



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Washington Huskies make big leap into lead at Kā'anapali

Gonzaga's Grace Lee and Washington's Vivian Lu are tied at 9-under

MAUI, Hawai'i – Huskies are known for their smarts, strength and stamina. The Washington Huskies women's golf team displayed those traits during the second round of the Dr. Donnis Thompson Invitational at Kā'anapali, erasing a three-shot deficit to leap into a nine-shot lead at 18-under. A three-way tie for second features Oregon State, Denver and Sacramento State at 9-under. BYU (-7) and Mercer (E) also remain in contention.



Washington's Vivian Lu observes her lag putt on hole 2, a 135-yard par 3 on Royal Kā'anapali.

“Good things come to those who are patient,” described Washington women’s head coach, Mary Lou Mulflur, the Washington athletic department’s longest-tenured employee who has overseen the Huskies for 42 seasons. “It was rewarding to watch our team piece everything together. Notably, two players (Vivian Lu and Wendy Tang) had bogey-free rounds, which is hard to achieve on Kā’anapali’s fun but challenging layout.”

The Huskies were led by co-leader, Vivian Lu (-9), the top-ranked player at Kā’anapali (No. 29). The New Zealand native was named to the 2024 Annika Award Final Fall Watch List, which names the women’s college golf player of the year, as selected by players, coaches and media.

“Viv’s been working her butt off this season,” continued Mulflur. “She exemplifies how hard work can pay off with consistent dedication.”

Washington has two players (Lu and Athena Ni) in the top seven heading into the final round.

Mercer, who led by three after the first round, was forced to compete in the second round without any margin for error. Analiese Raath was unfortunately disqualified for using a training aid on her driver. She will be allowed to play in the final round for the team title (not individual).



Mercer’s Emilia Väistö is tied for third at 5-under after the second round on Royal Kā’anapali.

Oregon State, who won last month’s Causeway Invitational, seeks their second win this spring.

Atop the individual leaderboard is Gonzaga’s Grace Lee. She is tied with Lu at 9-under.

“Today’s performance was vintage Grace,” recalled Gonzaga women’s head coach, Brad Rickel, in his 19th year leading the program. “She still shot six-under with two bogies. When she gets the putter going, she always has the potential to score extremely well.”



Gonzaga's Grace Lee eyes her drive on hole 6, a 403-yard par 5 on Royal Kā'anapali.

The Gonzaga junior earned her first collegiate win at the 2023 Coeur d'Alene Collegiate Invitational after shooting a career-low 62 in the opening round.

A four-way tie for second at 5-under features Mercer's Emilia Väitö, Sacramento State's Sneha Sharan, Denver's Emma Bryant and Oregon State's Kyra Ly.

Sharan, a senior from India, was named the 2023-24 Big Sky Player of the Year.



Sacramento State's Sneha Sharan watches her putt on the par 4 13th hole on Royal Kā'anapali.

Bryant, a senior from Aurora, Colo., finished second in the 2024 Summit League Championship and earned an All-Summit League First Team selection.



Denver's Emma Bryant reacts after her third birdie in a row on hole 6 on Royal Kā'anapali.

Ly carded four straight birdies (holes 4–7) en route to a bogey-free 68. Last season, Ly finished with Oregon State's sixth best single-season scoring average (72.85).



Oregon State's Kyra Ly celebrates her third birdie in a row on hole 6 on Royal Kā'anapali.

Host Hawai'i was led by junior Emiko Sverduk (T40; +2), a Long Beach, Calif. native by way of Washington State.



Hawai'i's Emiko Sverduk stares down her tee shot on hole 2, a 135-yard par 3 on Royal Kā'anapali. (Photo by Kā'anapali Golf Courses)

Following the second round on the driving range, Hawai'i women's golf coach, Julie Brooks, the Rainbow Wahine, additional teams and Kā'anapali teaching professional, Jon Tempest, hosted a free clinic for keiki (kids) with swing lessons, interactive drills, tips on college recruiting and more.



The University of Hawai'i and Kā'anapali hosted a free clinic for keiki on Tuesday afternoon.

The final round begins at 8:00 a.m. HST. Attendance is free for walking spectators.

All team and individual scores can be found here: [SCOREBOARD](#)

Team Leaderboard

Place	School	To Par	Rd. 1	Rd. 2
1	Washington	-18	-3	-15
T2	Oregon State	-9	-5	-4
T2	Denver	-9	-2	-7
T2	Sacramento State	-9	-2	-7
5	BYU	-7	+3	-10
6	Mercer	E	-4	+4
7	Cal Poly	+3	+3	E
8	UC Riverside	+6	+3	+3
9	Seattle	+7	+7	E
10	San Diego State	+8	+11	-3

11	UC Davis	+9	+4	+5
T12	Gonzaga	+12	E	+12
T12	Montana State	+12	+7	+5
14	Sam Houston	+13	+6	+7
15	Fresno State	+14	+9	+5
16	Hawai'i	+24	+14	+10
17	Arkansas State	+27	+8	+19

Top Individuals

Place	Player	School	To Par	Rd. 1	Rd. 2
T1	Grace Lee	Gonzaga	-9	-3	-6
T1	Vivian Lu	Washington	-9	-2	-7
T3	Emilia Väistö	Mercer	-5	-4	-1
T3	Sneha Sharan	Sacramento State	-5	-3	-2
T3	Emma Bryant	Denver	-5	-2	-3
T3	Kyra Ly	Oregon State	-5	-1	-4
T7	Vani Kiramanal	UC Davis	-4	-4	E
T7	Madde Sund	Oregon State	-4	-4	E
T7	Mikayla Dubnik	Mercer	-4	-3	-1
T7	Athena Ni	Washington	-4	-2	-2
T7	Caitlin Maurice	Sacramento State	-4	-2	-2
T7	Haven Ward	Denver	-4	-1	-3
T7	*Tova Hatton	Sacramento State	-4	+2	-6

*Competing as Individual

TOURNAMENT FACTS

Dates: March 24–26, 2025

Venue: Royal Kā'anapali

Location: Lahaina, Maui

Yardage (Par): 6,013 (72)

Format: 54 holes; 18 holes each day; 5-count-4

Tee Times: 8:00 a.m. HST shotgun start each day

Host: Hawai'i

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About Kā'anapali Golf Courses

Built on 300 acres of land once home to Hawaiian royalty (Royal Chiefs of Maui), Kā'anapali Golf Courses offers pristine conditions and panoramic views of Lana'i, Molokai, the Pacific Ocean and West Maui Mountains.

Opened in 1962 and designed by Robert Trent Jones Sr., the par-71, 6,700-yard Royal Kā'anapali Course features wide fairways and undulating greens which make it distinctive and demanding. The tournament-tested layout has welcomed Jack Nicklaus, Arnold Palmer, Greg Norman, Fred Couples, Jan Stephenson, Betsy King and other legends.

High-profile events have included Shell's Wonderful World of Golf (1964), Canada Cup (1964), LPGA's Kemper Open (1982-85), PGA TOUR Champions' Kā'anapali Classic (1987-2000) and SKINS Game (2008-11), and Hawaii High School Athletic Association Golf State Championships (1998, 2009, '13, '17, '22).

Complementing Royal Kā'anapali is the modernized Kai Course, which hosted Golf Channel's "Big Break Kā'anapali" in 2008. The 6,400-yard, par-70 layout boasts an array of strategically placed bunkers, contoured fairways and resurfaced greens.

More information: www.kaanapaligolfcourses.com and 808-661-3691.

About Troon

Kā'anapali Golf Courses are managed by Indigo Sports, a Troon company. Headquartered in Scottsdale, Ariz., Troon is the world's largest golf and golf-related hospitality management company providing services at 940-plus locations in 45-plus states and 40-plus countries, including operational responsibility for 575-plus 18-hole equivalent golf courses. In addition to golf, Troon specializes in homeowner association management, private residence clubs, estate management and associated hospitality venues. Troon's award-winning food and beverage division operates and manages 600-plus food and beverage operations located at golf resorts, private clubs, daily fee golf courses and recreational facilities. Troon's family of brands includes Troon Golf, Troon Privé, Troon International, Indigo Sports, **CADDIEMASTER**, ClubUp, Cliff Drysdale Tennis, Peter Burwash International, True Club Solutions, RealFood Hospitality, Strategy and Design, Casa Verde Golf, ICON Management and Eventive Sports. For additional news and information, visit www.Troon.com, TroonMagazine.com or connect with Troon on [Facebook](#), [X](#), and [Instagram](#).