. Is, yeah, reachable. So, hole 16 or -- 15 is par-5. I had a pitching wedge to the, yeah, to the pin, the second shot even like par-5. So, yeah, it's play like really solid today. Yeah, it's LA is a great weather always and I'm very happy to walking on the course. Yeah, I'm glad to be back here, yeah, I play very solid. I'm very happy with that.”

Suvichaya Vinijchaitham (T2, -7) on being a rookie on Tour and her confidence level after her round

“Yeah, I'm a rookie on Tour. It's been pretty stressful for me I think. I just think myself out there it's quite hard. I know I went to college in the U.S., but still there is a lot different. But, yeah, today was a great round for me and kind of like help me build my confidence a little bit, yeah.”

Chella Choi (T5, -6) on playing in a group with LPGA Tour Mom Alison Lee

“We talked actually all day about our babies, and even though Alison had a baby one year later than mine they're actually the same size. So we honestly just talked about all that.”

Yu Liu (T26, -4) on \$20,000 being donated to St. Jude's Children's Hospital after her first ace on Tour, thanks to the CME Group Cares Challenge

“Definitely very appreciative of CME for like constant support, and, yeah, I feel like I've done something really special and just added another tier to something that I'm already very excited about.”

[ON LPGA.COM](#)

[First-Round Ace for Yu Liu at JM Eagle LA Championship presented by Plastpro](#)

[Rookie Camille Boyd Finds Her Rhythm in LA](#)

[Andrea Lee Excited to Play Close to Home](#)

[Yu Liu's Hole-in-One First Round | 2026 at JM Eagle LA Championship presented by Plastpro](#)

[First Round Highlights | 2026 JM Eagle LA Championship presented by Plastpro](#)

[Natasha Andrea Oon | Epson Tour Graduate Spotlight](#)

[Jessica Porvasnik First Round Interview | 2026 JM Eagle LA Championship presented by Plastpro](#)

[Patty Tavatanakit First Round Interview | 2026 JM Eagle LA Championship presented by Plastpro](#)

[Chizzy Iwai First Round Interview | 2026 JM Eagle LA Championship presented by Plastpro](#)

[Camille Boyd First Round Interview | 2026 JM Eagle LA Championship presented by Plastpro](#)

[Hannah Green First Round Interview | 2026 JM Eagle LA Championship presented by Plastpro](#)

[Chella Choi First Round Interview](#)

SOCIAL SNAPSHOT

[Chizzy didn't miss her chance in Round 1 🎯](#)

[YU LIU FOR ONE 🙌](#)

[Great tee shot → Club twirl? ✗ Club yeet? ✓ 😊 ↕](#)

[Classic Minjee Lee birdie for your timelines 🙌](#)

[Fresh off her win in Vegas, Lauren Coughlin is hunting birdies in LA 🙌](#)

[A stunner from the fairway for Riuxin Liu 🙌](#)

[Just one of many birdies Chizzy Iwai made today 🙌](#)

[Chisato Iwai takes the clubhouse lead at 9-under 🙌](#)

[Just one of many birdies Chizzy Iwai made today](#)

[Chizzy Iwai tearing through El Cab](#)

[Only Hannah Green would say she wants to pay more taxes](#)

[Meet the Iwai twins: runners, dancers, singers and sometimes golfers](#)