



# Grant Thornton

## INVITATIONAL

Grant Thornton Invitational  
Tiburón Golf Club | Naples, FL | December 13-15, 2024

### Thursday Pre-Tournament Notes December 12, 2024

#### **ABOUT THE GRANT THORNTON INVITATIONAL**

- This is the second playing of the Grant Thornton Invitational
  - Lydia Ko and Jason Day won the inaugural event in 2023 at Tiburón Golf Club, winning by one stroke over Canadians Brooke Henderson and Corey Connors
- The Grant Thornton Invitational is the first mixed-team co-sanctioned event between the PGA TOUR and LPGA Tour since the JCPenney Classic in 1999, won by John Daly and Laura Davies
- The Grant Thornton Invitational features three different formats of team competition across the three days of play
  - **Friday: Scramble**
    - Each player hits a tee shot and then the team selects the ball to be used for the next stroke. From there, both players hit their next shots from that spot. This process continues until the ball is holed.
  - **Saturday: Foursomes**
    - Each team's players alternate hitting shots with the same ball until the ball is holed. One player will tee off on the odd-numbered holes, and the other tees off on the even-numbered holes.
  - **Sunday: Modified Four-Ball**
    - Both players tee off, and then they switch balls for their second shots and play that same ball until it is holed. The lower score of the partners is then counted as the team score for the hole.
- The 16 teams, featuring one PGA TOUR and one LPGA Tour player on each, will compete for \$4 million total (\$2 million each) with a total winner's check of \$1 million (\$500,000 each)

#### **NOTABLE TEAMS IN THE GRANT THORNTON INVITATIONAL**

##### **Lydia Ko & Jason Day**

"It was actually quite embarrassing because honestly, I don't think I hit a single fairway on the front nine and I remember duffing a driver and I was like 'oh, man, I feel so bad he has to play with me.'... I haven't had that much experience playing with other like male Tour pros and especially somebody that I've looked up to and seen on TV for a really long time. It was a very new experience, but by Friday, mid Friday I think I was able to get rid of the nerves and focus on what I was doing. But our whole team with our caddies, we just had a great dynamic and just a good time out there and I think that just helped with, you know, just not thinking about the results... At the end I think that was one of the biggest things on why we were able to have such success last year" – *Ko on her nerves while first playing with Day in the 2023 Grant Thornton Invitational*

- Lydia Ko (Rolex Women's World Golf Rankings No. 3) is the winningest active player on the LPGA Tour, with 22 career victories (3 majors) in her 11 years on Tour
- Ko has won three times on the LPGA Tour in 2024 and has five additional top-10 finishes
- Ko also won a gold medal at the 2024 Paris Olympic Games
  - Ko is the most decorated Olympic golfer, man or woman, with three medals (gold, silver and bronze)
- She was inducted into the LPGA Hall of Fame after her Olympic win, becoming the Tour's 35<sup>th</sup> inductee, the first inductee from New Zealand, the first inductee since Lorena Ochoa in 2022 and the youngest player inducted under the current criteria

"It's amazing to watch. Obviously it's amazing to be a fan of her and watch that unfold. I'm hoping that I can some day do the same, that's my goal is to get into the Hall of Fame. I'm sitting next to one, so it's extra -- it's motivating for me to kind of sit here and watch her do it this year. And then obviously I feel like I've still got a lot of years left for me. I'm trying to push as hard as I can just because I know she's worked so very hard for this moment." – *Day on Ko earning a spot in the LPGA Hall of Fame in 2024*

- Jason Day (Official World Golf Ranking No. 34) is a 13-time PGA TOUR winner and a major champion
- In 2024, he has earned four top-10 finishes and eight top-25 results, with a season-best result of T4 at the Wells Fargo Championship
- Day was a member of the International Team for the 2024 President's Cup, his fifth appearance on the team
- He also represented Australia at the 2024 Paris Olympic Games, finishing T9
- Day has six other professional wins, including his unofficial win at last year's Grant Thornton Invitational alongside Ko

##### **Jeeno Thitikul & Tom Kim**

"I met him when he was 14, I was 13 and I have no idea who he was at that time... I knew that he worked really, really hard, especially when we were so young. Then, he walked with his bag, not waiting for his parent to walk to practice, by himself, which I think that's the part that's got him here today."

- Jeeno Thitikul (World No. 5) has won four times in her three seasons on the LPGA Tour
- She has won twice on the LPGA Tour in 2024, at the Dow Championship with playing partner **Ruoning Yin** and at the season-ending CME Group Tour Championship
  - After winning the CME Group Tour Championship, Thitikul was named the 2024 Race to the CME Globe Champion and earned the \$4 million winner's check, the largest single prize in the history of women's golf
- Thitikul also won the 2024 Aon Risk Reward Challenge on the LPGA Tour, earning the \$1 million winner's prize
- Thitikul, along with Nelly Korda, broke Lorena Ochoa's longstanding single-season earnings record following the CME Group Tour Championship
- In 2023, she won the LPGA Tour's Vare Trophy, awarded to the player with the lowest season-long scoring average
- In 2022, Thitikul was named the LPGA Tour's Louise Suggs Rolex Rookie of the Year

"It's really cool. I've known Jeeno for a long time now. We've known each other before. She was famous when I first met her, but to be able to kind of be on -- me being on the PGA TOUR and her having a lot of success on the LPGA Tour, to be able to be in our positions and kind of compete together is really cool." – *Kim on playing with partner Thitikul*

- Tom Kim (World No. 21) is a three-time PGA TOUR winner
- Finished No. 51 in the FedExCup Fall standing after qualifying for the FedExCup Playoffs
- Recorded two top-10s (T4/RBC Canadian Open, P2/Travelers Championship) and 18 made cuts in 24 starts
- Finished runner-up at last week's Hero World Challenge
- He represented the Republic of Korea in the 2024 Olympics, finishing eighth
- He is a two-time member of the International Team at the Presidents Cup, playing on the team in 2022 and 2024
- This is his first appearance at the Grant Thornton Invitational with Thitikul
  - They are the youngest duo of partners in the 2024 field
- In addition to his three TOUR wins, he also has seven international wins between 2019 to 2022

##### **Lexi Thompson & Rickie Fowler**

"I think we all bring our strengths to the game in general... It's a whole different speed that the guys put on the golf ball and certain curves that girls can do, but maybe don't think about it as much. It's just cool to see all the different kinds of shots that they can hit and learn from them and kind of feed off each other. That's what's so great about golf, we all bring our strengths that we can learn from each other. That's what's so great about this week, we kind of learn from each other and really embrace that." – *Thompson on what strengths the ladies and men each bring to the game*

- Lexi Thompson (World No. 51) is an 11-time winner on the LPGA Tour, including one major championship
- In 2024, Thompson has earned four top-10 finishes, including two top-3 results
- Thompson has played in the LPGA Tour since 2012 and announced earlier this season that she would be retiring from a full-time LPGA Tour schedule at the end of 2024

#### **ON-SITE COMMUNICATIONS TEAM**

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#### **QUICK LINKS**

[Interview Transcripts](#)  
[LPGA Tour Online Media Center](#)  
[PGA TOUR Online Media Center](#)  
[Tournament Website](#)

#### **SOCIAL MEDIA**

**LPGA Tour:** @LPGA, @LPGAMedia (X), @lpga\_tour (Instagram, TikTok)

**PGA TOUR:** @PGATOUR (X, Instagram, TikTok)

**Tournament:** @gtinvtational (X), @grantthorntoninv (Instagram)

#### **TV/STREAMING TIMES** (All times EST)

##### **Friday, December 13:**

1:00-4:00 p.m. (Golf Channel/Digital/International)

##### **Saturday, December 14:**

2:00-3:00 p.m. (Golf Channel/Digital/International)

3:00-5:00 p.m. (NBC, Peacock)

##### **Sunday, December 15:**

1:00-2:00 p.m. (Golf Channel/Digital/International)

2:00-4:00 p.m. (NBC, Peacock)

- Thompson has represented the United States at two Olympic Games, seven Solheim Cups and four Hanwha LIFEPLUS International Crown competitions
- She has made one start on the PGA Tour in her career, at the 2023 Shriners Children's Open

"I mean, massive would be one way to look at it. As far as the whole game and then looking into the women's game, it's been a lot of fun to watch. From I think it was you were 12, played in the U.S. Open. A little sooner than most people, so you got a little bit of a head start there. I know I am as well as everyone else are hoping that you still will play some so we can see you. Maybe this gives us more time that we can actually play at home. Looking forward to this week. This being kind of her last as a full-time player. Might as well go get a trophy and you can go have fun the rest of the time playing a few events here and there." – Fowler on the impact Thompson has made on the game as she retires from a full-time LPGA Tour schedule

- Rickie Fowler (World No. 73) is a six-time winner on the PGA TOUR since he turned professional in 2009
- Recorded his first top-10 since his win at the 2023 Rocket Mortgage Classic (a span of 29 starts) with a solo-fourth finish at the 2024 ZOZO CHAMPIONSHIP
- Finished the season No. 108 in the FedExCup Fall standings and made 17 cuts in 23 starts
- Grant Thornton ambassador, has competed in three Presidents Cups, five Ryder Cups and one Olympic Games (2016)

#### **MISCELLANEOUS NOTES**

- Compared to 2023, there are 13 new teams competing in this year's Grant Thornton Invitational, and three returning teams
  - The returning teams are Ko/Day, Thompson/Fowler and Henderson/Conners
- The highest ranked players in the field from the LPGA Tour and PGA TOUR are Nelly Korda (No. 1) and Sahith Theegala (No. 13)
- The field this week has 22 combined victories in 2024, including 16 wins from six LPGA Tour players (Lauren Coughlin, Lydia Ko, Nelly Korda, Patty Tavatanakit, Jeeno Thitikul, Lilia Vu) and six wins from five PGA TOUR players (Akshay Bhatia, Nick Dunlap, Jake Knapp, Matthieu Pavon, J.T. Poston)
- There are a total of 140 career LPGA and PGA TOUR career victories by players in the field this week, including 88 LPGA Tour career wins and 52 PGA TOUR wins
- Ten LPGA players in the field competed in the 2024 Solheim Cup; eight for the United States (Lauren Coughlin, Allisen Corpuz, Megan Khang, Nelly Korda, Jennifer Kupcho, Andrea Lee, Lexi Thompson and Lilia Vu) and two for Europe (Céline Boutier and Maja Stark)
  - Mel Reid served as an assistant captain for Team Europe
- Four PGA TOUR players in the field competed in the 2024 Presidents Cup; one for the United States (Sahith Theegala) and three for the International Team (Jason Day, Tom Kim and Corey Conners)
- Nine players in the field have won a major championship, including eight from the LPGA Tour (Céline Boutier, Allisen Corpuz, Brooke Henderson, Lydia Ko, Nelly Korda, Jennifer Kupcho, Lexi Thompson and Lilia Vu) and one from the PGA Tour (Jason Day)
- Nine different countries are represented in the field: Australia, Canada, England, France, New Zealand, the Republic of Korea, Sweden, Thailand and the United States

#### **TEAMS (16)**

- Céline Boutier and Matthieu Pavon
- Allisen Corpuz and Sahith Theegala
- Lauren Coughlin and Cameron Young
- Brooke Henderson and Corey Conners
- Megan Khang and Matt Kuchar
- Lydia Ko and Jason Day
- Nelly Korda and Daniel Berger
- Jennifer Kupcho and Akshay Bhatia
- Andrea Lee and Max Greyserman
- Mel Reid and Cameron Champ
- Gabriela Ruffels and Nick Dunlap
- Maja Stark and J.T. Poston
- Patty Tavatanakit and Jake Knapp
- Jeeno Thitikul and Tom Kim
- Lexi Thompson and Rickie Fowler
- Lilia Vu and Luke List

#### **ON LPGA.COM AND PGATOUR.COM**

[The Format: 2024 Grant Thornton Invitational](#)

[How to Watch the 2024 Grant Thornton Invitational](#)

[Field Breakdown: 2024 Grant Thornton Invitational](#)

[Adorable story behind Allisen Corpuz-Sahith Theegala team at Grant Thornton Invitational](#)

[Tony Finau withdraws from Grant Thornton Invitational, cites knee surgery recovery](#)