



YASUDA PACES JAPAN TO TWO-STROKE LEAD AT 8-UNDER IN FIRST ROUND

**Conducted by the International Golf Federation (www.IGFgolf.org)
Hosted by the Golfing Union of Ireland and the Irish Ladies Golf Union (www.golfnet.ie)
iqfgolf.org/watc/watc-2018 | [#WATC2018](https://twitter.com/WATC2018) and [#IGFgolf](https://twitter.com/IGFgolf) | mediacenter.usga.org**

When: 29 August 2018

What: 28th Women's World Amateur Team Championship for the Espirito Santo Trophy

Where: Carton House, Montgomerie and O'Meara Courses, County Kildare/Dublin, Ireland

Rapid Recap:

Yuka Yasuda, 17, posted a bogey-free and record-tying 7-under-par 65 on the par-72 Montgomerie Course to propel Japan to a two-stroke lead over the People's Republic of China in the first round.

"My short game and putting were very good," said Yasuda, No. 22 in the World Amateur Golf Ranking™, who tied the first-round 65 shot by countrywoman Rikako Morita in 2006 in South Africa. "I was hitting shots solid today and sinking three- to four-meter putts – that was pretty good today. I was very confident putting."

Teammates Yuna Nishimura and Yuri Yoshida each shot 1-under 71 for a team total of 8-under 136, which is just one stroke off the WWATC first-round team mark of 135 set by Canada in Japan in 2014.

"Everybody tried hard, but Yuka made just about everything on the putting green," said Japanese captain Tomoko Sakamoto, who is serving for the fourth time. "She looked so comfortable on the green. She felt like she was going to make every one of them. I'm very happy!"

The People's Republic of China, which played on the par-73 O'Meara Course was led by Mohan Du. With birdies on her first three holes and five total on her front nine, she shot a 6-under-par 67.

"I don't know what happened today," Du said. "I could feel my head spinning around because I have a real heavy cold. We just arrived here yesterday early morning and didn't have a practice round because we just finished the Asian Games. It was a long way to travel here so I didn't think much or set targets today. I just took it easy and played every shot. And that's why I had a good result. I feel amazing."

Du, 16, reached 7-under through 15 holes but bogeyed the 16th and 17th before a finishing birdie, which gave her eight birdies against two bogeys. Her teammate Ruoning Yin, 15, added an even-par 73 for a 6-under team total of 140.

Defending champion Republic of Korea, Germany and Austria share third position at 4 under with Australia and Ireland tied for sixth at 3 under; the USA and Hong Kong, China are tied for eighth at 2 under and Venezuela and Italy are tied for 10th at 1 under.

Quotable:

Yuka Yasuda, 17, Japan: "I am happy with our lead, but this is only the first day. Even though I am happy I still need to keep going with how I did today for the rest of the week."

Captain Tomoko Sakomoto, Japan: "I am very pleased with the way all three players played today. During the practice round, it was so windy and much tougher conditions. For example, at the 16th, they were hitting woods. But today it was so very different, and they were using irons. It was a bit tricky but they all did a great job."

Olivia Mehaffey, 20, Ireland (on hitting the opening tee shot on the Montgomerie course): "A little bit of nerves. There was a lot of people out there, I didn't expect so many people to be out there at a 7.45 a.m. tee time on a Wednesday. That was lovely. Definitely, it's nice to get the first round and keep yourself up towards the top of the leaderboard."

Leonie Harm, 20, Germany: "I feel pretty good because it was my first stroke play bogey-free round of the year. I really like the golf course, I had some good opportunities out there, but I also had some great par saves. I'm overall happy with the score."

Leonie Bettel, 21, Austria (on her 4-under-par 69): "I was really comfortable around and on the greens. On a couple I just saw the line and knew it was going to go in."

Notable:

- *Individual leader Yuka Yasuda won the 2018 Women's Australian Master of the Amateurs with a 65 in the third round as well as the 2017 Japan Women's Amateur.*
- *Despite a bad head cold and a Tuesday morning arrival after the Asian Games, Du of the People's Republic of China, with a 67 on the O'Meara Course, tied for the WWATC's third-lowest individual first-round score. The team was not able to play any practice rounds because of their travel schedule.*
- *Host Ireland stands tied for sixth place after a 2-under 70 from Olivia Mehaffey and a 1-under 71 from Annabel Wilson.*
- *Although only two scores count, Japan and Germany were the only teams to post all three scores at par or better for the day. On the par-72 Montgomerie Course, Japan received a 65 from Yuka Yasuda and 71s from Yuna Nishimura and Yuri Yoshida and for Germany Leonie Harm shot 70; Esther Henseleit shot 71 and Sophie Hausmann shot 72 on the par-73 O'Meara Course.*
- *Mark H. McCormack medal winner Jennifer Kupcho, No. 1 in the World Amateur Golf Ranking™, shot a 2-under 70 to pace the USA to a tie for eighth.*
- *In the 57 teams, there are four playing captains: Brenda Corrie-Kuehn of the Dominican Republic, Sofia Linette Garcia Peralta of Paraguay, Leonor Bessa of Portugal, and Claudia De Antonio of Venezuela.*
- *Leonie Bettel of Austria caddied for Leonie Harm of Germany in the final of the 2018 Ladies British Open Amateur Championship at Hillside in Southport, England.*

What's Next:

Round 2 begins Thursday at 7:45 a.m. off the No. 1 tees at both courses.

More

Spectators are encouraged to attend, and entry into Carton House for the 2018 World Amateur Team Championships is free. For more information, please visit igfgolf.org/watc/watc-2018/

County Kildare/Dublin, Ireland – Results from Wednesday's first round at the 2018 Women's World Amateur Team Championship, played at Carton House's O'Meara (O) and Montgomerie (M) Courses will be set up at 6,336 yards/5,791 meters and 6,365 yards/5,818 meters, respectively. The courses will play a par of 37-36—73 and 36-36—72, respectively.

1. Japan (JPN) - 136 (-8) M
 - Yuka Yasuda 65
 - Yuri Yoshida 71
 - Yuna Nishimura 71
2. People's Republic of China (CHN) - 140 (-6) O
 - Mohan Du 67
 - Ruoning Yin 73
 - Wenbo Liu 77
- T3. Austria (AUT) - 142 (-4) O
 - Leonie Bettel 69
 - Emma Spitz 73
 - Janika Ruettimann 76
- T3. Germany (GER) - 142 (-4) O
 - Leonie Harm 70
 - Esther Emily Henseleit 72
 - Sophie Hausmann 73
- T3. Republic of Korea (KOR) - 140 (-4) M
 - Ayeon Cho 68
 - Yae Eun Hong 72
 - Seo Yun Kwon 74
- T6. Australia (AUS) - 141 (-3) M
 - Rebecca Kay 68
 - Grace Kim 73
 - Kirsty Hodgkins 75
- T6. Ireland (IRL) - 141 (-3) M
 - Olivia Mehaffey 70
 - Annabel Wilson 71
 - Paula Grant 74
- T8. Hong Kong, China (HKG) - 144 (-2) O
 - Michelle Cheung 70
 - Mimi Ho 74
 - Isabella Leung 78
- T8. United States of America (USA) - 142 (-2) M
 - Jennifer Kupcho 70
 - Lilia Vu 72

Kristen Gillman 74
T10.Italy (ITA) - 143 (-1) M
Caterina Don 70
Alessia Nobilio 73
Emilie Alba Paltrinieri 76
T10.Venezuela (VEN) - 145 (-1) O
Claudia De Antonio 72
Ana Raga 73
Valentina Gilly 84
12.Mexico (MEX) - 147 (+1) O
Cory Lopez 73
Maria Fassi 74
Ana Lizeth Ruiz Laphond 79
T13.Dominican Republic (DOM) - 148 (+2) O
Rachel Kuehn 71
Yae Eun Kim 77
Brenda Corrie-Kuehn 82
T13.Finland (FIN) - 148 (+2) O
Kiira Riihijarvi 73
Anna Backman 75
Elina Saksa 76
T13.France (FRA) - 148 (+2) O
Pauline Roussin-Bouchard 72
Emma Broze 76
Agathe Laisne 76
T13.Guatemala (GUA) - 148 (+2) O
Pilar Echeverria 73
Valeria Mendizabal Riepele 75
Beatriz Arenas 81
T13.Scotland (SCO) - 148 (+2) O
Connie Jaffrey 74
Shannon McWilliam 74
Hannah McCook 77
T18.Belgium (BEL) - 147 (+3) M
Clarisse Louis 73
Elodie Van Dievoet 74
Clara Aveling 78
T18.Denmark (DEN) - 147 (+3) M
Malene Krolboll Hansen 72
Sofie Kibsgaard Nielsen 75
Karen Svanholm Fredgaard 79
T18.Netherlands (NED) - 147 (+3) M
Zhen Bontan 72
Romy Meekers 75
Dewi Weber 77
T18.Sweden (SWE) - 147 (+3) M
Linn Grant 73

Frida Kinhult 74
Beatrice Wallin 80
T18.Switzerland (SUI) - 147 (+3) M
Albane Valenzuela 73
Elena Moosmann 74
Yael Berger 79
T18.Thailand (THA) - 147 (+3) M
Tunrada Piddon 70
Napabhach Boon-In 77
Rina Tatematsu 77
T24.Czech Republic (CZE) - 150 (+4) O
Sara Kouskova 73
Hana Ryskova 77
Katerina Vlasinova 77
T24.Morocco (MAR) - 150 (+4) O
Lina Belmati 72
Ines Laklalech 78
Intissar Rich 84
T24.New Zealand (NZL) - 148 (+4) M
Julianne Alvarez 73
Wenyung Keh 75
Amelia Garvey 76
T24.Norway (NOR) - 150 (+4) O
Dorthea Charlotte Forbrigd 73
Karoline Stormo 77
Renate Hjelle Grimstad 78
T24.Puerto Rico (PUR) - 150 (+4) O
Johany Rivera 75
Valeria Pacheco Claudio 75
Yudika Ann Rodriguez 77
T24.South Africa (RSA) - 150 (+4) O
Kaleigh Telfer 75
Caitlyn MacNab 75
Kajal Mistry 79
T30.England (ENG) - 149 (+5) M
Annabell Fuller 74
Sophie Lamb 75
Hollie Muse 77
T30.Paraguay (PAR) - 149 (+5) M
Maria Fernanda Escauriza Stoeckl 72
Anahi Servin 77
Sofia Linette Garcia Peralta 83
32.Spain (ESP) - 152 (+6) O
Marta Perez Sanmartin 75
Elena Hualde Zuniga 77
Paz Marfa Sans 80
T33.Chinese Taipei (TPE) - 153 (+7) O

Tze-Han Lin 74
Kuan-Yu Lin 79
Yu Ping Huang 79
T33.India (IND) - 151 (+7) M
Diksha Dagar 74
Ridhima Dilawari 77
Sifat Sagoo 78
T35.Argentina (ARG) - 152 (+8) M
Ela Anacona 75
Magdalena Simmermacher 77
Valentina Rossi 79
T35.Brazil (BRA) - 154 (+8) O
Lauren Grinberg 74
Laura Helena de Araujo Caetano 80
Maria Fernanda Lacaz Martins 88
T37.Iceland (ISL) - 155 (+9) O
Saga Traustadottir 76
Helga Kristin Einarsdottir 79
Ragnhildur Kristinsdottir 85
T37.Lithuania (LTU) - 155 (+9) O
Gile Bite Starkute 75
Saule Jarasunaite 80
T39.Canada (CAN) - 154 (+10) M
Jaclyn Lee 76
Naomi Ko 78
Maddie Szeryk 80
T39.Chile (CHI) - 154 (+10) M
Natalia Villavicencio 76
Sofia Morgan 78
Antonia Matte 80
T39.Colombia (COL) - 154 (+10) M
Silvia Margarita Garces Escalante 75
Maria Camila Serrano Silva 79
Valentina Giraldo Roys 83
T39.Malaysia (MAS) - 154 (+10) M
Geraldine Xiao Xuan Wong 76
Siti Zulaikhaa Shaari 78
Liyana Azizan Durisic 78
T39.Uruguay (URU) - 154 (+10) M
Priscilla Schmid 76
Sofia Garcia Austt Marques 78
Jimena Marques 79
44.Portugal (POR) - 158 (+12) O
Leonor Bessa 78
Sofia Barroso Sa 80
Sara Gouveia 81
T45.Peru (PER) - 157 (+13) M

Micaela Farah 75
Daniela Ballesteros 82
Josefina Fernandez-Davila 82
T45.Slovakia (SVK) - 157 (+13) M
Anika Bolcikova 77
Natalia Heckova 80
Katarina Drocarova 81
T45.Wales (WAL) - 157 (+13) M
Katherine O'Connor 78
Bethan Morris 79
Jordan Ryan 81
48.Singapore (SGP) - 158 (+14) M
Inez Xin Yi Ng 79
Shannon Tan 79
Callista Chen 82
49.Poland (POL) - 159 (+15) M
Dominika Gradecka 76
Dorota Zalewska 83
Nicole Polivchak 87
T50.Guam (GUM) - 162 (+16) O
Nalathai Vongjalorn 78
Rachael Peterson 84
Rose Tarpley 87
T50.Slovenia (SLO) - 160 (+16) M
Vida Obersnel 79
Inja Fric 81
Lara Jecnik 83
52.Turkey (TUR) - 161 (+17) M
Damla Bilgic 80
Selin Timur 81
Sena Ersoy 83
53.Bulgaria (BUL) - 165 (+19) O
Magdalena Borisova 82
Ivana Simeonova 83
Stefani Skokanska 90
54.Latvia (LAT) - 165 (+21) M
Marija Luize Jucmane 79
Anna Estere Marksa 86
Katrina Jana Gustafssone 89
T55.Lebanon (LBN) - 168 (+22) O
Vanessa Richani 79
Sarah Assaf 89
Lea Assaf 100
T55.Tunisia (TUN) - 168 (+22) O
Hedia Mansouri 84
Ghozlene Saki 84
Kenza Ladhari 86

57.Ukraine (UKR) - 169 (+23) O

Elvira Rastvortseva 81

Daria Horokhovska 88

Valeriia Saprionova 98

Media contacts:

Pete Kowalski: cell phone: +908-216-8435; pkowalski@usga.org

Lauren Witherspoon: cell phone +447917759039; laurenwitherspoon@randa.org