



The Chevron Championship
The Club at Carlton Woods | The Woodlands, TX | April 18-21, 2024

First-Round Notes
April 18, 2024

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Course Setup: 36-36 – 72; 6,723 yards
Scoring Average: R1: 73.333; R2:73.546
Weather: Mostly to partly cloudy skies with temperatures reaching into the upper 80s F and southernly or southeasterly winds gusting up to 20 mph
Race to CME Globe Points: 500 (winner)
Purse: \$7.9 million (winner’s portion is \$1.2 million)

QUICK LINKS
[Interview Transcripts](#)
[LPGA Tour Online Media Center \(OMC\):](#)
[LPGA Statistical Database](#)
[Stats Box](#)
[Media Assets](#)
[Tournament Website](#)

TV/STREAMING TIMES: (All times ET)
Thursday, April 18: 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. & 6-8 p.m. (Golf Channel/Peacock)
Friday, April 19: 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. & 6-8 p.m. (Golf Channel/Peacock)
Saturday, April 20: 2 – 3 p.m. (Peacock); 3 – 6 p.m. (NBC/Peacock)
Sunday, April 21: 2 – 3 p.m. (Peacock); 3 – 6 p.m. (NBC/Peacock)

ESPN+ FEATURED GROUP COVERAGE: Friday, April 19 (All times ET)
8:59 a.m. – Celine Boutier/Allisen Corpuz/Ruoning Yin
9:21 a.m. – Charley Hull/Alison Lee/Angela Stanford
2:10 p.m. – Jin Young Ko/Patty Tavatanakit/So Yeon Ryu
2:21 p.m. - Lexi Thompson/Brooke Henderson/Lydia Ko

LEADERBOARD			
	Player	To par	Score
1	Lauren Coughlin	-6	66
T2	Nelly Korda	-4	68
T2	Marina Alex	-4	68
T2	Minami Katsu	-4	68
T5	Five players	-3	69

LAUREN COUGHLIN HOLDS FIRST-ROUND LEAD AT THE CHEVRON CHAMPIONSHIP

After shooting an opening 66 at The Club at Carlton Woods on Thursday, **Lauren Coughlin** will sleep on a first-round lead for just the second time in her career, and at a major championship, nonetheless. Making her second start at The Chevron Championship in The Woodlands, Texas, Coughlin went bogey free with three birdies on the front nine (holes 2, 4 and 5) and three on the back nine (Nos. 10, 11 and 18). She was accurate in her approach and with her flat stick, hitting 14 of 18 greens, recording 10 one-putts and needing just 26 putts overall to get through her first round.

“I think my husband and I had a really good game plan, and I wasn't trying to be too aggressive out there. Just trying to take a 30-footer or, I might have a chip here or there, just knowing that that's the appropriate place to be,” said Coughlin, whose husband, John Pond, recently started caddying for her. “Not trying to be too aggressive in certain spots and taking what, certainly there's some holes, good pins and stuff that you can go at stuff, but overall, I was just trying to take what it would give me and not trying to force anything.”

Coughlin is making her 11th appearance in an LPGA Tour major championship this week. The American has made the cut in just two of her 10 previous starts in majors, but finished T15 and T16, respectively, in the 2023 and 2022 KPMG Women’s PGA Championship.

Two strokes behind Coughlin at -4 are two-time LPGA Tour winner **Marina Alex**, eight-time JLPGA winner **Minami Katsu** and major champion **Nelly Korda**, who is chasing her fifth win in as many consecutive starts on Tour. Korda fared the best of the players in the afternoon wave, who dealt with stronger winds and drier conditions than the morning competitors. She opened with a bogey on her first hole, No. 10, but was -1 at the turn thanks to birdies on 14 and 17. Another mistake on No. 2 was quickly remedied with four birdies in her last six holes.

“Two of them were par-5s, so I got to take advantage of that with my length,” said Korda when asked what clicked for her coming down the stretch. “Hit a really good tee shot, and then I was just on the front of the green on 17, and the other one I was just on the fringe, too. I two-putted pretty much for birdie on those. Then I had wedge shots in on the other two, too. Taking advantage of my length and hitting good tee shots.”

Korda is chasing history at The Chevron Championship, looking to become the first woman since **Annika Sorenstam** (2004-05) to win in five consecutive starts, and third in the history of the LPGA Tour along with Sorenstam and **Nancy Lopez** (1978). She would also join the likes of

Lorena Ochoa (2008), **Sorenstam** (2001), **Kathy Whitworth** (1969) and **Mickey Wright** (1962, 1963) if she were to win a fourth straight scheduled event on the LPGA Tour.

Five players sit in a tie for fifth, including 2024 rookies **Gabriela Ruffels** and **Jin Hee Im** and LPGA Tour veteran **Xiyu Lin**. Also tied for fifth are **Atthaya Thitikul**, who is making her 2024 season debut at The Chevron Championship, and **Lydia Ko**, who will earn a place in the LPGA Hall of Fame with one more win on the LPGA Tour.

A LOOK AT THE LEADER

CATEGORY	Lauren Coughlin
2024 Race to CME Globe Rank	41
2024 LPGA Tour Wins	0
2024 LPGA Tour Top 10s	1
2024 Season Earnings	\$126,980
Career LPGA Tour Wins	0
Career LPGA Tour Top 10s	4
Career Money (LPGA)	\$944,177
Career LET Wins	0
Career Epsom Tour Wins	0

ABOUT THE LEADER

Rolex Rankings No. 94 Lauren Coughlin

- Coughlin hit 13 of 14 fairways and 14 of 18 greens
 - She was bogey free with six birdies
 - She was one of two players to card a bogey-free round on Thursday, along with **Yu Jin Sung** (T31, E)
 - It is her third bogey-free round of the 2024 Tour season
 - It is her second bogey-free round at any major championship
 - She made three birdies on the front (holes 2,4 and 5) and three on the back (holes 10, 11 and 18)
 - She made birdies on two of the four par-5s (holes 4 and 18)
 - She had 10 one-putts, and a total of 26 putts in the first round
- This is her second 18-hole lead/co-lead in her Tour career
 - She held the 18-hole co-lead at the 2022 Walmart NW Arkansas Championship
- Coughlin's 66 is her lowest first-round score at a major championship, and the third-lowest opening round of her Tour career
 - This is her lowest first-round score since her first round of the 2022 Walmart NW Arkansas Championship (64)
- This is her lowest round since her final round (64) of the Ford Championship presented by KCC
- This is her eighth start of the 2024 LPGA Tour season
 - Her best finish (T8) was at the LPGA Drive On Championship presented by KCC
 - This was her best finish since the 2023 CPKC Women's Open (T6)
 - She has recorded four top-25 finishes in her seven official starts of 2024
 - She missed one cut this season, the FIR HILLS SERI PAK Championship
- This is her second time playing in The Chevron Championship
 - She made her debut in the championship in 2023, where she missed the cut
 - Coughlin's best finish in a major championship is a T15 result at the 2023 KPMG Women's PGA Championship
 - This is her 11th start in a major championship on the LPGA Tour
 - She has made four starts at the Amundi Evian Championship, missing the cut each time
 - She has made three starts at the KPMG Women's PGA Championship, recording two top-20 finishes (T15, 2023; T16, 2022)
 - She has made two starts at the AIG Women's Open, missing both cuts
 - She has not played in the U.S. Women's Open
- Coughlin is in her seventh season on the LPGA Tour
 - Her career-best finish on Tour is a tie for sixth at the 2023 CPKC Women's Open
 - She finished T7 at the 2017 LPGA Final Qualifying Tournament to first earn LPGA Tour status for 2018
 - She played primarily on the Epson Tour in 2019, making only one start on the LPGA Tour that year
 - She played on both the Epson Tour and LPGA Tour in 2020 and 2021, but has played mostly on the LPGA Tour since 2022

THINGS TO KNOW

- Defending champion **Lilia Vu** withdrew prior to the start of her first round at The Chevron Championship
 - View her statement [here](#)
- Nelly Korda is T2 alongside **Marina Alex** and **Minami Katsu**
 - Korda had two bogeys and six birdies in R1
 - She hit 12 of 14 fairways and 14 of 18 greens with 28 putts
 - She was one of two players to shoot in the 60s from the afternoon wave
 - She has spent four weeks as World No. 1 on the Rolex Women's World Golf Rankings since regaining the position on March 25, 2024
 - Korda has spent a total of 41 career weeks at No. 1, the most of any American player since 2006*
 - Her and **Jin Young Ko** are the only players to be ranked in the top 10 of the Rankings every week over the last two years (104 weeks total)
 - She has earned three of her 12 LPGA Tour wins when she was ranked as World No. 1
 - **Lorena Ochoa** won 17 events as No. 1, the most of any player on the LPGA Tour since 2006*
 - With a win this week, Korda could become the third player to win The Chevron Championship while ranked No. 1
 - **Lorena Ochoa** (2008) and **Lydia Ko** (2016) are the two other players that have done so since 2006*
 - The current average points differential between Korda and Rolex Rankings World No. 2, **Lilia Vu** is 3.67
 - This is the largest average points differential between No. 1 and No. 2 since the week of December 19, 2016, when **Lydia Ko** led **Ariya Jutanugarn** by 3.72 average points
 - *The inception of the Rolex Women's World Golf Rankings was in 2006
 - Since 2022, only **Atthaya Thitikul** and Korda have finished in the top 10 in more than half of their LPGA Tour starts
 - Korda has recorded 21 top 10s in 38 events since 2022 (55.26%)
 - Thitikul has recorded 29 top 10s in 47 events since 2022 (61.70%)
 - An American player (Korda and **Bailey Tardy**) has won in the last four events on the LPGA Tour

- This ties the record for the most consecutive American wins in the last 10 years (2014 – Stacy Lewis, Lizette Salas, Jessica Korda, Stacy Lewis)
 - View Korda’s post-round interview transcript [here](#)
- Alex shot 68 with one early bogey on No. 2
 - Alex also shot 68 in the opening round of The Chevron Championship in 2023, and finished T28
 - This is her lowest round since a pair of 67s in R2 and R4 at the Ford Championship presented by KCC
 - Alex is making her sixth start of the 2024 season
 - Her best finish (T9) was at her season debut, the Hilton Grand Vacations Tournament of Champions
 - She has missed one cut this season at the FIR HILLS SERI PAK Championship
 - She is in her 12th year on the LPGA Tour, with two career victories and 31 top 10s
 - View her post-round interview transcript [here](#)
- Katsu, a sophomore on Tour this season, also shot four under in R1
 - She had just one bogey and hit 12 of 14 fairways and 15 of 18 greens with 30 putts
 - This is her lowest round since a 67 in R2 of the Ford Championship presented by KCC
 - At the T-Mobile Match Play presented by MGM Rewards, she lost to **Narin An** in the quarterfinals
 - She is making her fifth start this season, and has missed just one cut at her season debut (LPGA Drive On Championship)
 - View her post-round interview transcript [here](#)
- In her season debut, **Atthaya Thitikul** opened with a 69 to finish T5 with four other players
 - She carded bogeys on Nos. 1 and 6, and five birdies on Nos. 4, 8, 9, 15 and 18
 - Thitikul hit 9 of 14 fairways and 15 of 18 greens with 30 putts
 - Her last event was the 2023 CME Group Tour Championship, where she finished T5
 - View Thitikul’s post-round interview transcript [here](#)
- **Lydia Ko** is also T5 (-3)
 - Her first-round today was her 56th round in the 60s at an LPGA major championship since 2013
 - Only **Inbee Park** (60) has more in that span
 - Ko is one point away from induction into the LPGA Hall of Fame (currently sitting at 26 points)
 - With a win at The Chevron Championship, she would earn two points and surpass the points threshold necessary for the LPGA Hall of Fame (27 points)
 - View Ko’s post-round interview transcript [here](#)
- **Lottie Woad** (a) is the lowest amateur in the field after R1
 - Woad shot one-under par, carding four bogeys and five birdies
 - This is her first start in an LPGA Tour event
 - Woad won the 2024 Augusta National Women’s Amateur two weeks ago to earn a spot in the field
 - View her post-round interview transcript [here](#)
- In her 98th consecutive start in a major championship, sponsor invite **Angela Stanford** opened with a 74 (T68)
 - She carded nine-hole scores of 41 and 33, with five bogeys and three birdies
 - She currently holds the longest active streak of consecutive starts in majors in women’s professional golf
- According to the KPMG Performance Insights, each of the last 21 LPGA major winners were at or within four of the lead after round 1
 - The last 20 winners had a first-round scoring average of 67.9
- The morning wave scoring average was 72.94, while the afternoon wave scoring average was 74.18

QUOTABLE

Defending champion Lilia Vu on her withdrawal from The Chevron Championship prior to her opening round

“I am so sorry to have to withdraw from The Chevron Championship, as I was really looking forward to defending my first major title. I have been dealing with a back injury for a while now. Some days are better than others, and today was unfortunately not a good day. During my normal warm-up routine, I had severe discomfort in my back and I felt that I could not compete up to my standards and made the decision to withdraw from the tournament ahead of my tee time. I am planning to return home to see my doctors immediately to determine the best appropriate next steps. I want to thank everyone at Chevron for their support and understanding. I am so proud to be a Chevron champion and can’t wait to get back next year. Thank you as well to the fans and volunteers at the course – you are in for a wonderful four days!”

Lauren Coughlin (1st, -6) on her new putter. She had 10 one-putts on Thursday and needed just 26 putts to get through the first round.

“Yeah, I changed putters... On that Monday (of the Ford Championship presented by KCC), (my husband) was getting fit at Ping for a set of clubs for him, and I was just puttering around and picked up this putter, and it felt pretty good from the get-go. Then my coach was there watching me putt around with it, and he was like, ‘hmm, that looks pretty good,’ and Tony, the lead designer of putters at Ping, was there and he was like, ‘wow, that looks really good, too,’ so I just kind of took it, and I’ve been putting with it ever since.”

Nelly Korda (T2, -4) on when she felt relaxed and in her rhythm during the first round at The Chevron Championship:

“After I made my first birdie. Actually I had the apple on the hole I made my birdie. After that I just kind of buckled down and actually Jay told me, okay, let’s get it back here now. He can read me so well, and I’m very open and honest with him of what I’m feeling internally. A lot of people may not see it, but I always am very vocal with him because he’s my teammate out there, and he knows what to say at the right time. Yeah, he helped a lot, and after my first birdie, I really relaxed into the round.”

Marina Alex (T2, -4) on keys to rebounding after a tough 2023 Tour season:

“I think I lost my way a little bit in the middle of last year. Maybe just got really results-oriented and got out of the process of just playing golf. I was chasing trying to make that Solheim team and really set me off in a bad direction from a pressure perspective. Felt like I let myself down and then I kind of just felt like I never got out of that funk. You know, honestly when the season ended I was so thankful for it to be over. I remember I just felt like it was not going in a good way no matter what I was trying. That’s the beauty of off-season. It ended and I put in a lot of great work with my team at home. Added couple new people to my team that have helped me tremendously. You know, at the end of the day it’s just, again, just trying to get back on track and not worry about the results. When you’re diving into hitting shots and being out there and really focusing on what you’re doing task at hand, it’s redundant and people say it all the time. But at the end of the day, if that’s what you’re doing you’re going to perform well. When you get results-oriented or worry about the outcome or worry about what’s going on, not just you, but around you, that’s when things get wayward. You get mentally distracted. I really caved into that last year badly, and I’m trying to do a better job of not caving into that this year. It’ll be a challenge, but I feel like we’re off to a better start with it.”

ON LPGA.COM

[Nelly Korda Within Two of Lead After Thursday at The Chevron Championship](#)

[Marina Alex Makes Quick Work of the Club at Carlton Woods on Day One of the Chevron Championship](#)

[Lilia Vu Statement on Chevron Championship Withdrawal](#)

[Players to Watch: 2024 Chevron Championship](#)

[Featured Groups: 2024 Chevron Championship](#)

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[The Championship that Made Grace Park: Celebrating the 20th Anniversary of Park's Chevron Victory](#)

[Streaming Exclusively on ESPN+: Live Coverage of The Chevron Championship, First LPGA Tour Major of 2024](#)

[Angela Stanford Continues Consecutive Major Streak at The Chevron Championship](#)

SOCIAL SNAPSHOT

[Nelly Korda Throwing Darts](#)

[Scenes from Clubhouse Leader Lauren Coughlin](#)

[Nelly is On the Brink of History at The Chevron Championship](#)

[Let the Fight to the Top Begin](#)

[Thursday's Feature Groups on ESPN+](#)

[Special Guests in the Booth for ESPN+ Coverage](#)

[First Round Highlights | 2024 The Chevron Championship](#)

[Nelly Korda First Round Highlights | 2024 The Chevron Championship](#)

[Marina Alex Highlights First Round | 2024 Chevron Championship](#)

[Nelly Korda First Round Interview | 2024 The Chevron Championship](#)

[Gabriela Ruffels First Round Interview | 2024 The Chevron Championship](#)

[Angela Stanford First Round Interview | 2024 The Chevron Championship](#)

[Jessica Korda Golf Channel Interview | 2024 The Chevron Championship](#)

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CHAMPIONSHIP SCORING RECORDS (OVERALL)

18 holes – 62, Lorena Ochoa (2006) and Lydia Ko (2021)

36 holes – 132, Sung Hyun Park and Pernilla Lindberg (2018)

54 holes – 200, Jennifer Kupcho (2022)

72 holes – 269, Dottie Pepper (1999)

CHAMPIONSHIP SCORING RECORDS AT THE CLUB AT CARLTON WOODS (NICKLAUS)

18 holes – 65, A Lim Kim (R2, 2023) and Amy Yang (R3, 2023)

36 holes – 136, A Lim Kim (2023)

54 holes – 206, Allisen Corpuz and Angel Yin (2023)

72 holes – 278, Lilia Vu and Angel Yin (2023)

TOURNAMENT HISTORY

2023-Current – Played as The Chevron Championship at The Club at Carlton Woods (Nicklaus) in The Woodlands, Texas

2022 – Played as The Chevron Championship at the Dinah Shore Course at Mission Hills Country Club in Rancho Mirage, Calif.

2015-2021 – Played as the ANA Inspiration at the Dinah Shore Course at Mission Hills Country Club in Rancho Mirage, Calif.

2002-2014 – Played as the Kraft Nabisco Championship at the Dinah Shore Course at Mission Hills Country Club in Rancho Mirage, Calif.

2000-2001 – Played as the Nabisco Championship at the Dinah Shore Course at Mission Hills Country Club in Rancho Mirage, Calif.

1983-1999 – Played as the Nabisco Dinah Shore at the Dinah Shore Course at Mission Hills Country Club in Rancho Mirage, Calif.

Prior to major championship elevation: Nabisco Dinah Shore Invitational (1982), Colgate-Dinah Shore (1981) and Colgate-Dinah Shore Winner's Circle (1972-1980)