

# Ayako Okamoto

(eye-YAH-ko oh-ka-MOE-toe)



**Rookie year:** 1981

**Status:** Non-exempt

**Career victories (last):** 17 (1992)

**Career-low round:** 63

**Career earnings (rank):** \$2,749,508 (53)

**LPGA career holes-in-one:** 5

**Playoff record:** 2-4

**International victories:** 45

## Professional

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### *Career*

- In 2005, was elected to the World Golf Hall of Fame by the International ballot voting body, which is comprised of writers, historians and golf dignitaries from around the world; was inducted into the World Golf Hall of Fame on Nov. 14.
- Although she never won a major championship, compiled an impressive record in LPGA majors; in 51 major championship starts, recorded 28 top-20 finishes and missed the cut only four times.
- In 1995, competed in five events; best finish was a tie for 21<sup>st</sup> at the U.S. Women's Open.
- In 1994, best finish was a tie for 19<sup>th</sup> at the Nabisco Dinah Shore, one of the LPGA Tour's four major championships.
- In 1993, top finish of the season was a tie for seventh at the U.S. Women's Open.
- In 1992, earned \$229,953 and won her 17<sup>th</sup> career title at the McDonald's Championship.
- In 1991, finished second at both the Centel Classic and the JAL Big Apple Classic; tied for second at the Mazda LPGA Championship.
- In 1990, became the eighth LPGA Tour player to cross the \$2 million mark in career earnings following the Phar-Mor in Youngstown; captured the Sara Lee Classic title for her fifth consecutive season with at least one tournament victory; carded her fifth career hole-in-one at the Nabisco Dinah Shore.
- In 1989, won the LPGA Corning Classic and finished second to Patty Sheehan at the Rochester International following a sudden-death playoff.
- In 1988, won three times; totaled 13 top-10 finishes in 20 starts; recorded her career-low score of 63 during the third round of the San Diego Inamori Classic.
- In 1987, won four tournaments, including the Lady Keystone Open, which made her the Tour's 15<sup>th</sup> millionaire; defeated by Laura Davies in an 18-hole playoff at the U.S. Women's Open; recorded the fourth hole-in-one of her LPGA career at the McDonald's Championship; became the first international player to win the Rolex Player of the Year award.
- In 1986, won the Elizabeth Arden Classic and Cellular One-PING Golf Championship; narrowly missed two additional titles, losing to Pat Bradley at the du Maurier Classic and to Patty Sheehan at the Konica San Jose Classic in sudden-death playoffs.
- In 1985, top finish of the season was second place at the Mazda Classic; recorded her third career hole-in-one at the McDonald's Championship.
- In 1984, won three times for the first of four multi-win seasons in her career; recorded her second career hole-in-one during the J&B Scotch Pro-Am.
- In 1983, defeated Kathy Whitworth and Donna White in a sudden-death playoff at the Rochester International and finished second at the Chevrolet World Championship of Women's Golf; recorded the first of five career holes-in-one during the Chevrolet World Championship of Women's Golf.
- In 1982, captured the first of her 17 career wins at the Arizona Copper Classic after a sudden-death playoff with Sally Little.
- In 1981, qualified for the Tour by tying for fourth at the LPGA Final Qualifying Tournament in January to earn exempt status; during her rookie season, top finish was fourth place at the Sun City Classic.

## Personal

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5'5"...Started playing golf at the age of 22...Most popular female player in Japan...Received the 1987 Japanese Prime Minister's Award for her contribution to encouraging and developing sports in Japan...Recognized during the LPGA's 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in 2000 as one of the LPGA's top-50 players and teachers...Prior to playing golf, she was an excellent softball pitcher...Qualified for the Tour on her first attempt...Represents Daiwabo, Mizuno and Dunlop...Has her own Web site, [www.ayakookamoto.minato.tokyo.jp](http://www.ayakookamoto.minato.tokyo.jp).

## LPGA Victories, Awards, Etc.

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**LPGA Victories (17):** 1982 Arizona Copper Classic. 1983 Rochester International. 1984 J&B Scotch Pro-Am, Mayflower Classic, Hitachi Ladies British Open. 1986 Elizabeth Arden Classic, Cellular One-PING Golf Championship. 1987 Kyocera Inamori Golf Classic, Chrysler-Plymouth Classic, Lady Keystone Open, Nestle World Championship. 1988 Orient Leasing Hawaiian Ladies Open, San Diego Inamori Golf Classic, Greater Washington Open. 1989 LPGA Corning Classic. 1990 Sara Lee Classic. 1992 McDonald's Championship.  
**LPGA Awards:** 1987 Rolex Player of the Year.

## Major Championship History

	81	82	83	84	85	86	87	88	89	90	91	92	93	94
<b>KNC</b>	X	X	T40	T64	T34	WD	T5	T35	MC	T6	T6	T12	T9	T19
<b>LPGA</b>	DNP	DNP	T44	T7	T5	T3	T3	T3	2	T9	T2	T15	T37	T28
<b>OPEN</b>	DNP	T38	T8	T8	T8	T3	T2	T12	T11	T32	T15	MC	T7	T49
<b>DM</b>	DNP	DNP	T10	2	T69	2	2	T13	T24	T31	DNP	DNP	DNP	DNP

  

	95	96	97	98	99	00	01
<b>KNC</b>	T37	T48	64	DNP	MC	T67	DNP
<b>LPGA</b>	MC	DNP	DNP	DNP	DNP	DNP	DNP
<b>OPEN</b>	T21	DNP	DNP	DNP	DNP	DNP	DNP
<b>DM</b>	DNP	DNP	DNP	DNP	DNP	DNP	DNP

## Okamoto's LPGA Record

Information above the line indicates record before originally qualifying for the LPGA Tour.

Year	# of events	Cuts made	Wins	2nd	3rd	Top 10s	Best finish	Earnings	Rank	Scoring average
1976	1	1	0	0	0	0	T11	\$ 1,810	N/A	76.33
1977	1	1	0	0	0	1	T4	4,400	N/A	76.33
1978	2	2	0	0	0	1	T10	2,650	N/A	74.00
1979	1	1	0	0	0	0	T12	2,650	N/A	72.33
1980	1	1	0	0	0	0	T12	3,242	N/A	74.33
1981	7	6	0	0	0	2	4	14,147	76	73.67
1982	14	13	1	2	1	7	1	85,267	14	72.60
1983	23	21	1	1	2	10	1	131,214	10	73.01
1984	27	25	3	3	3	15	1	251,108	3	71.92
1985	18	16	0	1	0	6	2	87,497	23	72.53
1986	24	21	2	2	2	10	1	198,362	9	72.07
1987	24	24	4	4	4	17	1	466,034	1	71.36
1988	21	20	3	2	1	13	1	300,206	6	70.94
1989	18	14	1	2	0	4	1	205,745	6	71.66
1990	20	18	1	3	1	9	1	302,885	7	71.57
1991	16	15	0	3	0	8	2	349,437	7	71.54
1992	15	14	1	0	1	5	1	229,953	20	71.48
1993	15	11	0	0	0	2	T7	61,504	76	72.78
1994	8	7	0	0	0	0	T19	32,318	116	72.88
1995	5	3	0	0	0	0	T21	19,951	135	73.20
1996	2	2	0	0	0	0	T41	6,112	174	73.63
1997	1	1	0	0	0	0	64	1,433	191	75.00
1998	DNP									
1999	2	1	0	0	0	0	T62	1,263	210	75.80
2000	2	2	0	0	0	0	T44	5,071	181	73.71
2001	1	1	0	0	0	0	T56	2,526	N/A	74.00