



**LOTTE**  
CHAMPIONSHIP  
PRESENTED BY Hoakalei

### LOTTE Championship presented by Hoakalei

Hoakalei Country Club | Ewa Beach, Hawaii | Oct. 1-4, 2026

#### Tuesday Pre-Tournament Notes

Sept. 29, 2026

##### LPGA ON-SITE COMMUNICATIONS TEAM

Mallory Kinahan, LPGA  
[mallory.kinahan@lpga.com](mailto:mallory.kinahan@lpga.com)  
+1 (631) 796-9459

Matt Jesus, LPGA  
[matt.jesus@lpga.com](mailto:matt.jesus@lpga.com)  
+1 (402) 957-4674

##### 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: @lottechampionship (Instagram), @lpgalotte (X), LPGA LOTTE Championship (Facebook)

#### MEDIA AVAILABILITY SCHEDULE

(Zoom link available upon request; all times are local to Hawaii, six hours behind Eastern time, and subject to change)

##### Wed., September 30

Approx. 10:30 a.m. – **Jeeno Thitikul**, Rolex Rankings No. 2

1:00 p.m. - **Youmin Hwang, Hyo Joo Kim, Hye-Jin Choi, Hyunjo Yoo (i), and Tagiralani Luafalealo (i)**, LOTTE Group Press Conference

Approx. 1:30 p.m. – **Lydia Ko**, 2021 LOTTE Championship Winner

2:00 p.m. – **Miyu Yamashita**, Rolex Ranking No. 4

#### NOTABLE PLAYERS

- [Rolex Rankings No. 2 Jeeno Thitikul](#)
  - Second start at the LOTTE Championship presented by Hoakalei
    - Competed in 2022 where she finished T6
  - 2026: 14 cuts made in 16 starts with three wins and nine additional top 10s
    - Earned victories at The Standard Portland Classic, Honda LPGA Thailand, and defended her title at the Mizuho Americas Open

- Has finished inside the top 10 in seven of her last nine starts
  - Her only missed cuts this year have come at The Chevron Championship and the Meijer LPGA Classic for Simply Give
  - Finished T9 in her most recent event at the FM Championship
- Career: 10 wins, 64 top 10s with \$19.8 million in official career earnings
  - 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. 4 and LOTTE Sponsor Hyo Joo Kim
  - 14th career start at the LOTTE Championship presented by Hoakalei
    - Was crowned the champion in 2022
    - Has never missed a cut in this tournament
    - Finished as the runner-up last year
  - 2026: 13 cuts made in 15 starts with two wins and an additional six top 10s
    - Back-to-back wins at the Fortinet Founders Cup and the Ford Championship presented by Wild Horse Pass
    - Finished as the runner up in her last showing at the FM Championship
    - This season, she has recorded her most official career earnings in a single season with \$2.2 million
  - Career: Nine wins, 69 top 10s with \$13,551,780 career official money
    - Represented the Republic of Korea at the 2020 Tokyo and 2024 Paris Olympics
    - Represented the Republic of Korea at the 2023 and 2025 Hanwha LIFEPLUS International Crown
    - Finished as KLPGA leading money winner in 2014 and 2020
- Rolex Rankings No. 5 Miyu Yamashita
  - Second start at the LOTTE Championship presented by Hoakalei
    - Competed in 2025 where she finished T23
  - 2026: 17 cuts made in 19 starts with two wins and 11 additional top 10s
    - Won the CPKC Women's Open and the Meijer LPGA Classic for Simply Give
    - Finished T8 in her last start at the Walmart NW Arkansas Championship presented by P&G
    - Became the fastest Japanese player to four wins, 42 starts
      - Previous fastest was **Ayaka Okamoto** in 61 starts
    - Became the second Japanese player to record multiple wins in consecutive seasons
      - Other was **Ayaka Okamoto** with three straight multi-win seasons, 1986-1988
    - The fifth Japanese player to have at least two multi-win seasons
      - Joined **Ayako Okamoto, Hiromi Kobayashi, Ai Miyazato** and **Nasa Hataoka**
  - Career: Four wins including one major championship, 23 top 10s with \$6,098,062 in official career earnings
    - Has four wins in four different countries (Canada, United States of America, Malaysia, Wales)
      - Only the second player to earn all four or more of her wins in four or more unique countries (Other was **Ha Na Jang** who earned her five career wins in United States, Singapore, Chinese Taipei, Australia and Republic of Korea)

- 2025 Louise Suggs Rolex Rookie of the Year
- Represented Japan at the 2025 Hanwha LIFEPLUS International Crown
- Made 12 starts on the LPGA Tour before earning Membership
- Finished T4 at the 2024 Paris Olympics as a non-member
- Competed on the JLPGA and won 13 times including three major championships
- Earned JLPGA Player of the Year honors in 2022 and 2023
- Leading money winner on the JLPGA in 2022 and 2023

### NOTABLE TOURNAMENT INFO

- This is the 14th playing of the LOTTE Championship presented by Hoakalei and fifth held at Hoakalei Country Club
- Defending champion **Youmin Hwang**
  - Beat **Hyo Joo Kim** by one shot
  - Won as a sponsor invite
  - Deferred membership after her win last season and became a 2026 LPGA Tour rookie
  - Made 12 cuts in 19 starts in her rookie season with one top 10 finish
    - Finished T5 at the Hilton Grand Vacations Tournament of Champions
    - Finished T22 at last week's Walmart NW Arkansas Championship presented by P&G
- There are five sponsor invites
  - **Hyunjo Yoo**
    - Four career starts on the LPGA Tour and has competed in two tournaments this season (U.S. Women's Open and The Amundi Evian Championship)
      - Has not missed a cut in any of those four starts
      - Best finish is T-34 at the 2026 U.S. Women's Open
    - 2024 Rookie of the Year on the KLPGA Tour after ten top-10 finishes that season
    - Currently ranked No. 49 in the Rolex Women's World Golf Rankings
  - **Hyejun Park**
    - Will make her LPGA Tour debut
    - Currently ranked No. 99 in the Rolex Women's World Golf Rankings
  - **Momo Sugiyama**
    - Will make her LPGA Tour Debut
    - Played collegiately at Purdue for three years after transferring out of Hawaii following her freshman year
      - Two-time Second Team All-Big Ten (2022-23, 2023-24)
    - Competed in the 2025 U.S. Women's Amateur Championship where she finished 33rd
  - **Hae In Sung (a)**
    - Second year as a Sponsor Invite at the LOTTE Championship (also: 2025)
      - Missed the cut at the 2025 Championship after shooting even through two rounds
    - Winner of the 2025 Korea Junion Championship – Blue One Cup
  - **Tagiralani Luafalealo**
    - Competed in 2025 at this event as a Monday Qualifier

- Missed the cut at 4-over
- Serves as an assistant golf professional at Kapolei Golf Club

### STAT LEADERS

Official Money: Nelly Korda, \$6,220,214

Scoring Average: Nelly Korda, 69.38

Strokes Gained Total: Nelly Korda, 3.03

Greens in Regulation: Haeran Ryu, 79.04%

Scrambling Percentage: Miyu Yamashita, 67.79%

Average Driving Distance: Riley Smyth, 289.84 yards

### SEASON-LONG INITIATIVES

#### Race to CME Globe

*The Race to CME Globe is a season-long points competition in which LPGA Members accumulate points in every Official LPGA Tournament to gain entry into the season-ending CME Group Tour Championship. The player who wins the CME Group Tour Championship will be named the "Race to the CME Globe Champion."*

- **Nelly Korda** remains in the lead with 3,713.875 points
- Following the Walmart NW Arkansas Championship presented by P&G the following players moved up in the rankings:
  - **Yuna Nishimura** jumped 67 spots to No. 36 following her first career win
  - **In Gee Chun** reached No. 30, up 14 positions
  - **Jodi Ewart Shadoff** climbed 17 spots to No. 63

#### Aon Risk Reward Challenge No. 18, par 5 at Hoakalei 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.

- **Ryann O'Toole** leads at -.917
  - O'Toole is not competing the rest of 2026 in preparation for the birth of her first child
  - The 18th hole at Hoakalei Country Club will provide players a decision to make on this final hole with water all along the right side. Players will need to decide whether to play as a three-shot hole or try to reach the green in two. Players who found the greenside bunker after going for the green in two gained an average of 0.12 strokes. Despite being the fourth-most common bunker landing zone on a par 5, the 18th hole proved uncharacteristically rewarding from that spot. With only 2.7% of the field finding the green in two last season, the critical decision on this hole is where players aim their second shot. While reaching the green is unlikely, choosing the right miss will be the key to success.
  - The fact sheet for this week can be found [here](#)

#### 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 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.*

- There were four aces at the Walmart NW Arkansas Championship presented by P&G
  - **Yealimi Noh, Mao Saigo, Benedetta Moresco** and **Nataliya Guseva** all recorded their first career hole-in-one at Pinnacle Country Club
- \$400,000 has been donated in 2026 bringing the all-time amount donated to \$3.76 million