

## FIRST-ROUND NOTES AND SUMMARY – 2024 MEN’S OLYMPIC GOLF COMPETITION

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**Weather:** Partly cloudy. High of 29 (84 F). Wind W at 10-20 kmh (6-12 mph). Play was interrupted at 16:26 due to lightning in the area and resumed at 17:05, a delay of 39 minutes. Play was interrupted again at 17:26 due to lightning in the area and resumed at 18:30, a delay of 1 hour and 4 minutes.

### First-Round Leaderboard

Pos.	Player	Country	R1
1	Hideki Matsuyama	Japan	63
2	Xander Schauffele	United States	65
T3	Joaquin Niemann	Chile	66
T3	Emiliano Grillo	Argentina	66
T3	Tom Kim	Korea	66

<b>Hideki Matsuyama</b>	
Olympic Ranking	9
Official World Golf Ranking	12
International Victories	18
Olympics Experience	Second Appearance (T4/2020)
Notes and Quotes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Marks the second-lowest 18-hole score in the men’s Olympic golf competition since 2016 (61/Rory Sabbatini/2020/R4)</li> <li>• On the PGA TOUR in 2024, has one round of 63 or better: 62/The Genesis Invitational/Won</li> <li>• Finished T4 at the Tokyo 2020 Olympics after falling in a seven-man playoff for the bronze medal</li> <li>• Nine-time winner on the PGA TOUR (most recent: 2024 Genesis Invitational)</li> <li>• Four other top-10s on the PGA TOUR during the 2024 season, in addition to his win: T6/THE PLAYERS Championship, T7/Valero Texas Open, T8/the Memorial Tournament presented by Workday, 6<sup>th</sup>/U.S. Open</li> </ul>

<b>Xander Schauffele</b>	
Olympic Ranking	2
Official World Golf Ranking	2
International Victories	9
Olympics Experience	Second Appearance (1 <sup>st</sup> /2020)
Notes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2020 Tokyo gold medalist seeks to become the first back-to-back medalist in the men’s Olympic golf competition</li> <li>• Was No. 3 in the Olympic Golf Ranking (OGR) when he won the gold medal; enters the Paris 2024 Olympics at No. 2 in the OGR</li> <li>• Sat T12 through round one at the 2020 Tokyo Olympics before going on to claim the gold medal</li> <li>• Making his first start since claiming The Open Championship at Royal Troon, his second major championship title in 2024 (PGA Championship)</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Nine PGA TOUR victories since joining the PGA TOUR in 2016-17</li> <li>• Two runner-up results in addition to his two victories on the PGA TOUR in 2024 (THE PLAYERS Championship, Wells Fargo Championship)</li> </ul>
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<b>Joaquin Niemann</b>	
Olympic Ranking	34
Official World Golf Ranking	114
International Victories	5
Olympics Experience	Second appearance (T10/2020)
Notes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Coming off a second-place finish at LIV Golf UK; has two wins this season at LIV Golf Mayakoba and LIV Golf Jeddah</li> <li>• Captured the 2023 ISPS Handa Australian Open, his first title on the DP World Tour</li> <li>• Finished T10 at the 2020 Tokyo Olympics in his debut appearance</li> <li>• Former No. 1-ranked player in the World Amateur Golf Ranking in 2017-18</li> <li>• First player from Chile to win on the PGA TOUR when he captured the 2019 A Military Tribute at The Greenbrier</li> </ul>

<b>Emiliano Grillo</b>	
Olympic Ranking	25
Official World Golf Ranking	67
International Victories	4
Olympics Experience	Second appearance (T8/2016)
Notes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Birdied three of his final five holes at Le Golf National to finish with 66</li> <li>• 2015-16 PGA TOUR Rookie of the Year after claiming the 2015 Procore Championship in his first start as a PGA TOUR member</li> <li>• Has two top-10s in 20 starts on the PGA TOUR during the 2024 season (T7/Sony Open in Hawaii, T8/Arnold Palmer Invitational presented by Mastercard)</li> <li>• Finished T8 at the 2016 Rio Olympics</li> </ul>

<b>Tom Kim</b>	
Olympic Ranking	15
Official World Golf Ranking	20
International Victories	9
Olympics Experience	First Appearance
Notes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 22-year-old Olympics debutant is the youngest athlete in the field</li> <li>• Three-time PGA TOUR winner (2022 Wyndham Championship, 2022 Shriners Children's Open, 2023 Shriners Children's Open)</li> <li>• Two top-10s in 22 starts on the PGA TOUR in 2024, including a runner-up result at the Travelers Championship, where he fell in a playoff to Scottie Scheffler</li> <li>• Turned professional one month before turning 16, a common trend amongst young and talented golfers in Asia. Won the 2020 KPGA Gunsan CC Open, becoming the youngest player to win a Korean PGA event</li> <li>• With his win at the 2022 Wyndham Championship, became the first player born in the 2000s to win on the PGA TOUR</li> </ul>

## Round Summary

### Hideki Matsuyama leads men's Olympic golf after low-scoring opening day

#### Saint-Quentin-En-Yvelines, France

Hideki Matsuyama holds a two-shot lead after a low-scoring opening round in the Olympic men's golf competition at Le Golf National.

The Japan native produced a bogey-free, 8-under 63 to top the 60-athlete leaderboard on a sultry day in the outskirts of Paris that featured two weather delays.

Defending gold medalist Xander Schauffele from the United States maintained his momentum from winning his second major title this season at last month's Open Championship to sit second after a 65.

Joaquin Niemann of Chile, Argentina's Emiliano Grillo and Korea's Tom Kim were then three shots off the lead at 5-under.

After missing out on a bronze medal in a playoff on home soil at Tokyo 2020, Matsuyama made the ideal start in his bid for a podium finish as he hit 11 of 14 fairways and 16 of 18 greens.

The world No. 12 enjoyed a fast start with back-to-back birdies at the second and third, before three birdies in succession from the seventh saw him hit the turn in 5-under.

He then made it four birdies in a row at the 10th before two more gains at the 13th and 14th put him firmly in position to break the course record of 9-under 62.

While the early starter on Day 1 was unable to maintain that remarkable pace, he did stay blemish-free as he parred the tough four-hole closing stretch.

The in-form Schauffele got off to an excellent start with a chip-in birdie at the first, before six further birdies saw him close to two off the clubhouse lead held by Matsuyama.

His lone bogey of the day came at the 17th – just before lightning in the area resulted in a 39-minute interruption. He finished the round just before an additional suspension resulted in a delay lasting just over an hour.

World No. 1 Scottie Scheffler carded a flawless 4-under 67, while Rory McIlroy made an eagle in a 68 that was matched by Ryder Cup-winning teammate Ludvig Åberg, as the marquee threeball drew big crowds.

Earlier in the day, Victor Perez enjoyed the honour of hitting the opening tee shot on home soil. He recovered from a sluggish start to card four birdies on the back nine and finish at 1-under, one stroke ahead of fellow countryman Matthieu Pavon.

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## Other Notes and Quotes

- **Scottie Scheffler** (T6/-4) posts bogey-free 67 and seeks to become the first player to medal as the No. 1 player in the Olympic Golf Ranking
  - "It was nice to play in front of a good crowd. Big crowd. It was a lot of fun. They were cheering loud for us. It was pretty fun. Was definitely not expecting that coming in. I didn't really know what to expect but there's definitely more people than I expected."
- **Tommy Fleetwood** (T6/-4), winner of the 2017 FedEx Open de France and 2018 Ryder Cup participant at Le Golf National, opens with bogey-free 67

- France native **Victor Perez** (T29/-1), who hit the opening tee shot of the 2024 men's Olympic golf competition, birdied three of his final four holes for a 70
  - "I told my caddie, James, let's be [at the first tee] the full 10 minutes before and really soak it all in. It's definitely a once-in-a-lifetime. I'll never hit this tee shot again, opening games in Paris and being French and having all the home support. I wanted to be there. There wasn't going to be more pressure whether I was there for ten minutes or four minutes."