



Cognizant Founders Cup
Upper Montclair Country Club | Clifton, NJ | May 9-12, 2024

Tuesday Pre-Tournament Notes
May 7, 2024

MEDIA AVAILABILITY SCHEDULE

(Zoom link for pre-tournament availability is distributed upon request; All times are Eastern and subject to change)

Wednesday, May 8

Pioneers Pat Bradley and Beth Daniel – 10 a.m.

Nelly Korda – 11:30 a.m.

Azahara Munoz and Caroline Masson – 1 p.m.

THINGS TO KNOW ABOUT THE 2024 COGNIZANT FOUNDERS CUP

- This is the 13th playing of the Cognizant Founders Cup and third year it has been held at Upper Montclair Country Club in Clifton, N.J.
 - In 2021, the tournament was hosted at Mountain Ridge Country Club in West Caldwell, N.J.
 - Wildfire Golf Club in Phoenix, Ariz., hosted the event from 2011 to 2019
 - This event was not held in 2020
- There are six past champions of the Cognizant Founders Cup in the field this week
 - This year's defending champion, **Jin Young Ko**, has won the event three times (2023, 2021, 2019)
 - With a win, Ko would earn her fourth victory in the last five playings of the event, as it was not contested in 2020
 - Ko is coming off a T4 finish at the JM Eagle LA Championship presented by Plastpro
 - Last year, Ko came from four strokes back on the final day to force a playoff with **Minjee Lee**, the 2022 champion
 - Ko defeated Lee on the first extra hole
 - Lee won in 2022 in the inaugural playing at Upper Montclair CC and set the 18-hole, 36-hole, 54-hole and 72-hole scoring records
 - **Anna Nordqvist** (2017), **Stacy Lewis** (2013) and **Yani Tseng** (2012) are also competing this week
- Thirteen-time PGA Tour winner **Nelly Korda** is chasing history at this year's Cognizant Founders Cup
 - Korda has won in five consecutive starts this season, tying the record held by **Annika Sorenstam** and **Nancy Lopez**
 - Korda began her win streak in January at the LPGA Drive On Championship in her hometown of Bradenton, FL
 - She won four straight scheduled events starting at the FIR HILLS SERI PAK Championship, then the Ford Championship presented by KCC, the T-Mobile Match Play presented by MGM Rewards and, most recently, The Chevron Championship
 - Korda became a two-time major champion with her win at The Chevron Championship
 - Following her fifth win, Korda withdrew from The JM Eagle LA Championship presented by Plastpro to get two weeks of rest before teeing it up at the Cognizant Founders Cup
 - Last season, Korda missed the cut in her first appearance at Upper Montclair Country Club
- **Lydia Ko** is still one win away from qualifying for the LPGA Tour Hall of Fame and will be playing in New Jersey this week
 - Ko won the Hilton Grand Vacations Tournament of Champions earlier this year to earn her 26th HOF point
 - She needs 27 points to earn a place in the HOF
 - Ko finished runner-up to Korda at the LPGA Drive On Championship after losing to the American in a playoff
 - At Upper Montclair CC, Ko has finished T12 (2022) and T42 (2023)
- Eight players in the top-10 of the Rolex Women's World Golf Rankings are in the field this week including:
 - Korda (1), **Celine Boutier** (3), **Ruoning Yin** (4), J.Y. Ko (5), **Brooke Henderson** (6), **Hannah Green** (7), Lee (9) and L. Ko (10)
- This is the LPGA Tour's first of three events that will be held in the New York/New Jersey area this season
 - The other two are the Mizuho Americas Open (May 16-19) and the ShopRite LPGA Classic presented by Acer (June 7-9)
- The 2024 Cognizant Founders Cup is the 25th professional golf event held at Upper Montclair Country Club, dating back to the 1962 Thunderbird Classic on the PGA Tour
 - Professional events held at UMCC include:
 - 1962, 1966, 1967, 1968 – Thunderbird Classic (PGA Tour)
 - 1970 – Dow Jones Open (PGA Tour)
 - 1979, 1980, 1983, 1984 – Coca-Cola Classic ('79-'80) / Chrysler-Plymouth Classic ('83-'84) (LPGA)
 - 1993-2002 – NFL Golf Classic (Champions Tour)
 - 2007-2009 – Sybase Classic (LPGA)
 - 2022-Present – Cognizant Founder's Cup (LPGA)
 - Hall of Famers Gene Littler, Arnold Palmer, Nancy Lopez, Pat Bradley, Lee Trevino and Ray Floyd have all won titles at UMCC
- The Cognizant Founders Cup was created to honor the 13 founding members of the LPGA Tour
 - The 13 founders of the LPGA Tour are **Alice Bauer**, **Patty Berg**, **Bettye Danoff**, **Helen Dettweiler**, **Marlene Hagge**, **Helen Hicks**, **Opal Hill**, **Betty Jameson**, **Sally Sessions**, **Marilynn Smith**, **Shirley Spork**, **Louise Suggs**, and **Babe Zaharias**
 - Since its inception, some of the biggest names in women's professional golf have won the event, including World Golf Hall of Fame member **Karrie Webb**, LPGA Hall of Fame member **Inbee Park**, and major champions **Stacy Lewis**, **Anna Nordqvist**, **Sei Young Kim** and **Yani Tseng**
- Each year, the LPGA Tour also honors pioneers of the women's game at the Cognizant Founders Cup
 - This year's pioneers are **Pat Bradley** and **Beth Daniel**
 - Bradley won 31 times on the LPGA Tour, including six major championships
 - She joined the LPGA Tour in 1974 and earned her last victory in 1995
 - She is a member of both the LPGA Tour Hall of Fame and the World Golf Hall of Fame
 - Daniel joined the LPGA Tour in 1979 and won 33 LPGA Tour events and one major championship in her tenure
 - She was named Rookie of the Year in 1979 and Player of the Year in 1980
 - She last won on the LPGA Tour in 2003 at age 46 years, 8 months and 29 days - the oldest winner in Tour history
 - She is also a member of both the LPGA Tour Hall of Fame and the World Golf Hall of Fame
- While the Cognizant Founder's Cup honors both the past and present of the LPGA Tour, it also celebrates the future of the game through its LPGA*USGA Girls Golf program
 - LPGA*USGA Girls Golf (Girls Golf) is the only junior golf program for girls ages 6-17 that specializes in providing girl-friendly environments to learn the game of golf
 - In 2023, Girls Golf reached its one-millionth participant since inception. To mark the milestone, the LPGA Foundation launched the #OneMillionMORE girls campaign to show its commitment to impacting the next one million girls by 2030
 - There are 16 LPGA Tour players in the Cognizant Founder's Cup field who are Girls Golf Alumnae/Ambassadors including:
 - **Lauren Coughlin**, **Lindy Duncan**, **Kristen Gillman**, **Lauren Hartlage**, **Gina Kim**, **Alison Lee**, **Lewis**, **Brittany Lincicome**, **Yealimi Noh**, **Sarah Schmelzel**, **Sophia Schubert**, **Ashley Shaw** (a), **Bailey Shoemaker** (a), **Bailey Tardy**, **Lexi Thompson** and **Lindsey Weaver-Wright**
- Mother's Day falls on Championship Sunday of the Cognizant Founder's Cup
 - Nine LPGA Tour Moms are in the field this week including **Paula Creamer**, **Lewis**, **Lincicome**, **Caroline Masson**, **Azahara Munoz**, **Hee Young Park**, **Sophia Popov**, **Mel Reid** and **Weaver-Wright**
- This week's sponsor invites are **Bailey Shoemaker** (a) and **Ashley Shaw** (a)

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QUICK LINKS

[Interview Transcripts](#)

[LPGA Tour Online Media Center](#) (OMC): includes links to daily tournament notes, statistics and photo/video assets

[LPGA Statistical Database](#): Request access to LPGA Tour data from 1980 to present

[Stats Box](#): Includes all-time records, major records, purse breakdowns, stats documents, scoring files, points structures, and tournament histories

[Media Assets](#): For access to tournament photos and videos, please contact the on-site LPGA Communications team

[Tournament Website](#)

SOCIAL MEDIA

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

Tournament: @LPGAFounders (X, Instagram), #ActLikeAFounder

TV/STREAMING TIMES (All times EST)

Thursday, May 9: 3-6 p.m. (Peacock)

Friday, May 10: 3-6 p.m. (Peacock)

Saturday, May 11: 3-6 p.m. (Peacock)

Sunday, May 12: 1-5 p.m. (Peacock); 3-5 (CNBC)

ESPN+ FEATURED GROUP COVERAGE (All times EST)

Thursday, May 9:

7:59 a.m. - Nelly Korda/Jin Young Ko/Minjee Lee

8:10 a.m. - Nasa Hataoka/Brooke Henderson/Hannah Green

1:21 p.m. - Angel Yin/Alison Lee/Leona Maguire

1:31 p.m. - Atthaya Thitikul/Alexa Pano/Andrea Lee

Friday, May 10:

7:59 a.m. - Lexi Thompson/Lauren Coughlin/Celine Boutier

8:10 a.m. - Rose Zhang/Megan Khang/Lydia Ko

1:32 p.m. - Elizabeth Szokol/Gabriela Ruffels/Sarah Schmelzel

1:32 p.m. - Grace Kim/Maja Stark/Cheyenne Knight

Saturday, May 11: 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Sunday, May 12: 8 a.m. - 4 p.m.

- Shoemaker finished runner-up at this year's Augusta National Women's Amateur behind **Lottie Woad**
 - She plays collegiate golf at the University of Southern California
 - She earned five top-20 finishes during the 2024 NCAA season, with a season-best result of T7
 - Prior to her collegiate career, she was a three-time junior All-American in 2020-2022 and represented the United States in the 2021 Junior Solheim Cup
 - On the LPGA Tour, Shoemaker had made four starts and has made the cut in all but one
 - Her best finish on Tour is a T42 result at the 2022 ShopRite LPGA Classic presented by Acer
- Shaw won The JOHN SHIPPEN Cognizant Cup at Upper Montclair Country Club on Monday to gain entry into the field
 - Shaw is 15 years old and will be making her first start on the LPGA Tour
 - On Monday, she shot a 1-over 73 to beat LPGA Tour player **Mariah Stackhouse** and **Georgia Oboh** by two strokes
 - In 2022, Shaw won Steph Curry's inaugural Underrated Golf Curry Cup
 - The John Shippen aims to create opportunities in golf for Black men and women in order to increase diversity in golf on a national scale and honor the legacy of John Shippen, Jr.
- **Laura Wearn** and **Sophia Schubert** Monday qualified for the event
 - Wearn is making her first LPGA Tour start of the 2024 season at the Cognizant Founders Cup
 - Wearn was an LPGA Tour rookie in 2023, but played most of the season on the Epson Tour
 - She played in five LPGA Tour events in 2023 and made one cut
 - This season, Wearn has competed in five Epson Tour events with a season-best finish of T10 at the IOA Golf Classic presented by LPT Realty in March
 - Schubert is making her second start of the 2024 LPGA Tour season
 - She finished T60 at the FIR HILLS SERI PAK Championship in March
 - Schubert has competed in two Epson Tour events this season as well, with a best finish of T53 at the Florida's Natural Charity Classic in March

Tournament Scoring Records (Overall):

18 holes – 61, Anna Nordqvist (R3, 2017) at Wildfire Golf Club
36 holes – 129, Jee Young Lee (2013) and Sei Young Kim (2016) at Wildfire Golf Club
54 holes – 195, Anna Nordqvist (2017) at Wildfire Golf Club
72 holes - 261, Sei Young Kim (2016) at Wildfire Golf Club

Tournament Scoring Records from Upper Montclair Country Club:

18 holes – 63, Atthaya Thitikul (R4, 2022), Madelene Sagstrom (R1, 2022) and Minjee Lee (R2, 2022)
36 holes – 130, Minjee Lee (2022)
54 holes – 199, Minjee Lee (2022)
72 holes – 269, Minjee Lee (2022)

2024 STATISTICAL LEADERS

Official Money: Nelly Korda, \$2,424,216
Scoring Average: Nelly Korda, 69.217
Birdies: Ayaka Furue, 142
Eagles: Nelly Korda, 6
Hole-in-Ones: Jennifer Song, Danielle Kang, Alexa Pano, Auston Kim and Jeongeun Lee5, 1
Greens in Regulation: Nelly Korda, 75.9%
Average Driving Distance: Auston Kim, 280.680 yards

2024 Award Standings

Rolex Player of the Year		
1	Nelly Korda	180 points
2	Hannah Green	80 points
3	Lydia Ko	49 points

Louise Suggs Rolex Rookie of the Year		
1	Jin Hee Im	220 points
2	Gabriela Ruffels	201 points
3	Mao Saigo	164 points

#AonRiskReward Challenge		
1	Mina Harigae	-1.167
T2	Five players	-1.000

Vare Trophy (Scoring Average)		
1	Nelly Korda	69.217
2	Brooke Henderson	69.871
3	Hannah Green	69.950

Race to the CME Globe Points		
1	Nelly Korda	2,702.00 points
2	Lydia Ko	1,142.258 points
3	Hannah Green	1,043.975 points

[Aon Risk Reward Challenge](#): No. 12, par 5

The par five 12th at Upper Montclair Country Club is a power player's dream, giving the biggest advantage than anywhere else on the golf course to players who hit their drive the farthest. It's not just grip and rip, though. This hole penalizes players who miss the fairway by more than half a stroke on average. The tee shot's value is reflected in how it impacts a player's decision with the second shot - you're more than three times as likely to go for this green in two if you're hitting it out of the short grass.

The Aon Risk Reward Challenge is a season-long competition across 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 Challenge hole, with the winners having the best average score to par at the end of the regular season. The winning woman will take home the Aon trophy and a \$1 million prize.

[Race to CME Globe Update](#):

The Race to the CME Globe continues at the Cognizant Founders Cup with five-time 2024 LPGA Tour champion **Nelly Korda** well ahead of the competition as she looks to make history in New Jersey. If Korda were to win her sixth event in as many starts, she would do something no one has ever done in the history of the LPGA Tour. On top of that, she would take home 500 Race to the CME Globe points and increase her already-dominant lead.

With 2,702 points, Korda leads The Race by more than 1,500 points over her nearest competitor **Lydia Ko**. Ko (1,142.258 points) won the inaugural event of the season, the Hilton Grand Vacations Tournament of Champions, and has come close to another win with a runner-up finish at the LPGA Drive On Championship. If Ko were to win this week, she would collect the 500-point prize in the Race to the CME Globe as well as the final point needed to in her a spot in the LPGA Tour Hall of Fame.

In third place behind Ko is two-time 2024 winner **Hannah Green**, who most recently defended her title at the JM Eagle LA Championship presented by Plastpro. She also won the HSBC Women's World Championship in Singapore earlier this year. In fourth is Sweden's **Maja Stark**, who has finished solo second in her last two starts on Tour, and in fifth is Canada's **Brooke Henderson**, who has five top-10 finishes in her eight starts on Tour this season.

The Race to the CME Globe is a season-long points competition with LPGA Tour Members accumulating points in every official LPGA event to qualify for the season-ending tournament, the CME Group Tour Championship. The player who wins the CME Group Tour Championship is named the "Race to the CME Globe Champion." The top 60 point earners and ties earn a spot into the season finale with the entire field competing for a \$11 million purse, increased from \$7 million last season, and is highlighted by a \$4 million winner's check, which is the largest single prize in the history of women's golf.

[CME Group Cares Challenge – Score 1 for St. Jude Update](#):

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 2024, 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. At the JM Eagle LA Championship presented by Plastpro, three holes-in-one were made, bringing the 2024 donation total to \$120,000. **Jeongeun Lee5** made the first hole-in-one of the week on the par-3 18th hole during the first round of the tournament. **Alexa Pano** and **Auston Kim** added two more during Friday's second round of holes 7 and 18, respectively.

2024 Wins by Country (10 tournaments, 4 countries)

6 – United States of America (Nelly Korda (5), Bailey Tardy)
2 – Australia (Hannah Green (2))
1 – New Zealand (Lydia Ko)
1 – Thailand (Patty Tavatanakit)

2024 Wins by Player (10 tournaments, 5 players)

4 – Nelly Korda (LPGA Drive On Championship, FIR HILLS SERI PAK Championship, Ford Championship presented by KCC, T-Mobile Match Play presented by MGM Rewards, The Chevron Championship)
2 – Hannah Green (HSBC Women’s World Championship, JM Eagle LA Championship presented by Plastpro)
1 – Lydia Ko (Hilton Grand Vacations Tournament of Champions)
1 – Bailey Tardy (Blue Bay LPGA)
1 – Patty Tavatanakit (Honda LPGA Thailand)

Average Age of 2024 Winners: 25.600

Youngest Winner: Patty Tavatanakit (24 years, 4 months, 14 days)

Oldest Winner: Bailey Tardy (27 years, 7 months, 2 days)