

**DATE:** March 4, 2024

**TO:** Jessica Vealitzek, Chair  
Operations Committee

Gina Roberts, Chair  
Finance Committee

**FROM:** Daniel E. Stearns  
Director of Facilities

**RECOMMENDATION:** Recommend approval of a Resolution awarding a Contract for the Purchase of one new John Deere 333G Compact Track Loader and four equipment attachments to West Side Tractor Sales Co., in the Contract Price of \$157,761.58.

**STRATEGIC DIRECTION SUPPORTED:** Organizational Sustainability

**FINANCIAL DATA:** The replacements of two pieces of equipment and acquisition of three new attachments were approved in the 2024 budget in the following amounts and accounts:

Item	Budget	Account
Equipment Replacement – Tractor	\$55,000.00	92104100-804100
Additional Funding to Upgrade Tractor to MTL	\$45,000.00	15524100-804100
Rotary Brush Cutter Attachment	\$8,000.00	15524100-804100
Grapple Bucket Attachment	\$6,000.00	20544100-804100
Hydraulic Breaker Attachment	\$15,000.00	20544100-804100
Equipment Replacement - Hydraulic Broom Attachment	\$11,000.00	92104100-804100
Total	\$140,000.00	

The actual total cost for the five pieces of equipment is \$157,761.58 will be charged to the following accounts:

Item	Cost	Account
Equipment Replacement – Tractor	\$71,959.82	92104100-804100
Additional Funding to Upgrade Tractor to MTL	\$45,000.00	15524100-804100
Rotary Brush Cutter Attachment	\$8,538.00	15524100-804100
Grapple Bucket Attachment	\$6,841.63	20544100-804100
Hydraulic Breaker Attachment	\$15,788.29	20544100-804100
Equipment Replacement - Hydraulic Broom Attachment	\$9,633.84	92104100-804100
Total	\$157,761.58	

Additional funding of \$15,593.66 will come from the Equipment Replacement Fund (9210), \$538.00 from the General Fund (1552), and \$1,629.92 from the Land Development Levy Fund (2054). The annual user charge will be calculated based the actual purchase prices.

**BACKGROUND:** In accordance with the District's equipment replacement guidelines, staff determined previously that two pieces of equipment are due for replacement, specifically a 2009 John Deere Tractor with Loader and cutter (Unit 266) and a 2015 John Deere 1575 Terrain Cut Front Mower with snow removal attachments (Unit 373). As part of staff's continual evaluation of equipment replacements, staff determined that operations could be improved by replacing the Tractor with a Multi-Terrain Track Loader and the Front Mower with snow removal attachments with two separate pieces – an electric mower and separate snow removal attachment (specifically, a hydraulic angle broom) for a track loader. These replacements are included in the FY2024 approved budget, along with the purchase of three new equipment attachments: a grapple bucket, front rotary brush cutter, and a hydraulic hammer/breaker.

Pursuant to the Illinois Governmental Joint Purchasing Act, 30 ILCS 525/1, et seq., any governmental unit may purchase personal property, supplies, and services jointly with one or more other governmental units in certain circumstances. Staff determined that the John Deere 333G Compact Track Loader and attachments are available under Sourcewell Contract 011723-JDC with West Side Tractor Sales, Co. of Wauconda IL as the local agent.

The Track Loader will be based at the Independence Grove grounds maintenance shop and primarily used by the Grounds Maintenance staff. The front rotary mower, broom, and scrap grapple will be shared among various crews. The hydraulic breaker attachment will be primarily used by the Heavy Equipment and Site Amenities crews for demolition activities.

The new Track Loader and attachments are expected to be in service for ten (10) years per the District's equipment replacement guidelines.

**REVIEW BY OTHERS:** Chief Operations Officer, Director of Finance, Manager of Board Operations, Corporate Counsel.

STATE OF ILLINOIS)  
  ) SS  
COUNTY OF LAKE )

**BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
LAKE COUNTY FOREST PRESERVE DISTRICT  
REGULAR MARCH MEETING  
MARCH 13, 2024**

**MISTER PRESIDENT AND MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS:**

Your **OPERATIONS COMMITTEE** and **FINANCE COMMITTEE** present herewith “A Resolution Awarding a Contract to West Side Tractor Sales, Co., for the Purchase of a John Deere Track Loader and Attachments” and request its approval.

**OPERATIONS COMMITTEE:**

Date: \_\_\_\_\_  Roll Call Vote: Ayes: \_\_\_\_ Nays: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Voice Vote Majority Ayes; Nays: \_\_\_\_\_

**LAKE COUNTY FOREST PRESERVE DISTRICT  
LAKE COUNTY, ILLINOIS**

**A RESOLUTION AWARDING A CONTRACT TO  
WEST SIDE TRACTOR SALES, CO. FOR THE PURCHASE OF A JOHN DEERE  
TRACK LOADER AND ATTACHMENTS**

**WHEREAS**, the Lake County Forest Preserve District (the “District”) desires to purchase one new John Deere 333G Compact Track Loader and four equipment attachments (hydraulic angle broom, grapple bucket, front rotary brush cutter, and hydraulic hammer/breaker), or approved equivalents (the “Equipment”); and

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to the Illinois Governmental Joint Purchasing Act, 30 ILCS 525/1, et seq., any governmental unit may purchase personal property, supplies, and services jointly with one or more other governmental units if one of the governmental units has publicly advertised for, and received, competitive, sealed bids or proposals, and has awarded a contract for such personal property, supplies, and services to the lowest responsible bidder or the highest ranking proposer, all in accordance with such Act; and

**WHEREAS**, Sourcewell has publicly advertised for, and received, competitive proposals for the Equipment, including a proposal by John Deere Shared Services LLC for the Equipment; and

**WHEREAS**, Sourcewell has awarded contract #011723-JDC to John Deere Shared Services LLC as the highest-ranking proposer for the Equipment (the “Sourcewell Contract”) and the Sourcewell Contract provides that other units of local government may also enter into contracts with West Side Tractor Sales, Co. on the same terms as provided in the Sourcewell Contract; and

**WHEREAS**, it is in the best interest of the District to award a contract for the Equipment to West Side Tractor Sales, Co., as the agent of John Deere Shared Services LLC on the same terms as provided in the Sourcewell Contract (the “Contract”) in a total price equal \$157,761.58 (the “Contract Price”);

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Board of Commissioners of the Lake County Forest Preserve District, Lake County, Illinois, **THAT**:

**Section 1. Recitals.** The recitals set forth above are incorporated as a part of this Resolution by this reference.

**Section 2. Award of Contract.** The proposal submitted by West Side Tractor Sales, Co., in the total amount of the Contract Price is hereby accepted and the Contract is hereby awarded to West Side Tractor Sales, Co.

**Section 3. Execution of Contract.** The Executive Director of the District is hereby authorized and directed to execute the Contract with West Side Tractor Sales, Co., in the amount of the Contract Price.

**Section 4. Payments.** The District Treasurer shall make payments under the Contract only pursuant to and in accordance with the Contract terms.

**Section 5. Effective Date.** This Resolution shall be in full force and effect from and after its passage and approval in the manner provided by law.

PASSED this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2024

AYES:

NAYS:

APPROVED this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2024

\_\_\_\_\_  
Angelo D. Kyle, President  
Lake County Forest Preserve District

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Julie Gragnani, Secretary  
Lake County Forest Preserve District

Exhibit No. \_\_\_\_\_



**WEST SIDE TRACTOR SALES**

3300 Ogden Ave Lisle IL 60532  
(630) 355-7150

Dan Ristow - Sales Representative - dristow@wstsales.com



February 15, 2024

0  
LAKE COUNTY FOREST PRESER  
ATTN: ACCOUNTS PAYABLE  
LIBERTYVILLE, IL

Sourcewell Contract # 011723-JDC

**2024 John Deere 333G Track Loaders**  
**SOURCEWELL Cooperative Contract 032119-JDC**

*Please note that this quote is valid for 30 days.*

Code	Machine Configuration Description All the prices in the detailed sections are Per machine basis. Qty (1)	Unit Price
0BF2T	333G COMPACT TRACK LDR BASE	117,518.00
770	2SP HIFL SLEV RC CB/AC POT	4,915.00
953	ISO SWITCHABLE CTLS & JS PPK	1,133.00
1501	ENGLISH OP MAN & DECALS	-
170K	JDLINK	-
2650	WIDE ZIG-ZAG MULTI BAR TRKS	220.00
4001	2" SEAT BELT W/SHOULDERSTRAP	-
6006	AIR RIDE SEAT (CLOTH W HEAT)	684.00
8042	REAR VIEW CAMERA	931.00
8050	COLD START PACKAGE 110 VOLT	332.00
8300	SINGLE SET COUNTERWEIGHT	410.00
8370	LOUVER REAR GRILLE, HVY DUTY	532.00
8380	FOOTREST WITH FLOORMAT	157.00
9062	84" HD CONST BKT W/ EDGE	2,701.00
<b>List Price</b>		<b>\$ 129,533.00</b>
<b>Discount 30%</b>		<b>\$ 38,859.90</b>
<b>Net Price</b>		<b>\$ 90,673.10</b>

	Custom Jobs Description	Qt	Price
	Factory Freight Destination Lisle, IL 60532	1	1,444.56
	Dlr provide Pre-Delivery Inspection, Supplies and Fuel Fill	1	1,125.00
	Dealer Provided Delivery	1	600.00
	Labor for field installed kits	1	10,369.00
	Severe Duty Forestry Package	1	6,854.96
	Two extra Counter Weights to have 3 complete sets	1	1,119.00
	Severe Duty Door (req for forestry pkg)	1	2,862.07
NPK	PH3 HAMMER for SKIDSTEER	1	15,788.29
	Razor LED Hazard Lights	1	1,912.13
Blue Diamond	84" Severe Duty Grapple Bucket	1	6,841.63
Deere	RC72-72" Severe Duty Brush Cutter (058910)	1	8,538.00
Blue Diamond	84" HD Series 2 Rotary Hydraulic Angle Broom (includes poly/steel bristles) with wire harness.	1	9,633.84
<b>Total Price</b>			<b>\$ 67,088.48</b>

Quote Summary (per unit)		Prices
Machine Net Price		\$ 90,673.10
Custom Jobs		\$ 67,088.48
<b>Total Net Price</b>	<b>Quantity (1)</b>	<b>\$ 157,761.58</b>
		-
		-

**Adjusted Net Price** **\$ 157,761.58**

Less Trade-in	
0	-
0	-
	-
	-

**Payoff to Trade** -  
**Net Price less Trade-Ins** **\$ 157,761.58**

**Warranty Terms**

333G includes • Full Machine Warranty for 24 Mo OR 2000 Hr whichever occurs first



3300 Ogden Ave • Lisle, IL 60532

(630) 355-7150

1/12/2024

DATE

CUSTOMER ORDER#

Dan Ristow

SALESPERSON

PURCHASER NAME: LAKE COUNTY FOREST PRESER

ADDRESS: ATTN: ACCOUNTS PAYABLE

CITY, STATE, ZIP: LIBERTYVILLE, IL 600485367 PHONE# 8473676640

QTY	DESCRIPTION	PRICE
1	2024 John Deere 333G Track Loaders	\$ 157,761.58
	Serial Number Factory Order Stock Number 062252	
	Forestry Package	INC
	72" Brush Cutter	INC
	84" Angle Broom	INC
	84" HD Grapple Bucket	INC
	NPK Hammer For SkidSteer	INC
	• Full Machine Warranty for 24 Mo OR 2000 Hr whichever occurs first	
	TRADE-IN: SERIAL NUMBER	
		\$ -
		\$ -
		\$ -

TAXES*			
SALES	\$ -	SELLING PRICE	\$ 157,761.58
TIRE USER FEE	\$ -	LESS TRADES-IN(S)	\$ -
COOK COUNTY USE	\$ -	SUBTOTAL	\$ 157,761.58
COOK COUNTY RETAIL	\$ -		
GROSS FET (12%)	\$ -	TOTAL TAXES*	\$ -
- Tire Credit	\$ -	SUBTOTAL	\$ 157,761.58
NET FET	\$ -		
C. OF CHICAGO	\$ -	TOTAL RENT TO APPLY	\$ -
<b>TOTAL TAXES*</b>	\$ -	PAYOFF OF TRADES	\$ -
RENT TO APPLY**		CASH DOWN PAYMENT	\$ -
RENTALS BILLED	\$ -	SECURE	\$ -
RENT TAX BILLED	\$ -	PM PLUS	\$ -
LESS SERVICE CHARGE	\$ -	OTHER	\$ -
<b>TOTAL RENT TO APPLY**</b>	\$ -	<b>BALANCE DUE</b>	<b>\$ 157,761.58</b>

TERMS: CASH ON DELIVERY \_\_\_\_\_ CONDITIONAL SALES CONTRACT \_\_\_\_\_ MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO: "WEST SIDE TRACTOR SALES CO"

NOTES: \_\_\_\_\_

WARRANTY CODE: \_\_\_\_\_ F.O.B. \_\_\_\_\_

ALL NEW EQUIPMENT IS SOLD UNDER THE STANDARD WARRANTY, IF ANY, OF THE MANUFACTURER.  
 ALL DELIVERIES ARE SUBJECT TO DELAYS CAUSED BY ACTS OF GOD, FIRES, STRIKES, WAR, INSURRECTION OR ANY OTHER CAUSE BEYOND THE REASONABLE CONTROL OF OURSELVES OR THE MANUFACTURER  
 IT IS UNDERSTOOD THAT THIS ORDER CONSTITUTES THE ENTIRE CONTRACT AND SHALL NOT BE BINDING UNTIL OFFICIALLY ACCEPTED BY THE WEST SIDE TRACTOR SALES CO. PURCHASER HAS READ AND UNDERSTANDS WARRANTY TERMS AND REVERSE SIDE.  
 IF A TRADE-IN IS A PART OF THIS PURCHASE ORDER, "PURCHASER" HEREBY CERTIFIES THAT SUCH TRADE-IN(S) IS FREE AND CLEAR OF ALL LIENS OR ENCUMBRANCES EXCEPT AS SHOWN ABOVE.

**YOU ARE HEREBY AUTHORIZED TO ENTER THE ABOVE ORDER FOR THE UNDERSIGNED**

SALESPERSON: \_\_\_\_\_ PURCHASER: LAKE COUNTY FOREST PRESER

ACCEPTED FOR WEST SIDE TRACTOR SALES CO. BY: \_\_\_\_\_

BY: \_\_\_\_\_ DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

Sales Manager

## EQUIPMENT WARRANTY

1. NEW EQUIPMENT. The only warranties which a buyer of new equipment shall be entitled to are those warranties of the manufacturer presented to the Buyer at the time of delivery of such new equipment. **NO WARRANTIES** either expressed or implied, **INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO IMPLIED WARRANTIES OF MERCHANTABILITY OR FITNESS FOR A PARTICULAR PURPOSE**, are given by Seller with respect to such new equipment.

2. USED EQUIPMENT. The following items are **EXPRESSLY EXCLUDED** from the coverage of any and all warranties, expressed or implied, given by Seller, with respect to used equipment: electrical equipment, glass, batteries, tires or under-carriage wear items, filters, oil or any repairs required due to neglect, abuse, or imprudent use by the Buyer. In the event of any question relating to the scope and applicability of this paragraph, the determination by a service representative designated by Seller shall be conclusive. In the event of any modification, alteration, addition, attachment, or repair to used equipment by anyone other than Seller, any and all warranties hereinafter set forth with respect to such equipment shall immediately become null and void. The following warranties are provided by Seller with respect to used equipment, subject to the exclusions set forth above:

(a) 30 DAYS: ALL PARTS AND LABOR IN OUR SHOP:

With respect to used equipment which has been completely rebuilt or reconditioned by Seller before delivery to Buyer, Seller expressly warrants such equipment to be free from defects in materials and workmanship, at the sole determination of Seller, for a period of thirty (30) days from date of purchase, if such equipment shall be delivered to Seller within such period. Seller's responsibility shall be limited to repair or replacement of such defective equipment, at Seller's option. This warranty may be limited to certain machine components if so stated on the face of this Order.

(b) 30 DAYS; 50-50 ALL PARTS AND LABOR IN OUR SHOP:

With respect to used equipment which has been repaired from time to time as needed by Seller before delivery to Buyer, Seller expressly warrants such equipment to be free from defects in materials and workmanship, at the sole determination of Seller, for a period of thirty (30) days from date of purchase, if such equipment shall be delivered to Seller within such period. Seller's responsibility shall be limited to repair or replacement, at Seller's option, at a cost calculated at list price for parts and labor, such cost to be shared equally between Buyer and Seller. Necessity for repair shall be a matter subject to the sole and final judgment of a service representative designated by Seller. Upon completion of repairs under this warranty, the Buyer's proportionate share of the cost thereof shall be paid in full as a condition precedent to the re-delivery of the equipment to the Buyer.

(c) AS IS - - NO WARRANTY EXPRESSED OR IMPLIED:

With respect to used equipment sold to the Buyer in the same condition in which it was acquired by Seller, minor repairs before delivery to Buyer excepted, Seller makes **NO WARRANTY** either expressed or implied, **INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO IMPLIED WARRANTIES OF MERCHANTABILITY AND FITNESS FOR A PARTICULAR PURPOSE**, and the Buyer assumes complete responsibility for any repairs, adjustments, or replacement of parts upon his acceptance of such equipment.

In the event that any of the warranties on Used Equipment set forth on the face of this Order are designated as "SUBJECT TO ONE (1) DAY TRIAL", the Buyer may take delivery for the sole purpose of subjecting the equipment to a fair test of its capabilities: **PROVIDED**, however, that by taking such conditional delivery of the equipment, Buyer expressly agrees to assume full and complete liability for the equipment and for any consequential contingent or incidental damages and liabilities howsoever arising as a result of the possession or use thereof, and expressly agrees to indemnify, protect and save harmless Seller from any and all claims, demands or suits related to, arising from, or connected with, such conditional delivery or the possession or use of such equipment by Buyer. Within forty-eight (48) hours of delivery of the equipment to him, Buyer must indicate by appropriate communication to the Seller either (1) his acceptance of the equipment under the terms and conditions expressed upon the face and reverse sides of this Order; or (2) the unacceptability of the equipment, in which case Buyer must return the said equipment to Seller in the same condition that it was received. In the event that Buyer fails to so notify the Seller within the aforesaid time period, the Buyer shall be deemed to have unconditionally accepted the equipment upon the terms and conditions expressed upon the face and reverse sides of this order.

(d) AS IS - WHERE IS - - NO WARRANTY EXPRESSED OR IMPLIED:

With respect to used equipment sold to the Buyer in the same condition and at the same location in which it was acquired by the Seller, without regard to whether the equipment is in running condition or operable, Seller makes **NO WARRANTY** either expressed or implied. **INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO IMPLIED WARRANTIES OF MERCHANTABILITY AND FITNESS FOR A PARTICULAR PURPOSE**, and the Buyer assumes complete responsibility for any repairs, adjustments, or replacement of parts and accepts full and complete liability for the equipment in its present location and condition upon his acceptance of such equipment.

3. The type of Warranty written on the face of this Order is **EXCLUSIVE AND IN LIEU OF ALL OTHER EXPRESSED OR IMPLIED WARRANTIES WHATSOEVER, INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO IMPLIED WARRANTIES OF MERCHANTABILITY AND FITNESS FOR A PARTICULAR PURPOSE** and shall not be construed as any way guaranteeing availability of equipment, new or used. Absence of a warranty statement on the face of the Order shall be construed as indication that the equipment is purchased under the terms and conditions of the **AS IS - WHERE IS -- NO WARRANTY EXPRESSED OR IMPLIED** warranty above. Notwithstanding anything to the contrary herein contained, Seller shall not be liable for any consequential contingent or incidental damages whatsoever.

4. In the event that repairs are necessitated under any of the foregoing warranties, such repairs must be initiated prior to the expiration of the expressed warranty period in order to comply with the terms of the warranty. At the sole discretion of Seller, warranty repairs to equipment may be performed in the field, provided that prior thereto the Buyer agrees in writing to pay a compensatory sum for mileage and travel time of a designated service representative of Seller to and from the location of such equipment

5. In the event that the sale of equipment evidenced by this sales contract is for a basic cash purchase price in excess of Five Thousand Dollars (5,000.00), Buyer hereby grants a security interest in the equipment sold by Seller and proceeds thereof for the unpaid purchase price or any part thereof until payment in full of such purchase price is made as provided herein. Upon wrongful refusal of Buyer to accept delivery of the equipment, or upon failure to pay the purchase price thereof, Seller at its election may retake or resell the equipment and recover from Buyer all damages suffered, including repossession, transportation, selling and advertising costs, as well as costs of suit and attorney's fees of Twenty (20%) Per Cent of any claimed amount. Buyer hereby grants Seller the right to enter upon Buyer's premises without notice, and to reclaim any equipment of Seller, and Buyer waives any right of whatever nature or source to notice or judicial hearing prior to said entry, reclamation, or resale.

6. Buyer shall treat as confidential all drawings and data submitted by Seller pertaining to price, size and design. Buyer shall not give or show such drawings or data to others under any circumstances, unless specifically approved by Seller. All such drawings and data shall remain property of Seller. All data collected and utilized by Buyer is the sole property and responsibility of the Buyer and Seller shall not be held liable nor bear any responsibility for said data. Seller shall not be liable for any damages arising from and/or if determined use of this application are inaccurate, due to miss-entry of data, or calculations within the application itself. It is the sole responsibility of the Buyer to confirm the elevations in the field to match the plans in order to check the actual physical grade, as well as that all plans are up-to-date from changes, and to confirm that information matches all of the engineer requests.

"West Side has assigned its rights to sell rental machinery described herein to a Qualified Intermediary pursuant to an IRC Section 1031 exchange. This assignment has no effect on your rights or obligations under this agreement."





**JOHN DEERE**

Adam Holdt – Territory Sales Manager  
John Deere Construction & Forestry  
1515 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
Moline, IL 61265  
Cell: 309-314-7344  
Email: HoldtAdamJ@JohnDeere.com

To whom it may concern,

West Side Tractor Sales, headquartered in Lisle, Illinois, serves as the approved dealer for John Deere Construction and Forestry equipment as well as our line of Compact Construction Equipment for Eastern Illinois including Lake County.

Thanks,

Adam Holdt  
Territory Sales Manager – John Deere Construction & Forestry

# Hammer 'almost blacks out' with 64

**Adam Schupak**  
Golfweek | USA TODAY Network

ST. SIMONS ISLAND, Ga. — After making his first cut on the PGA Tour as a professional last week in Houston, Cole Hammer is taking advantage of a sponsor's exemption into the RSM Classic, grabbing the first-round lead by carding nine birdies for a career-low 8-under 64 at the Plantation Course at Sea Island Resort.

"I almost blacked out there for a little bit," Hammer said Thursday. "It went by in a heartbeat, but at the same time was a long day."

And an unseasonably cold one at that. The temperature at the seaside course barely broke 50 degrees. Having previously played in the Jones Cup, an amateur tournament held at nearby Ocean Forest, Hammer had experienced the wind whipping off the water in these parts and bundled up in four layers and a beanie.

"When I played the Jones Cup, it was 35 degrees, blowing 30 and raining so I told myself I'll never play in weather like that again," he said. "I was ready for it."

What Hammer wasn't ready for was six consecutive missed cuts to start his pro career, an unexpectedly sharp learning curve after a decorated amateur career topped off by leading Texas to a national championship in June.

"It was a really dark period and I didn't know what was going on," he said. "I just was putting so much pressure on myself early in the tournament that I'd get behind the 8-ball."

After missing the cut at the Wyndham Championship in August, he did a deep dive on his swing with instructor Bruce Davidson and is starting to see the fruits of their labor. Ten days ago, he narrowly missed securing guaranteed starts at the final stage of Korn Ferry

Tour Q-School and then opened with a 74 in the opening round of the Cadence Houston Open.

"As soon as I made a bogey, I felt like the world was ending," he explained. "In Houston I just relaxed, took a deep breath and I made some bogeys. I basically just told myself that I can come back and nobody plays perfect golf and that's what I was trying to do."

Hammer shot 65 in the second round to make the cut and finished T-27. It gave him a jolt of confidence, especially when he found out after his final round that he had secured a sponsor invite into the RSM Classic.

"I was batting zero on the PGA Tour. I needed to get that monkey off my back," he said. "To do that in my hometown event in Houston was huge for me."

Hammer noted that he didn't sleep well Wednesday night and started his round with low expectations. "I hit my best drive of the day on No. 1, my 10th hole, and that swing gave me some confidence going into the back nine. I hit a wedge to like 2 feet and knocked that in," Hammer said.

That was his fifth birdie of the day and before long he looked up and spied his last name atop the leaderboard. "I saw some cameras show up, I knew I was doing something right," he said.

Hammer's opening-round 64 was a stroke better than rookie Ben Griffin, who also played the Plantation Course. England's Callum Tarren, who said the weather reminded him a little too much of home, and Beau Hossler tied for the low round of the day at the Seaside Course with 6-under 64s.

Hossler, a 27-year-old Texas grad who is still seeking his first victory on the PGA Tour, said he could relate to Hammer's slow start in the pro ranks: "I think there's a learning curve and once he gets comfortable at this level, just like I did, I think you start to say I can compete with these guys."

# With so much on line, Ko opens with 65 in CME

**Beth Ann Nichols**  
Golfweek | USA TODAY Network

NAPLES, Fla. — Lydia Ko made bogey on the opening par 5 at Tiburon Golf Club to begin the CME Group Tour Championship, but that did nothing to foreshadow the rest of the day.

Ko, leader of the Rolex Player of the Year race and Vare Trophy, paces the field after a 7-under 65 Thursday. The 25-year-old Kiwi holds the course record at Tiburon, 62, and won this tournament in 2014. She recorded eight birdies and shot 31 on the back nine.

"The first four holes into the wind is a beast," said Ko. "It's a beast without the wind. So I knew that if I could just hang on and just stay patient, there was going to be a lot of opportunities, and I was able to grab a lot of them in the back nine. So definitely nice to finish off that way."

An 18-time winner on the LPGA, Ko last won the LPGA Player of the Year in 2015. She leads Minjee Lee by one point in the POY race. Lee opened with a 71 and is tied for 23rd. Players must finish in the top 10 to earn points.

Nelly Korda, winner of last weekend's Pelican Ladies Championship and current No. 1, made a 20-footer for bogey on the second hole that felt like a birdie. She opened with a 4-under 68 with dropped shots, hitting all 14 fairways. "It was kind of sporadically windy," said Korda, "but then I guess once I got over a couple of my shots the winds died, so those were my like two mistakes."

Brooke Henderson withdrew from last week's Pelican event with an injury to her upper back and said that she wasn't even sure if she could tee it up this week. The Canadian lives part time here in Naples and felt well enough on Thursday to shoot 68. Henderson, a two-time winner this year, said she made some adjustments to her swing to be able to play.



Lydia Ko took the first-round CME Group Tour Championship lead with a 65 Thursday. LYNNE SLADKY/AP

Danielle Kang spent four days with Butch Harmon last week in Las Vegas and felt good about swing changes they're making coming into the week, jotting notes down on her glove. Kang spent a month in South Korea with In-bee Park, where she tied for 10th at the BMW Ladies Championship.

Kang, who revealed over the summer that she has a tumor on her spine, lost in a playoff at the Walmart NW Arkansas Championship to Atthaya Thititkul and tied for third at the LPGA Mediheal, after returning to competition after a months-long break.

"I really wish at one point we can just get to a point where I don't want to be associated with so much health things as I'm here, I'm standing in front of you guys, I'm playing golf," said Kang.

"Body and being physically in the top best shape is something we're always going to be thinking about as athletes. So the way I warm up, the way I have to approach certain type of things, is — there has been obstacles that's been set in front of me, but that's kind of part of life, right? Nothing is going to be fluid."

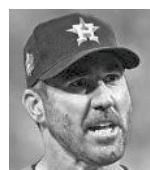
## MLB UNANIMOUS CY YOUNG WINNERS

### Verlander wins for third time at 39

At 39 and in his first season back from Tommy John surgery, Justin Verlander returned to the Houston Astros and completed one of the finest seasons of his 17-year MLB career, which earned him his third Cy Young Award.

The right-hander was unanimously voted the American League winner Wednesday by the Baseball Writers' Association of America.

Chicago White Sox right-hander Dylan Cease (14-8, 2.20 ERA) finished second in the voting and Toronto Blue Jays right-hander Alek Manoah (16-7, 2.24 ERA) finished third; both were named



Verlander

on all 30 ballots.

Verlander is the 11th pitcher to win three or more Cy Young Awards, also earning the honors in 2011 and 2019. Roger Clemens won a record seven.

Verlander had pitched just six innings since 2019 but dominated his opponents over 175 innings in 2022. He produced a 1.75 ERA, the lowest by an AL pitcher in a full season since Hall of Famer Pedro Martinez in 2000.

The future Hall of Famer and nine-time All-Star also led the AL in wins (18), WHIP (0.83), opponent batting average

(.186) and hits per nine innings (5.97). In 12 starts following a Houston loss, he went 9-0 with a 1.11 ERA.

Verlander's 220 adjusted ERA and 0.829 WHIP also ranked best in the majors.

### Alcantara also Marlins' 1st-timer

Sandy Alcantara was named the National League Cy Young Award winner Wednesday, becoming the first pitcher in Miami Marlins franchise history to earn the honor and the third winner hailing from the Dominican Republic.

Alcantara went 14-9 with a 2.28 ERA in 32 starts, topping the majors with six

complete games and 228 ⅓ innings pitched. The workhorse right-hander received all 30 first-place votes in BBWAA balloting conducted at the end of the regular season.

Alcantara, 27, was an All-Star for the second time in his career and had a sub-2.00 ERA as late as Aug 21. His 8.0 bWAR was the majors' best, and he became the first pitcher since 2016 to throw at least six complete games. In fact, no other team in baseball had more than five in 2022.

Left-handers Max Fried of the Atlanta Braves and Julio Urias of the Los Angeles Dodgers finished second and third.

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Let it be known, an unrebutted ecclesiastic agreement with witnesses' has been reached between minister Diane-Marie and the private men, Richard-Michael: DeWine, Thomas-A: Aigler, David-J: Claus, Eric: Smith, Marc-A: Linder, Christopher-J: Hilton, Kevin: Karn, Evan: Ely. The full text of the agreement may be seen at <a href="http://www.thewaythetruthandthelifeofjesus.blogspot.com">www.thewaythetruthandthelifeofjesus.blogspot.com</a> and <a href="http://www.allcreatorsgifts.blogspot.com">www.allcreatorsgifts.blogspot.com</a>	<b>Request for Proposal (RFP)</b> E&I Cooperative Services, Inc. invites the submission of sealed proposals for:  <b>EI00186-2022RFP for Learning Management Systems</b>  <b>Proposals are due by 1:00 PM ET on Monday, January 9, 2023.</b>  Respondents must submit their RFP response using E&I's Electronic Sourcing Solution which is accessible via <a href="https://www.eandi.org/contract-finder/rfp-development/">https://www.eandi.org/contract-finder/rfp-development/</a> . E&I does not accept hard copy submissions or submissions through any other medium other than its Electronic Sourcing Solution.  <b>E&amp;I is committed to developing mutually advantageous business relationships with minority, women, disabled, veteran, and service-disabled veteran-owned businesses.</b>	<b>ANNOUNCEMENTS</b>  <b>HAVE YOU BEEN CLASSIFIED AS A HIGH RISK DRIVER DUE TO DUI, DWI OR TICKETS FOR AGGRESSIVE DRIVING?</b>  Serenity is here to help by making SR-22 insurance easy to get and affordable for everyone.  <b>800-509-9315</b> THE CALL & QUOTE ARE FREE.	<b>FINANCIAL SERVICES</b>  <b>Are you getting hit with high interest rates because of a low credit score? Improve it today!</b>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• FREE Consultation</li> <li>• FREE Credit Evaluation</li> </ul> <b>800-852-4931</b>  <b>IMPROVE YOUR CREDIT SCORE</b>	<b>HEALTH/FITNESS</b>  <b>ATTENTION</b> If you've had Hernia Surgery and have experienced any <b>COMPLICATIONS</b> you may be entitled to <b>SIGNIFICANT CASH COMPENSATION.</b>  <b>CALL THE HERNIA MESH HELPLINE NOW AT 800-478-7176</b>
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