

# LPGA Jodi Ewart Shadoff Holds for the win



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The Ladies Professional Golfing Associations (LPGA) MEDIHEAL Championship has reached an iconic golf venue in Somis, California for the first time. LPGA Major Professional golfers, Southern California golf enthusiasts and former World No. 1 players were headlining the elite international field, taking place Oct. 6-9, 2022, at The Saticoy Club. The LPGA Mediheal Championship is a women's professional golf tournament in California on the LPGA Tour. A new event in 2018, was held at Lake Merced Golf Club in Daly City, an adjacent suburb south of San Francisco. Due to the Merced Golf Club renovations, the tournament was moved this year to the Saticoy Club.

The Saticoy Club is a premier club in Ventura County located in the hillside town of Somis, California. It hosted 120 of the world's greatest female golfers all competing for a share of the \$1.8 million purse. The 101-year-old club had never previously hosted a professional golf tournament. The reigning champion is LPGA rookie Matilda Castren, who became the first Finnish player to win on the tour with her 2-stroke victory in 2021. Fourth-round leader Jodi Ewart Shadoff has played 245 times on the LPGA Tour and never had a better chance at winning than now.

She has been the leader through the first three rounds and has played a bogey-free Saturday for a 3-under 69 to keep her four-shot lead in the LPGA Mediheal Championship. During Saturday's play, Ewart Shadoff picked up two birdies on the front nine at The Saticoy Club, added another on the par-5 14th, and then kept a clear card to the end. She was at 14-under 202, four shots ahead of Paula Reto of South Africa, who captured her first LPGA title last month in Canada. "Probably the first time in my career to do so," Ewart Shadoff said of leading after each of the three rounds, starting with her 64 on Thursday. "Either way it's a good learning experience this week. Sunday will be a good learning experience either way. I just need to stick to my routine and hopefully, a good result will come." Ewart Shadoff, the Englishwoman was looking to be the third wire-to-wire winner this season after posting a bogey-free 3-under 69 on Saturday to take a four-shot lead at -14 overall, a new tournament 54-hole record.

Shadoff started the final fourth Mediheal Championship round with a career of 246 golf starts and was in a prime position to become the season's 10th Rolex First-Time Winner in her 246th start on Tour. She had a four-stroke lead over South Africa's Paula Reto who recently achieved her maiden Tour title at the Canadian Pacific Women's Open, also carded a 3-under 69 to sit in solo second with 18 holes remaining. Playing alongside Shadoff, Reto notched two bogeys and five birdies, including her last of the day on No. 17. Reto was looking to become the second South African on Tour to earn at least two wins.

With her four-shot deficit, a win would also tie the second-biggest come-from-behind victory on Tour this season, a challenge Reto was up for at the Saticoy Golf Club in Somis, California. Danielle Kang was six shots back entering the final day of the LPGA MEDIHEAL Championship, the hometown favorite put together a run at the title Sunday at The Saticoy Club in Somis. The Pepperdine University golfer didn't make enough putts to come back to give Ventura County a local champion in its first LPGA tournament in 22 years. A 5-under 67 Sunday moved Kang to 13 under for 72 holes, which tied Kang for third with Paula Reto and Georgia Hall.

Danielle Kang let out a guttural sigh as she stepped toward the microphone, exclaiming, "So close!" Twice on the back nine, Kang stood over a putt that would have pulled her even with the leaders. "It's been really fun," Kang said. "I know that I tried." Kang, the No. 14-ranked player in the world, had plenty of encouragement during her comeback. "I thrive off the gallery, so I love when people cheer and come out and watch and have that momentum and that vibe," Kang said. She drew a large gallery that included past school teachers, school friends, a university coach, and her mother, Grace Lee. "It's just so incredible to play in front of all my friends," Kang said. "I had a lot of fun. They're proud of me no matter what I do, so it was just exciting to play today." But the winner after four rounds was Jodi Ewart Shadoff of England who shot 15-under to earn her first win on tour in 246 LPGA starts. "I will never forget playing at Saticoy Golf Club," Ewart Shadoff told the club's members on the 18th green during the trophy ceremony.



Jodi Ewart Shadoff is finally an LPGA Tour winner in her 246th start, closing with a 1-under 71 in a nervy final round Sunday for a one-shot victory in the LPGA Mediheal Championship. Ewart Shadoff went wire-to-wire at The Saticoy Club, and the final round felt more like a roller coaster.

The 34-year-old from England started with a four-shot lead, and that was gone by the time she made the turn on the back-nine. Paula Reto of South Africa had four birdies and took the lead when Ewart Shadoff made a bogey on the par-3 ninth hole. Ewart Shadoff regained a share of the lead with a birdie on No. 12, matched birdies with Reto on the par-5 14th, and then held steady as the South African fell back. Reto dropped shots on the next two holes, and Ewart Shadoff held it together on the closing holes. She wound up one shot ahead of 2021 U.S. Women's Open champion Yuka Saso, who closed with a 66. Reto had to settle for a 69 to tie for third with Georgia Hall (65) and Danielle Kang (67). When she tapped in for par, the celebration was a mixture of tears and water that friends and players sprayed on Ewart Shadoff "That last 1-footer felt like 20 feet to me," she said. Her 15-under 273 set a tournament record.

She became the 10th player this year to win for the first time on the LPGA Tour, one short of the record set in 1995. None of the others had to wait this long. "It's a little bit surreal," said Ewart Shadoff, holding back tears. "I didn't know if this moment would ever come. I'm just grateful to everyone on my team who supported me during my struggles and injuries. Last year was hard. I'm standing here because of them. I'm just grateful." Ewart Shadoff only knew that Sunday would be a new experience, and the test came quickly when Reto caught her in six holes — three birdies to Ewart Shadoff's bogey on the third hole. She never fell too far behind and relied on her putter, not typically the strongest part of Ewart Shadoff's game. "I learned that I could fight through adversity. I can play under the nerves, which it's been kind of a problem for me in the past, is just trying to settle the nerves down and play through it," she said. "I think I proved to myself that I can do it. I proved I can win".

Ewart Shadoff won the \$270,000 winner's share of the \$1,800,000 purse. Atthaya Thitikul, the 19-year-old from Thailand, closed with a 68 and tied for eighth. It was her fourth consecutive top-10 finish on the LPGA Tour as she gets closer to reaching No. 1 in the women's world ranking. Jin Young Ko is No. 1 and has been home resting her ailing left wrist. Ko returns to competition in two weeks when the LPGA Tour goes to South Korea. The Saticoy Club in Somis, California represented Ventura County well before an international audience. In 2023 the MEDIHEAL Championship will return to the Lake Merced Golf Club in Daly City, an adjacent suburb south of San Francisco, California.













