TOTO Japan Classic

Taiheiyo Club Minori Course | Omitama, Ibaraki, Japan| Nov. 5-8, 2026

Tuesday Pre-Tournament Notes

Nov. 3, 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

SOCIAL MEDIA
LPGA Tour: @LPGA, @LPGAMedia (X), @lpga_tour (Instagram, TikTok)
Tournament: @MaybankChampionship (Instagram), @MaybankChampion (X)

MEDIA AVAILABILITY SCHEDULE
(All times are local, 14 hours ahead of Eastern Time)

Wednesday, October 28
Approx 10:30 a.m. following pro-am - **Miyu Yamashita**
Approx 12 p.m. following pro-am - **Defending Champion Nasa Hataoka**
Approx 1 p.m. following pro-am - **Jeeno Thitikul**

NOTABLE PLAYERS

- **Rolex Rankings No. 2 Jeeno Thitikul**
  - Second start at the TOTO Japan Classic
    - Competed in 2022 where she finished T10
  - 2026: 16 cuts made in 18 starts with four wins and nine additional top 10s
    - Earned victories at the LOTTE Championship presented by Hoakalei, The Standard Portland Classic, Honda LPGA Thailand, and defended her title at the Mizuho Americas Open
    - Has finished inside the top 10 in seven consecutive starts

        - Her only missed cuts this year have come at The Chevron Championship and the Meijer LPGA Classic for Simply Give
        - Finished T8 in her most recent event at the Buick LPGA Shanghai
    - Career: 11 wins, 66 top 10s with $20.3 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 Miyu Yamashita**
    - Won in her last start last week at the Maybank Championship
    - Finished third at the TOTO Japan Classic in 2025
        - Has never finished outside of the top-30, played three times as a JLPGA member and once as a LPGA Tour member
    - 2026: 19 cuts made in 21 starts with three wins and 12 additional top 10s
        - Won the Maybank Championship, CPKC Women's Open and the Meijer LPGA Classic for Simply Give
        - Became the fastest Japanese player to five wins, 58 starts
            - Previous fastest was **Ayaka Okamoto** in 71 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: Five wins including one major championship, 25 top 10s with $6.7M in official career earnings
        - Has five wins in four different countries (Canada, United States of America, Malaysia, Wales)
        - Joined **Jeeno Thitikul** as only the second LPGA Tour player in history to record consecutive seasons with over $3 million in season official earnings
        - 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
- **Rolex Rankings No. 11 Shiho Kuwaki**
    - Plays on the JLPGA Tour
    - Won the 2026 AIG Women's Open and earned LPGA Tour membership, deferred membership to the 2027 season
    - Fourth consecutive appearance in the TOTO Japan Classic
        - Finished solo second in 2023 for her highest finish at this event

NOTABLE TOURNAMENT INFO

- This is the 49th playing of the TOTO Japan Classic, which is co-sanctioned by the LPGA Tour and the LPGA of Japan (JLPGA) Tour
    - The TOTO Japan Classic was an unofficial event from 1973 to 1975
    - In 2020 and 2021, the event was contested as a JLPGA event only
- The event is held at Taiheyo Club Minori Course for the second time in tournament history
    - Mone Inami won the last time this event was held at this course
- Annika Sorenstam won five consecutive times at this event, four of them at Seta Golf Course
- This is the fifth year the event will be officially played as a 72-hole tournament
    - The TOTO Japan Classic was played as a 54-hole event until 2022
    - In 2025, the tournament was shortened to 54-holes due to incliment weather

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, 79.87%
Scrambling Percentage: Miyu Yamashita, 67.78%
Average Driving Distance: Riley Smyth, 288.55 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 BMW Ladies Championship the following players moved inside the top 60:
    - **Jodi Ewart Shadoff**: finished T6, moved up 10 spots to No. 56
    - **Dewi Weber**: finished T29, moved up 1 spot to No. 60

Aon Risk Reward Challenge No. 12, par 5 at Taiheiyo Club Minori Course

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

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 have been 24 aces during the 2026 LPGA Tour season, surpassing the number made in 2025 (22) with three events left to play
- There was one hole-in-one at the Maybank Championship

    - **Brooke Matthews** made an ace
- $480,000 has been donated in 2026 bringing the all-time amount donated to $3.84 million