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**2021 ZOZO CHAMPIONSHIP select player information**

**Select Players**

**Wesley Bryan (OWGR – 448)**

* 2017 RBC Heritage winner makes first TOUR appearance since 2021 AT&T Byron Nelson (T26)
* Playing on a major medical extension following wrist surgery in July

**Kazuki Higa (OWGR – 207)**

* Makes second PGA TOUR start (MC/2020 Sony Open in Hawaii)
* Won the 2019 RIZAP KBC Augusta tournament by five strokes, over Rikuya Hoshino, who is also in the field this week; claimed second title at the 2021 Sega Sammy Cup with a come-from-behind victory

**Ryo Hisatsune (OWGR – 363)**

* Teenager posted three wins on the Abema TV Tour in Japan to earn a promotion to the Japan Golf Tour, the first player to receive the promotion since it was instigated in 2007
* Finished T9 (Tokai Classic) and T36 (Bridgestone Open) in two Japan Golf Tour events since his promotion
* Claims his final-round outfit of navy trousers and emerald-green shirt brings him good luck

**Rikuya Hoshino (OWGR – 105)**

* 25-year-old from Ibaraki, Japan started playing golf at age 6 and turned pro in 2016
* Owns five wins on the Japan Golf Tour, most recently the 2021 Asia-Pacific Diamond Cup Golf Championship
* Makes ninth PGA TOUR start; best finish in eight previous starts was T26 at 2021 U.S. Open at Torrey Pines
* Hit the opening tee shot at the 2020 Tokyo Olympics Men’s Golf Competition while representing Japan
* Posted three top-10s in his last five starts on Japan Golf Tour

**Ryuji Imada (OWGR – not ranked)**

* Will do double duty this week playing on a sponsor exemption as well as working as a reporter for TV Asahi
* Lone PGA TOUR title came at 2008 AT&T Classic when he defeated Kenny Perry in a playoff and moved inside the top 50 of the Official World Golf Ranking for the first time (No. 49); finished No. 25 in the FedExCup Playoffs at the conclusion of the 2008 season
* Finished No. 100 or better in the FedExCup standings for five consecutive years after the FedExCup was introduced (2007-2001)
* His most recent PGA TOUR start was the 2015 Barbasol Championship (MC) and his 250th career start
* Last time he made a cut on the PGA TOUR was the 2014 Barracuda Championship (T61)
* Two-time Korn Ferry Tour winner also represented Japan twice (2008, 2009) at the World Cup of Golf
* Celebrated his 45th birthday on Tuesday (October 19) of tournament week

**Shugo Imahira (OWGR – 136)**

* 29-year-old owns five wins on the Japan Golf Tour (2017 Kansai Open, 2018 & 2019 Bridgestone Open, 2019 Dunlop Phoenix, 2021 Fujisankei Classic)
* Claimed No. 1 position on the Japan Golf Tour money list in 2018 and 2019
* Makes 19th PGA TOUR start; T44/2020 Masters Tournament his most recent

**Yuki Inamori (OWGR – 126)**

* 27-year-old won the Japan Open in 2018 and 2020
* Notched three top-10s in his last four starts on the Japan Golf Tour, including T7 at last week’s Japan Open
* Makes sixth PGA TOUR start (T73/2018 WGC-HSBC Champions, T64/2019 Sony Open in Hawaii, T72/2019 The Open Championship, T48/2021 WGC Workday Championship at The Concession, MC/2021 The Open Championship)

**Hiroshi Iwata (OWGR – 161)**

* Made 46 starts on the PGA TOUR, including 29 in the 2015-16 season when he finished No. 146 in the FedExCup standings after advancing to the PGA TOUR via the Korn Ferry Tour Finals
* 40-year-old owns three career top-10s on the PGA TOUR (T3/2014 WGC-HSBC Champions, T5/2015 Sanderson Farms Championship, T4/2016 AT&T Pebble Beach Pro-Am)
* Shot 63 in the second round of the 2015 PGA Championship at Whistling Straits, which matched the then lowest round in a major championship
* Three-time winner on Japan Golf Tour (2014 Fujisankei Classic, 2015 Sega Sammy Cup, 2021 The Crowns); victory at 2021 The Crowns is one of six top-10s he has posted this year on the Japan Golf Tour

**Takumi Kanaya (OWGR – 76)**

* Won three times on Japan Golf Tour, including 2019 Mitsui Sumitomo Vias Taiheiyo Masters as an amateur (2020 Dunlop Phoenix Tournament, 2021 Token Homemate Cup)
* As a 20-year-old in 2018, fired final-round 65 to win 10th Asia-Pacific Amateur Championship in Singapore to earn invitations to 2019 Masters Tournament (T58) and 2019 The Open Championship (MC)
* Following Hideki Matsuyama in 2010 and 2011, became second player from Japan to win Asia-Pacific Amateur Championship (2018)
* Awarded the Mark H. McCormack Medal as the world’s top amateur in 2020 and was ranked No. 1 amateur in the World Amateur Golf Ranking for 55 weeks
* 23-year-old makes 10th PGA TOUR start; finished T41 at 2020 ZOZO CHAMPIONSHIP
* Comes in this week off five top-10s in his last seven starts on the Japan Golf Tour, including a T7 at last week’s Japan Open

**Naoyuki Kataoka (OWGR – 221)**

* 23-year-old makes his PGA TOUR debut after his T2 finish at the 2021 Bridgestone Open earned him a spot in this week’s ZOZO CHAMPIONSHIP; after the T2 Kataoka said, “I have only seen those star players on TV, so I am excited to see them directly. Probably the first thing I will think when I get there is that I will have the chance to see how much gap there is between them and myself. I want to learn from that experience and improve my game.”
* Won the 2021 Japan Players Championship in his fourth start as a professional on the Japan Golf Tour
* Finished T31 at last week’s Japan Open

**Chan Kim (OWGR – 80)**

* American won the 2021 Tokai Classic, his sixth title on the Japan Golf Tour
* Following a T60 at 2020 ZOZO CHAMPIONSHIP @ SHERWOOD, returned to Japan Golf Tour to post two top-five results before claiming victory at 2020 Golf Nippon Series JT Cup, his fifth win on the Japan Golf Tour
* Won 2019 Japan Open Golf Championship for fourth career title, one of seven top-five results on the Japan Golf Tour in 2019
* Owns two top-25s in 14 PGA TOUR appearances (T11/2017 The Open Championship, T23/2021 PGA Championship)
* Former Arizona State golfer won three titles on the Japan Golf Tour in 2017 (Gateway To The Open – Mizuno Open, Shigeo Nagashima Invitational SEGA SAMMY Cup, Heiwa PGM Championship)

**Ryosuke Kinoshita (OWGR – 72)**

* 30-year-old owns two Japan Golf Tour titles, winning the 2021 Japan Golf Tour Championship by five strokes and three weeks later capturing the 2021 Fukushima Open with a final-round 62 to reach a playoff, winning with a birdie at the first extra hole
* Posted five top-10s in his last six starts on the Japan Golf Tour, including a T3 at last week’s Japan Open
* At No. 72, is currently the second-highest ranked player from Japan (Hideki Matsuyama/No. 19)
* Finished T6 at the 2020 SMBC Singapore Open to be one of four players from that event to earn a spot in the field at The Open Championship, which was eventually canceled due to the COVID-19 pandemic
* Makes fourth PGA TOUR start in 2021 (T67/Sony Open in Hawaii, T59/The Open Championship, T43/WGC-FedEx St. Jude Invitational)

**Satoshi Kodaira (OWGR – 322)**

* His win at the 2018 RBC Heritage marks his lone top-10 in 87 starts on the PGA TOUR
* Finished No. 150 on the FedExCup standings in the 2020-21 season with T11 at 2021 Wells Fargo Championship his best result
* Owns seven Japan Golf Tour titles, including two Japan Golf Tour majors (2013 Japan Golf Tour Championship, 2015 Japan Open)
* Finished T11 at last week’s Japan Open

**Jinichiro Kozuma (OWGR – 157)**

* Made two PGA TOUR starts (T57/2019 ZOZO Championship, MC/2021 Sony Open in Hawaii)
* While in high school, was a Team Japan member with Hideki Matsuyama
* Turned professional in 2012 and owns one win on the Japan Golf Tour, the 2020 Taiheiyo Masters
* Finished T2 in two of his last three starts on the Japan Golf Tour (T2/Tokai Classic, T2/Bridgestone Open, T11/Japan Open)
* Older sister, Kotono is a JLPGA Tour winner

**Ryutaro Nagano (OWGR – 291)**

* Japan Golf Tour veteran lost in a playoff to amateur Keita Nakajima at the 2021 Panasonic Open while seeking his first title in his 261st start; it marked his fifth career runner-up result and second this season (Gate Way to the Open Mizuno Open)
* Makes second PGA TOUR start (MC/2021 The Open Championship)

**Keita Nakajima (OWGR – 216)**

* Makes PGA TOUR debut this week
* Won the 2021 Panasonic Open on the Japan Golf Tour events as an amateur in his ninth start on that Tour; had previously posted a third-place finish (2020 Taiheiyo Masters) and a runner-up result (2021 Token Homemate Cup)
* Awarded the Mark H. McCormack Medal as the top-ranked player in the World Amateur Golf Ranking in 2021, the second consecutive year that the award went to a player from Japan (Takumi Kanaya)

**Naoto Nakanishi (OWGR – 479)**

* Makes PGA TOUR debut this week
* Lone top-3 finish in 107 Japan Golf Tour starts was T2/2019 Michinoku Challenge
* Best result in 2021 is 14th at The Crowns, one of four top-15s in 2021 on the Japan Golf Tour

**Shaun Norris (OWGR – 86)**

* 39-year-old South African won last week’s Japan Open by four strokes over Yuta Ikeda, his sixth career victory on the Japan Golf Tour and second title this season (2021 Golf Partner Pro-Am Tournament)
* Won twice on the Sunshine Tour - the inaugural Africa Open in 2008 and the Nashua Masters in 2010, and has a pair of wins on the Asian Tour
* Made eight cuts in 13 previous PGA TOUR appearances, most recent T28/2020 ZOZO CHAMPIONSHIP @ SHERWOOD
* Shot 69-79 to miss the cut at 2020 U.S. Open at Winged Foot

**Tomoharu Otsuki (OWGR – 131)**

* Makes second PGA TOUR appearance (T46/2019 ZOZO CHAMPIONSHIP)
* Won the 2019 Kansai Open Golf Championship on the Japan Golf Tour after sitting T81 following a first-round 73; shot 65-66-65 to finish 19-under before winning a playoff to claim the title
* Since his 2019 victory, has posted five runner-up finishes on the Japan Golf Tour, most recently the 2021 Tokai Classic (T2)

**Ryuichi Oiwa (OWGR – 220)**

* 23-year-old makes PGA TOUR debut after he began playing golf at eight years old
* Defeated American Trevor Simsby in a playoff to win the 2019 Combiphar Players Championship on the Asian Development Tour
* Owns five top-5 finishes on the Japan Golf Tour in 2021 while seeking his first victory

**Tomoyasu Sugiyama (OWGR – 255)**

* 28-year-old turned professional in 2015 and makes PGA TOUR debut
* Won the 2021 Bridgestone Open by three strokes with rounds of 69-68-62-66—265 for his first Japan Golf Tour title
* Won the Japan Players Championship Challenge on the developmental Abema TV Tour in July

**Scott Vincent (OWGR – 115)**

* With victory at the 2021 Sansan KBC Augusta in August, became the first Zimbabwean since Nick Price (1999) to win on the Japan Golf Tour; won for a second time three weeks later at the 2021 ANA Open in September
* 29-year-old graduated from Virginia Tech with a finance degree and makes fourth PGA TOUR start
* Wife, Kelsey, whom he met while at Virginia Tech, acts as his caddie and the pair live in her hometown of Denver, Colorado
* First PGA TOUR start came at the 2015 RBC Heritage while still an amateur, finishing T64 with rounds of 70-70-71-73; also finished T66/2018 CIMB Classic and T37/2018 WGC-HSBC Champions
* Finished T16 at 2020 Tokyo Olympics Men’s Golf Competition while representing Zimbabwe; also represented Zimbabwe at 2018 World Cup of Golf
* Nickname in Japan is ‘Mhondoro’ (lion)

**Monday Qualifiers**

The ZOZO CHAMPIONSHIP does not conduct a Monday Qualifier