

## Sports

# Lee6 Jeong-eun wins first major title at 2019 US Women's Open

## 'I worked so hard and I feel proud of myself'

LOS ANGELES: Lee6 Jeong-eun captured her first major championship and a record \$1 million prize on Sunday by outduelling Celine Boutier for a two-shot victory at the 2019 US Women's Open. South Korea's Lee—who had never won on the LPGA Tour—stumbled to the finish with two bogeys in her final three holes but managed to shoot a one-under 70 to finish at 278 at the Country Club of Charleston in South Carolina.

"Throughout the year I couldn't imagine coming this far, winning the first LPGA tournament, also a major championship," she said. "I worked so hard and I feel proud of myself." It was six-under winning total for the player who became known as Lee6 Jeong-eun when she became the sixth player of that name on the Korean LPGA tour.

She has embraced the designation as her lucky charm, even writing the number in bold red ink on her golf ball. She also collected the biggest single-tournament payout in women's golf history after organizers decided to increase the first place prize money this year to \$1 million.

The 23-year-old Lee started her round two shots behind co-leaders Boutier and Liu Yu of China. She made bogey on her first hole but then came right back with a birdie on the par-four second. She got hot on the back nine, making birdies on three of five holes starting at the par-three 11th.

"I felt pretty nervous starting on the holes 16, 17, and 18, but I tried the best that I can. I know I made two bogeys, but I just didn't want to think about it too much," said Lee, who is also the 12th different winner in

13 tournaments in 2019.

Boutier looked like she might make a run at Lee and possibly force a playoff but her bid ended in flames with a missed short putt on 16 for birdie, followed by a bogey-double bogey to close her round.

Boutier shot a 75 and finished in a tie for fifth with four others—including 54-hole co-leader Liu. South Korea's Ryu So-yeon and American's Lexi Thompson and Angel Yin shared second on 280. Lee made two previous appearances in the US Women's Open, finishing tied for fifth in 2017 and tied for 17th last year.

The par-three 11th proved pivotal for Lee as she was one of just three players to make birdie on the hole on Sunday. Lee reached eight under with a birdie on the 15th but instead of cruising from there, her two late bogeys made for a closer finish than she would have liked. Boutier had a two foot putt on 16 for birdie and a chance to cut into Lee's lead but her ball lipped out.

Boutier said the wind caused her to miss-hit the putt on 16. "When I was at address, the wind kind of blew in the opposite direction so I kind of pushed it as a reaction," she said. She came to the 18th tee needing a birdie to force a playoff but her approach shot landed in the bunker on the right. Her next shot made it onto the green but rolled off and down a steep slope.

"I knew it was a tough hole," she said. "I just wanted to be on regulation in two, and then if I made the putt, but I missed the green so ...." Asked to rate her performance on the day, she said, "Well, on a scale of one to ten, probably a one. I feel pretty bad right now. So, hopefully, I'll learn from this." — AFP



CHARLESTON: Lee6 Jeong-eun of South Korea celebrates with the trophy after winning the US Women's Open Championship at the Country Club of Charleston in Charleston, South Carolina. — AFP

## Cantlay canters to Memorial Tournament title

WASHINGTON: Patrick Cantlay powered to an eight-under par 64 on Sunday to claim his second US PGA Tour title at the Memorial by two strokes from Australian Adam Scott. Cantlay, 27, went into the final round four strokes behind overnight leader Martin Kaymer whose bid to end a near five-year victory drought faded with a final round 72 that left him in third place.

Cantlay's bogey-free effort was the best final round by a winner in the history of the Jack Nicklaus-hosted tournament at Muirfield Village in Dublin, Ohio. The former US collegiate star, whose career was nearly derailed by a back injury, was coming off a tie for third at the PGA Championship, one of seven top-10 finishes this season.

He indicated on Saturday that 18-time major champion Nicklaus had given him some advice on how to close out tournaments. "He said just to relax and have fun, and look around and see all the people having fun and try and smile and just have a good time with it," Cantlay said. "That's why you're there and I definitely felt like that today. I felt at ease."

Cantlay's previous tour title came in Las Vegas in November of 2017, when he won the Shriners Hospitals for Children Open that was part of the 2017-18 season. He sealed his second win with an up-and-down par from a greenside bunker on 18.

"It just definitely validates my confidence that I can play with the best players in the world and beating a field like this on a big golf course like this, this is very similar to a major championship setup with the rough and the big sloped fast greens, it does a lot for my confidence," he said.

"Especially holing a putt like that on the last hole, knowing that I needed it. That's good to put in the memory bank." Scott, like Kaymer a former world number one seeking to end an extended



DUBLIN: Patrick Cantlay hits his tee shot on the 18th hole during the final round of The Memorial Tournament Presented by Nationwide at Muirfield Village Golf Club in Dublin, Ohio. — AFP

winnish run, continued his recent resurgence with a final round 68 that left him on 17-under 271.

It was his second runner-up finish of the year after his second place at Torrey Pines, to go with top-10 finishes at Riviera and the PGA Championship. Scott, who hasn't won since the 2016 WGC Mexico Championship, had six birdies, including three in a row from the 14th through the 16th.

He said he was "kind of" satisfied with his play, but admitted he was disappointed not to return to the winner's circle. "I'm not winning. I'm playing good a lot, and that's the positive thing, but I want to win," he said.

Kaymer, who started the day with a two-stroke lead in search of his first win since his 2014 US Open victory, finished a further two strokes back on 15-under 273. With four birdies and a bogey through 11 holes the German was still holding on to a share of the lead before bogeys at 12 and 13.

"There was no room for mistakes, and I made a couple mistakes," Kaymer said, adding that "overall" he was happy with his game with the US Open coming up in two weeks. Tiger Woods, who admitted Saturday that he was too far back for a serious run at a sixth Memorial title, was looking for a springboard into the US Open at Pebble Beach, and he got it with a sparkling five-under par 67.

Woods was charging with seven birdies in his first 12 holes, backing up just a bit with bogeys at 14 and 18. "I played really well today," he said with a grin. "It was fun. I hit the ball so crisp and so solid and made some nice putts on the front nine and had things rolling for a little bit."

"I wanted to have something positive going into the Open, and kind of snuck up there into a nice little top 10 possibly here, so it was good," added Woods, who finished tied for ninth, 10 shots behind Cantlay. — AFP

## Kumar eyes Lord's return for WCup final

SOUTHAMPTON: India paceman Bhuvneshwar Kumar has fond memories of Lord's and he hopes to make more history at the iconic venue by playing there in a World Cup final. The 29-year-old made his mark at the 'home of cricket' by leading the Mahendra Singh Dhoni-led India to a famous Test win there in 2014, his first tour with the national team.

Kumar returned figures of six for 82 and struck 52 with the bat but now he wants to be a one-day international star at Lord's by playing there in the World Cup final on July 14. "I've been here two or three times but I always like coming back to play in England. It would mean a lot to get to go back to Lord's for the final of the World Cup," said Kumar.

"Lord's is always a special place, not just for me but for any cricketer. I have very good memories there, so if we reach the final it will be a very big moment for not just me but for the whole team." India, now captained by Virat Kohli, have been tagged as one of the favourites to lift the World Cup along with England and Australia.

They begin their campaign against South Africa, who've already lost their first two matches, tomorrow. But a dominating warm-up win over Bangladesh earlier this week already gives Kumar confidence of a good showing in the 50-over



LONDON: India's Mahendra Singh Dhoni takes part in a training session at the Rose Bowl in Southampton, southern England, yesterday ahead of their 2019 Cricket World Cup match against South Africa. — AFP

showpiece event.

"We got everything we wanted out of the match; when it comes to batting, bowling and fielding," he said. Centuries from Dhoni and Lokesh Rahul helped India to 359 for seven, a total their bowlers defended by bundling out Bangladesh for 264.

Kumar sent down five disciplined overs, conceding just 19 runs to put pressure on the opposition batsmen who lost their wickets to the spinners. "Chasing 350 down is a very big task," Kumar said. "There's always extra belief when you go to bowl. You have the liberty to try a few things." — AFP

## Waugh warns Australia to beware 'behemoth' West Indies line-up

LONDON: Steve Waugh has warned Australia that the West Indies' array of stonemakers and aggressive bowlers will pose the first serious threat to the World Cup holders. Former Australia captain Waugh was impressed with the no-nonsense way his country defeated minnows Afghanistan by seven wickets in their opening match on Saturday.

But the 54-year-old believes the West Indies will provide a much sterner test when they meet at Trent Bridge on Thursday. Led by flamboyant opener Chris Gayle, who thumped 50 runs off 34 balls, the West Indies wasted little time polishing off Pakistan by seven wickets after bowling them out for 105 in their first match.

It was an impressive show of strength from the two-time champions and Waugh is intrigued to see how Australia fare against one of the tournament's most talented but unpredictable teams.

"The West Indies will provide a more realistic gauge on how the team are tracking, for they possess a squad full of match-winners that can dominate if they gain any sense of ascendancy in a match," Waugh wrote in a column on the International Cricket Council's media page.

"They are the most watchable team in the tournament with a batting line-up that can kidnap any bowling attack with brute force. "No ground is big enough when this behemoth of a batting order clicks into overdrive but they also have a vulnerability against high-quality bowling as they tend to play one dimensional at times."

As well as their powerful batsmen, two-time World Cup winner Waugh was also impressed by the West Indies' pace attack, which bludgeoned Pakistan into submission with a bouncer barrage. Andre Russell, Sheldon Cottrell, Oshane Thomas and Jason Holder proved too hot for Pakistan to handle and Waugh said: "For the first time in a long while they have fast-bowling depth."

"Every side in this tournament will be wary of playing the Windies and I wouldn't want to face them in a knockout match. "They are the sort of team that, if they get on a roll and build some momentum, then they could win it all." — AFP

## South Africa can survive woeful World Cup start, vows Phehlukwayo

LONDON: Andile Phehlukwayo said South Africa's dismal start to the World Cup does not have to be fatal to their hopes of winning the tournament for the first time. Faf du Plessis's side crashed to their second successive defeat on Sunday as Bangladesh won by 21 runs at the Oval.

That setback came hot on the heels of their 104-run thrashing by England, leaving South Africa with no margin for error in the 10-team competition. Facing title contenders India at Southampton tomorrow is hardly what South Africa would have preferred as they fight to stay in contention for a semi-final berth.

But all-rounder Phehlukwayo is adamant the Proteas can get back on track as long as they do not dwell on their misfortune. "There have been some bad days in my career. I've learned, and the team has learned, that it is not the end of the world," Phehlukwayo told reporters. "We can always bounce back. We are a team that bounces back from situations and we will definitely do it again. "We haven't had a good start but this is a big tournament and anyone can beat anyone on any given day."

The injury-hit South Africans have had to do without veteran pace bowler Dale Steyn in both matches due to a shoulder problem, while star batsman Hashim Amla missed the Bangladesh match following a head injury. Adding to their problems, Lungi Ngidi was ruled out for up to 10 days with a hamstring strain sustained against Bangladesh. Amla could return against India, but Phehlukwayo says it is South Africa's failure to execute their game-plan that has been the biggest problem. — AFP