

Aki Iwai leads first round at Evian women's major

ASSOCIATED PRESS

EVIAN-LES-BAINS, France — Aki Iwai shot an 8-under 63 for a two-stroke lead on Thursday in the first round of the Evian Championship, the fourth women's golf major of the season, as top-ranked Nelly Korda struggled.

The 24th-ranked Iwai had eight birdies and no dropped shots in the sun-splashed lakeside town that three weeks ago hosted the G7 summit of world leaders.



Aki Iwai of Japan is the first-round leader of the Evian Championship with an 8-under 63.

Japan's Iwai made birdies at three of the last

four holes, including the par-5 18th, and led by two shots from Perrine Delacour, whose 6-under 65 included an eagle at the par-5 15th and a pair of bogeys toward the end of her round.

A group of five players with 5-under 66s included the winner of the Women's PGA Championship two weeks ago, Haeran Ryu, and world No. 5 Charley Hull who started the week as a guest in the Royal Box at Wimbledon.

Hull had two early

bogeys before making the turn at level par, then came home in just 31 shots capped by an eagle at the par-5 18th. Also on 5 under were Mao Saigo, Maja Stark and Jin Hee Im.

KORDA STRUGGLES

It was a tough day at Evian Resort Golf Club for Korda, who won the first two majors this season — the Chevron Championship and the U.S. Women's Open.

Korda was 11 shots back with a 3-over 74, including

a double bogey six at the first hole, which she played as her 10th.

Celine Boutier, the 2023 champion at Evian, had a bigger problem at No. 1. She started with a triple bogey 7 and later made back-to-back double bogey 6s on Nos. 10 and 11. Boutier birdied the 18th to card a 5-over 76.

The Evian Championship has been the fifth women's major since the 2013 edition and now has a \$9.1 million prize money fund.

McIlroy, Cantlay part of five-way tie at Scottish Open

BY DOUG FERGUSON
AP GOLF WRITER

NORTH BERWICK, Scotland — Rory McIlroy began getting into the mood for the final major of the year by taking advantage of the par 5s at The Renaissance Club for a 5-under 65, giving him a five-way share of the lead Thursday in the Genesis Scottish Open.

Patrick Cantlay made a little noise in an otherwise quiet year for the American with five birdies in 10 holes and then a collection of tough par saves at the end that felt just as valuable. He also was at 65, along with Tom Kim, Bernd Wiesberger and Rasmus Hojgaard.

Hojgaard was the only player of the leading five to play in the afternoon when the wind began to calm. He was at 6 under with four holes to play but found a bunker off the 16th, went into the rough and took double bogey.

Scottie Scheffler, the No. 1 player in the world searching for his first win since January, made three straight birdies around the turn and was slowed by a long three-putt bogey on the 11th, followed by a drive into a bunker that kept him from reaching the green at the par-5 12th. Scheffler failed to birdie any of the three par 5s in his round of



MALCOLM MACKENZIE/Associated Press

Rory McIlroy of Northern Ireland plays from a bunker on the ninth fairway Thursday during the opening round of the Genesis Scottish Open.

68.

"Wish I could have gotten a few more shots out of it," Scheffler said. "I like to keep a clean card, so two bogeys hurt. Maybe could have played the par 5s a little bit better. But overall, nothing crazy. Just a decent day."

McIlroy felt about the same. He was tied for the 18-hole lead for the first time since the Masters, but this didn't feel like anything special except for seizing on the easiest scoring chances.

McIlroy holed an 18-foot eagle putt on the par-5 first hole — he started his round on No. 10 — to go along with a pair of birdies on the other two par 5s at The Renaissance Club. That made his round and his scorecard feel a little better.

He has been away the last two weeks since a pedestrian performance in the U.S. Open, though the brand of golf doesn't feel entirely different. Shinnecock Hills might be as close to links golf as any course in America. The Renaissance Club

has the look of links, though it is not links turf.

The real test is Royal Birkdale next week for the British Open.

"I felt like I drove the ball particularly well, and I started to see that at Shinnecock, as well," McIlroy said. "A continuation of putting the ball in play, and then once I do that, I feel like I can attack courses and I can set up scoring opportunities. I did that today."

Cantlay hasn't won in nearly four years and slipped to No. 37 in the world after missing the cut in the U.S. Open, his lowest ranking in more than eight years. He's had three top 10's and four other finishes in the top 20.

He went to a slightly heavier putter to account for the slower greens this week and next, and it paid off in birdies and pars. Most impressive was his finish. He found a pot bunker off the tee on the par-5 seventh and could only get that back to the fairway, leaving him 261 yards for his third shot. He wound up getting up-and-down and saving par with a 13-foot putt.

He saved par with a five foot putt on the eighth and then got up-and-down from just inside 100 feet off the ninth green to keep a clean card.

"I've been putting in some hard

work with my team, and have got some important golf the rest of the year," Cantlay said.

The Scottish Open is co-sanctioned by the European tour and PGA Tour, the ideal place to be for those wanting to get acclimated for the British Open, whether it's the seaside air, the time zone or a slightly slower set of greens.

It's also a last chance for the likes of Michael Thorbjornsen, among those at 67. The leading three players not already eligible get a spot at Royal Birkdale. Thorbjornsen is fourth alternate.

Brooks Koepka, who appears to be past that mysterious nerve issue in his left hand that caused him to pull out of the Canadian Open when he was off to a good start, felt that putting is all that has slowed him this year. That much was evident when he missed four putts from seven feet or under, one of them from 20 inches. He also rolled in three birdie putts from outside 20 feet and was among seven players at 66.

Nearly half of the 156-man field broke par.

"It could have been a very, very good round. But then again, I'm happy with the way I battled back," Koepka said. "That was solid. So hopefully take that into tomorrow."



LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE TO HARDIN COUNTY TAXPAYERS

BRIAN D. SMITH, HARDIN County Clerk pursuant to

KRS 424.130, announces that the

2025 Delinquent Real Property Tax Bills

(Certificates of Delinquency)

will be published in the

NEWS ENTERPRISE on July 17, 2026.

The list of Certificates of Delinquency is also available for public inspection during the hours of 7:45 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

at the County Clerk's office located at

150 North Provident Way Ste 103, Elizabethtown, KY 42701.

This list may also be inspected on the

Hardin County Clerk's Office website.

The Uniform Resource Locator (URL) of the website is

hccoky.org/DelTax/search2.asp

The tax sale will be held on August 17, 2026

beginning at 8 a.m. All interested participants must register

with the County Clerk's office by the close of business

on August 7, 2026 (10 Days Prior to Sale).

Please contact the County Clerk's office if you

need additional information about the tax sale registration process, the required registration fee or the deposit amounts that will be needed.

Taxpayers can continue to pay

their delinquent tax bills to the County Clerk's office

anytime prior to the tax sale.

Please Note: All payments must be received

in the County Clerk's office prior to the tax sale date

listed in this advertisement.

Payments received after the tax sale

has been conducted will be returned without exception.

Some delinquencies — although they have been advertised —

will be excluded from the tax sale in accordance

with the provisions of KRS 134.504(10)(b).

If you have any questions,

please do not hesitate to contact the

County Clerk's office at 270-765-2171 menu option 3.

\$1,459.07 will be paid by Hardin County Fiscal Court.