



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

Wednesday Pre-Tournament Notes

September 23, 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
[Tournament Website](#)

SOCIAL MEDIA

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

MEDIA AVAILABILITY SCHEDULE

(Zoom link available upon request; all times are local (CDT) and subject to change)

Thurs., September 24

10 a.m. – **Gaby Lopez**, Arkansas Alumna

10:15 a.m. – **Brooke Matthews**, Arkansas Alumna and Rogers, Ark. Native

10:30 a.m. – **Maria Jose Marin** and **Sauna Taylor**, Sponsor Invite and Arkansas Women's Golf Head Coach

11:00 a.m. – **Reagan Zibilski**, Sponsor Invite

12:00 p.m. – **Yealimi Noh**, 2026 U.S. Solheim Cup Team Member

Following Pro-Am – **Maria Fassi**, Sponsor Invite

NOTABLE PLAYERS

- [Rolex Rankings No. 5 Miyu Yamashita](#)
 - Second start at the Walmart NW Arkansas Championship presented by P&G
 - Competed in 2025 before the tournament was cancelled due to weather
 - 2026: 16 cuts made in 18 starts with two wins and eight additional top 10s
 - Won the CPKC Women's Open and the Meijer LPGA Classic for Simply Give
 - Finished T6 in her last start at the FM Championship

- 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 **Ayako 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, 22 top 10s with \$6,032,345 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
- Rolex Rankings No. 7 Lottie Woad
 - Second start at the Walmart NW Arkansas Championship presented by P&G
 - Competed in 2025 before the tournament was cancelled due to weather
 - 2026: 15 cuts made in 18 starts with one win and five additional top 10s
 - Earned her second career victory at the Kroger Queen City Championship presented by P&G
 - Competed in first Solheim Cup representing Europe
 - Went 1-3-1
 - Finished T27 in her last individual start at the FM Championship
 - Career: Two wins, 9 top 10s with \$2,334,932 in official career earnings
 - The first athlete to earn LPGA Tour status via the LPGA Elite Amateur Pathway in July 2025 when she tied for third at The Amundi Evian Championship
 - Became a Rolex First-Time Winner at the 2025 ISPS HANDA Women's Scottish Open, her first start after becoming a LPGA Tour member
 - Played collegiately at Florida State University
 - During her time as a Seminole, Woad was named the 2023 ACC Freshman of the Year, was named a WCGA All-American three times (2023-25) and was the 2024 ACC Golfer of the Year
 - The first Englishwoman to win the Mark H. McCormack Medal in August 2024, an award given to the athlete who is ranked No. 1 in the World Amateur Golf Ranking at the conclusion of what's considered to be the elite amateur season
- Rolex Rankings No. 8 Charley Hull
 - Fourth start at the Walmart NW Arkansas Championship presented by P&G
 - 2022 – T5, 2019 – MC, 2018 – T37
 - 2026: 10 cuts made in 14 starts with four top 10s

- Has a season-best finish of T2 at the U.S. Women's Open presented by Ally
- Finished T17 at the FM Championship in her last individual start
- Competed in her eighth Solheim Cup representing Europe
 - Went 1-3-1 bringing her overall record to 13-10-4
- Career: Three wins, 46 top 10s with \$12,732,385
 - Has three career wins with her last coming at the 2025 Kroger Queen City Championship presented by P&G
 - Eight-time member of the European Solheim Cup Team
 - Three-time competitor at the Hanwha LIFEPLUS International Crown
 - Represented England in 2016 and 2018 and competed on the World team in 2025
 - Began her career on the Ladies European Tour
 - She was named the 2013 LET Rookie of the Year and also won both the Order of Merit and Player of the Year honors in 2014

NOTABLE TOURNAMENT INFO

- This is the 20th playing of the Walmart NW Arkansas Championship presented by P&G all held at Pinnacle Country Club
 - The third-longest operating LPGA Tour event in the United States
- 2025 playing was shortened to 18 holes due to heavy rainfall throughout the NW Arkansas area
 - No CME points were awarded
 - <https://www.lpga.com/news/2025/2025-walmart-nw-arkansas-championship-presented-by-pg-shortened-to-18-holes>
- There are three sponsor invites in the field this week, all former or current Arkansas Razorbacks
 - **Maria Fassi**
 - Competes on the Epson Tour
 - Has made 10 cuts in 16 starts with one top 10
 - Best finish is T2 at the Atlantic Beach Classic presented by Access Golf
 - Has competed at the Walmart NW Arkansas Championship since 2016
 - Missed the 2017 playing
 - Competed collegiately at the University of Arkansas where she was the 2019 NCAA Women's Championship Division I Individual Champion, 2018 and 2019 ANNIKA Award winner, 2018 SEC Golfer of the Year and 2018 WGCA First-Team All-American
 - **Maria Jose Marin (a)**
 - 2026 Augusta National Women's Amateur Champion
 - No. 4 on the World Amateur Golf Rankings
 - Currently competes at the University of Arkansas
 - WGCA First Team All-American (2024, 2025, 2026)
 - SEC Player of the Year (2025)
 - All-SEC First Team (2024, 2025, 2026)
 - Sixth start on the LPGA Tour this season
 - Has a season-best finish of fifth at the Riviera Maya Open at Mayakoba
 - **Reagan Zibilski**

- Rookie on the Epson Tour
 - Has made eight cuts in nine starts with three top 10s
 - Has finished T6 twice, most recently at the Island Resort Championship presented by Delta County Chamber
- Played collegiately at the University of Arkansas
 - 2025 WCGA All-American Honorable Mention
 - 2025 and 2026 All-SEC Second Team
- Has appeared once on the LPGA Tour at the U.S. Women's Open in 2019
- Five former/current Arkansas Razorbacks in the field
 - Fassi, Marin, Zibilski, **Gaby Lopez** and **Brooke Matthews**
 - Matthews is a Rogers, Arkansas native
- 17 Solheim Cup participants in the field
 - **United States:** Lauren Coughlin, Megan Khang, Auston Kim, Jennifer Kupcho, Andrea Lee, Yealimi Noh, Angel Yin and Rose Zhang
 - **Europe:** Celine Boutier, Carlota Ciganda, Linn Grant, Charley Hull, Julia Lopez Ramirez, Leona Maguire, Nastasia Nadaud, Mimi Rhodes and Lottie Woad

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, 290.62 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 FM Championship the following players moved up in the rankings:
 - **Lauren Coughlin** moved up five spots to No. 20 after a T13 finish
 - **Allisen Corpuz** moved up seven spots with a third-place finish
 - **Rose Zhang** jumped up 17 spots after a T4 finish

Aon Risk Reward Challenge No. 14, par 5 at Pinnacle 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

- No. 14: The 14th hole at Pinnacle CC is a dogleg left par 5 with sloping fairways and slight elevation changes, requiring precision from players throughout the hole, and plays drastically different depending on which tees are in play.
 - 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.

- The last ace was made by **Daniela Darquea** at the FM Championship
- \$320,000 has been donated in 2026 bringing the all-time amount donated to \$3.68 million