



2026 Walmart NW Arkansas Championship presented by P&G
Pinnacle Country Club | Rogers, Arkansas | September 25-27, 2026

Second-Round Notes

September 26, 2026

Media Contacts: [Matt Jesus](#), +1 (402) 957-4674;

[Mallory Kinahan](#), +1 (631) 796-9459

[Jeremy Friedman](#), +1 (407) 721-9752

Course Setup: 36-35 – 71, 6,282 yards

Weather: [Saturday Forecast](#)

Race to CME Globe Points: 500 (winner)

Purse: \$3 million (\$450,000 – winner's purse)

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: @NWACHampionship (X, Instagram)

LEADERBOARD

	Player	To par	Score
1	Yuna Nishimura	-16	63-63 – 126
T2	Michelle Zhang	-11	67-64 – 131
T2	Mary Liu	-11	67-64 – 131
T2	Auston Kim	-11	67-64 – 131

COMPETITION HIGHLIGHTS

- 70 players made the cut at -4 or better
 - Three of the five Razorbacks in the field made the cut
 - Maria Jose Marin (a)** and **Maria Fassi** did not make the cut
 - Sponsor invite Regan Zibilski made the cut in her first start on the LPGA Tour
- Leader: **Yuna Nishimura**
 - Recorded a 63 for the second consecutive round
 - Registered nine birdies and one bogey
 - Tied the tournament 36-hole scoring record with 126 joining Anna Nordqvist (2020) and Se Yeon Ryu (2017) to do so
 - Her lowest 36-hole score since recording a 123 at the 2025 T-Mobile Match Play presented by MGM Rewards
 - 126 is her best 36-hole score by four strokes
 - Previous was 130 at the 2023 Walmart NW Arkansas Championship presented by P&G
 - Nishimura is the fifth player in the last 20 years to have a raw 36-hole score of 126 or better
 - First since **Miyu Yamashita** at the CPKC Women's Open

- Her 15 birdies through 36-holes are the most in the field
- First time leading after both the first and second round in her career
- Has hit 24/26 greens in regulation through 36-holes which is tied for the most in the field
- T2: **Mary Liu, Michelle Zhang, and Auston Kim** are tied for second and sit 11-under
 - Liu, Zhang, and Kim all began the day at T26
- Liu recorded eight birdies and one bogey
 - Her 64 in the second round breaks her career-low round and marks her lowest since the 2024 Dana Open (65)
 - Has the fewest putts in the field through two rounds of play with 52
 - 24 putts recorded today is the second fewest in a single round of her career
 - Registered 14 birdies through 36-holes rank second-most in the field
- Zhang carded a 64 for her best career round at an LPGA Tour event
 - Recorded eight birdies and one bogey
 - It is her lowest round since the 2024 Blue Bay LPGA where she shot a 66 in the fourth round
 - Her 131 is also a career low through 36-holes
- Kim had a bogey-free round and birdied the last hole to earn a share of second
 - Marks the 13th bogey-free round of her career
 - Ranks top 10 in eagles made (2), birdies (12), and fewest bogeys (1)
 - Recorded back-to-to back birdies on 17 and 18
- **Lauren Coughlin** opened her second round 9 under par with nine straight birdies
 - Became the first player to open a round 9- with as many birdies on the LPGA Tour since 1980
 - Coughlin ties the all-time record for most consecutive birdies registered in a single round joining **Amy Yang** in 2015 and **Beth Daniel** in 1999
 - Her 26 through the first nine holes is now the lowest raw score for nine holes in LPGA History
- **Nataliya Guseva** recorded her first career hole in one during the second round of the tournament
 - She hit her 9-iron 137 yards on the No.15 par 3
- **Benedetta Moresco** also recorded her first career ace during the second round of the tournament
 - She hit her 8-iron 143 yards on the No. 6 par 3

WITH A WIN

Yuna Nishimura

- Would become the Tour's third First-Time LPGA Tour Winner of 2026
 - Would join **Yana Wilson** and **Gina Kim** who both won the Dow Championship
- Would become the 15th Japanese player to be a Rolex First-Time Winner since 2006
- Nishimura would become the first Japanese Rolex First-Time LPGA Tour Winner since **Akie Iwai's** win at the 2025 The Standard Portland Classic
- Would become the third Japanese player to win the Walmart NW Arkansas Championship
 - Joins **Ai Miyazato** in 2012 and **Nasa Hataoka** in 2018 & 2021
- Would become the third Rolex First-Time Winner at the Walmart NW Arkansas Championship
 - First since **Haeran Ryu** in 2023 and **Nasa Hataoka** in 2018
- Nishimura would become the 24th different winner from Japan in the history of the LPGA Tour
- Would be the third winner from Japan to win on Tour this season
 - Also joins **Miyu Yamashita** and **Shiho Kuwaki**

- Would be the 17th unique winner on the LPGA Tour this season

Mary Liu

- Would become the Tour's third First-Time LPGA Tour Winner of 2026
 - Would join **Yana Wilson** and **Gina Kim** who both won the Dow Championship
- Would join fellow countrywoman **Ruoning Yin** as the second player from China to win an LPGA Tour event in the 2026 season
- Would become the third player from People's Republic of China to become a Rolex First-Time Winner
 - First since **Miranda Wang** at the 2025 FM Championship
- Would become the first player from People's Republic of China to win the Walmart NW Arkansas Championship
- Would be just the fourth player from China to win on the LPGA Tour
- Would be the 17th unique winner on the LPGA Tour this season

Michelle Zhang

- Would become the Tour's third First-Time LPGA Tour Winner of 2026
 - Would join **Yana Wilson** and **Gina Kim** who both won the Dow Championship
- Would join fellow countrywoman **Ruoning Yin** as the second player from China to win an LPGA Tour event in the 2026 season
- Would become the third player from People's Republic of China to become a Rolex First-Time Winner
 - First since **Miranda Wang** at the 2025 FM Championship
- Would be just the fourth player from China to win on the LPGA Tour
- Would become the first player from People's Republic of China to win the Walmart NW Arkansas Championship
- Would become the second rookie to win an LPGA Tour event this season
 - First since **Yana Wilson** at the Dow Championship
- Would be the 17th unique winner on the LPGA Tour this season

Auston Kim

- Would become the Tour's third First-Time LPGA Tour Winner of 2026
 - Would join **Yana Wilson** and **Gina Kim** who both won the Dow Championship
- Would become the third American to win the Walmart NW Arkansas Championship
 - Would join **Austin Ernst** (2020) and **Stacey Lewis** (2007,2014) in doing so
- Would becoming the third American to win an LPGA Tour event this season joining **Nelly Korda** and **Lauren Coughlin**
- Would surpass \$1.5 million in official season earnings with the \$450,000 winner's purse
- Would be the 17th unique winner on the LPGA Tour this season

A LOOK AT THE LEADER

CATEGORY	Yuna Nishimura
2026 Race to CME Globe Rank	103
2026 LPGA Tour Wins	0
2026 LPGA Tour Top 10s	1

2026 Official Season Earnings	\$151.9K
Career LPGA Tour Wins	0
Career Official LPGA Tour Top 10s	5
Career Official Money	\$1.4M

ABOUT THE LEADER

Rolex Ranking No. 350 Yuna Nishimura

- Seventh start at the Walmart NW Arkansas Championship presented by P&G
 - 2025 – T106*, 2024 – T12, 2023 – T3
 - *The 2025 playing was cancelled after 18 holes due to heavy rainfall
- 2026: Seven cuts made in 16 starts with one top 10
 - Finished T5 at the Dow Championship with her partner Nasa Hataoka
 - Her best individual finish of the year is T17 at the CPKC Women's Open
- Career: Five top 10s with \$1.4 million in official career earnings
 - Has a career-best finish of T3 last done at the 2024 HSBC Women's World Championship
 - Represented Team Japan at the 2023 Hanwha LIFEPLUS International Crown
 - Finished T24 at the LPGA Q-Series and earned LPGA membership for the 2023 season

TOURNAMENT SCORING RECORDS:

18 holes – 60, Lucy Li (R3, 2024)

36 holes – 126, **Yuna Nishimura (2026)**, Anna Nordqvist (2020) and So Yeon Ryu (2017)

54 holes – 192, Nasa Hataoka (2018)

QUOTABLES

Yuna Nishimura (1, -16) on what has worked well for her

"(Through translation.) My short irons were working really well so I was able to put it close to the pin and kind of all worked out for me."

Auston Kim (T2, -11) on how she went bogey-free after multiple bogeys in her first round

"I am pretty proud of the way I finished yesterday, considering I did make a double on my 15th hole and went back to even. But the good thing was that I played a lot of the birdies, made a lot of eagles. I knew I was scoring. It was just a matter of minimizing the mistakes. I hit two really bad shots yesterday that cost me, and it's not to say that I didn't hit any bad shots today, but just being able to minimize the really, really bad ones. Thankfully I didn't hit a lot of those today. Just staying positive and trying to be really aggressive to my targets and make as many putts as I can. Like you can't control whether the ball goes in or not, and thankful today I was able to commit and the putts dropped."

Mary Liu (T2, -11) on what part of her game is working the best for her

"Well, actually today is not Plan A. Definitely not. I'm missing lots of shot but really lucky, and also I think some energy from the team, from my caddie, also from the host I have here and also the pro-am guest come watching me. All those good energy I think give me lots of good luck. I made some incredible chip and then play. I just really accept it."

Michelle Zhang (T2, -11) on if she could feel a round like this coming

"I have actually. So I played -- we had three weeks off because of Solheim Cup. I played two Epson tournaments before this. I finished second at the first one and I've been just kind of consistently kind of playing good golf. And then I finished second and seventh coming into this week, and having someone that I really like on the bag -- have Aaron on the bag just for the week -- and he's been helping me with the confidence on the course and just kind of seeing some putts drop and hitting a lot of greens."

Lauren Coughlin (-8, T21) on her nine-straight birdies to start her round

"Yeah, I think I made about a 12-footer on the first hole which kind of got me started for the day. Then I hit it to pretty close on 11. Yeah, I don't know. I just was making a lot of those mid-range putts. I hit everything pretty much inside 12 feet on my whole front nine. My longest putt might've been 17, which was probably about 15-ish feet or so. But other than that, everything just seemed to be going exactly how far I wanted it to, right at the hole and I was putting really good putts on it as well. Yeah, felt like I started to get a little bit of adrenaline pretty much nine green on for the next few holes, but then I made the birdie on three so I thought I was like, I really have a chance now. Then, yeah, just couldn't quite get it close enough unfortunately last few holes."

Nataliya Guseva (-5, T49) on her first career ace

"Oh, my God. It's crazy. I feel like my whole day was such a roller coaster because I started off with two birdies and two bogeys. I was so pissed. I was like, come on, I just need some momentum going here. I feel like whenever I came to the 15th hole I just grabbed my 9-iron, just a stock 9-iron. Just the line was great. Just spin back and went in and I was just screaming."

Benedetta Moresco (-1, T89) on her first career hole-in-one

"So today we had the tee, one tee forward so we only had 132 to the pin, which is about 145 yards. I hit an 8-iron with a little bit of a draw. I saw it get close and then I didn't real see it go in, but I saw the people cheering, so I was like, whoo, let's go."

[ON LPGA.COM](#)

[Yuna Nishimura Cards Second Consecutive 63 to Hold 36-Hole Lead in Rogers](#)

[Things to Know: Medalists Crowned as 104 Advance from LPGA Q-Series Pre-Qualifying](#)

[Nataliya Guseva Highlights Eventful Round With Career-First Ace at Pinnacle Country Club](#)

[Auston Kim Second Round Golf Channel Interview | 2026 Walmart NW Arkansas Championship presented by P&G](#)

[Lauren Coughlin Second Round Highlights | 2026 Walmart NW Arkansas Championship presented by P&G](#)