



GARY GALYEAN'S GOLF LETTER

THE INSIDE REPORT ON WORLD GOLF

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Dear Subscriber:

FORECASTING AND PREDICTING what cannot be foretold leads to bloated speculation during the three days immediately preceding the Masters. Informants and informers gather under the giant oak on the clubhouse's south lawn to exchange what they know and what they cannot know. They could know:

- Changes to the course—an annual exercise—included lengthening the 11th and 15th holes.

By moving the 11th tee further back and further left, 15 yards were added, making it 520 yards in length; 40 yards longer than the par-5 13th. A grove of trees to the right of the drive landing area was removed and replaced with a few, large, separately-spaced trees that are clearly obstacles (but not requiring a pitch out or unpayable condition) to wayward drives. The result was the elimination of much of the dogleg previously present at the 11th and a more dazzling way to play the hole. The angle of approach to the green from the far right of the landing area brought the greenside water hazard into even greater consideration. The 11th played as the most difficult hole during all 2022 rounds except the third, when the 18th played most difficult.

The 15th tee was also moved back (closer to the 10th green) making the hole 20 yards longer at 550 yards. This resulted in more lay ups before approaching the treacherous green. Regardless, the 15th continued to play as one of the easier holes.

8 a.m. Weather

30 min. delay due to early morning thunderstorms
65° Wind: 5 m.p.h. SE
Humidity: 100%
Slight chance of rain

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

REFLECTIONS ON THE MASTERS



Thursday Morning LADBROKE Odds

Rahm	11/1
Thomas	12/1
Smith	14/1
D. Johnson	14/1
Scheffler	14/1
Morikawa	16/1
Koepka	18/1
McIlroy	18/1
Matsuyama	40/1
Woods	40/1

Last year, Fred Ridley, Augusta National chairman, commented, “We hope there will not come a day when the Masters or any golf championship will have to be played at 8,000 yards to [combat the escalating power of modern golfers]. This [8,000 yards] is an important crossroads.” The 2022 Masters was played over a course of 7,510 yards.

- The Club announced the overall purse for this year's Masters to be \$15 million—an increase of \$3.5 million from 2021 and a record for any major championship.

- The Columbia Broadcasting System (CBS) will telecast their 67th consecutive Masters making it the longest running (since 1955) sporting event broadcast on one network.

- Phil Mickelson notified Mr. Ridley last month that he would not enter the Masters this month because of the controversy surrounding his comments about using the Saudi Golf League to leverage the PGA Tour. Gary Player defended Mr. Mickelson's right to make a mistake and be forgiven. As an honorary starter, Mr. Player then wore a sweater with *Golf Saudi* embroidered on the turtle neck to the starting ceremony. In

April 2021, Mr. Player was named the ambassador of Saudi Golf.



• Dude Perfect, a Texas-based sports and comedy group with 50 million YouTube subscribers was given access to film an episode of *All Sports Golf Battle at the Masters* in which Amen Corner was played with tennis rackets, frisbees, hockey sticks, pool cues, etc.

86th Masters Tournament

Sitzfleisch — the ability to endure or persevere in an activity; staying power — has usually been a hallmark at major championships. Some players win by dominating, some by greater creativity, some because others stumble, some by being in a zone, and some by their perseverance.

This year's tournament produced a champion of extraordinary *Sitzfleisch* and a mirroring, once again, of a course presented with the same qualities as its eventual winner.

Once the Masters begins it is a universe unto itself, as has been written about other important gatherings, with its own heroes, failures, pressures, and proclivity for irrecapturable drama and historic pretense.

Thursday

Both the honorary start and the actual tournament start were delayed 30 minutes by early morning thunderstorms. Three inches of rain fell the two days prior. The course was soft; the wind light. The major news of the day was that Tiger Woods would play. His starting time was 11:04 which, if he stayed healthy, meant he would play his second round Friday afternoon. A dramatic dance with the cut.

Thursday produced seven notable rounds. Sungjae Im (starting 1:27) began with three consecutive birdies, went out in 32, and posted the day's low round of 67. He became the first South Korean man to lead any rounds at Augusta. From the international players' statistics, only the Spaniard Seve Ballesteros

Friday Morning LADBROKE Odds

Smith -4	11/2
D. Johnson -3	6/1
Scheffler -3	7/1
Im -5	8/1
McIlroy +2	35/1
Woods +1	35/1

8 a.m. Weather

51° Wind: 4 m.p.h. NW
Humidity: 49%
No chance of rain

(1980) and South African Trevor Immelman (2008) led in the first round and went on the win the tournament.

Cameron Smith (starting 10:53), who recorded 10 birdies in his final round to become the 2022 TPC champion, posted an impressive 68 despite beginning and ending with double bogeys—eight birdies and two double bogeys! “I think it’ll motivate me the next few days. I played some really solid golf today, and to be four-under is a little bit disappointing. But given the condition of the golf course and the condition with the wind and stuff like that, if you had given me four-under at the start of the day, I would have taken it.”

Four players—including two past champions—posted 69s to tie for third.

Danny Willett (starting 10:20), the 2016 Masters champion, was the first of this group to post 69, which made him

the momentary leader in the clubhouse.

Chilean Joaquin Niemann (starting 11:04), playing with Mr. Woods and Louis Oosthuizen, was the next player to finish with 69 strokes. He was out in 33 with an eagle at the 9th; home in even par.

Saturday Morning LADBROKE Odds

Scheffler -8	1/1
Smith -2	12/1
D. Johnson -2	12/1
Matsuyama -3	12/1
Lowry -3	12/1
J. Thomas -1	14/1
McIlroy +2	80/1
Woods +1	100/1

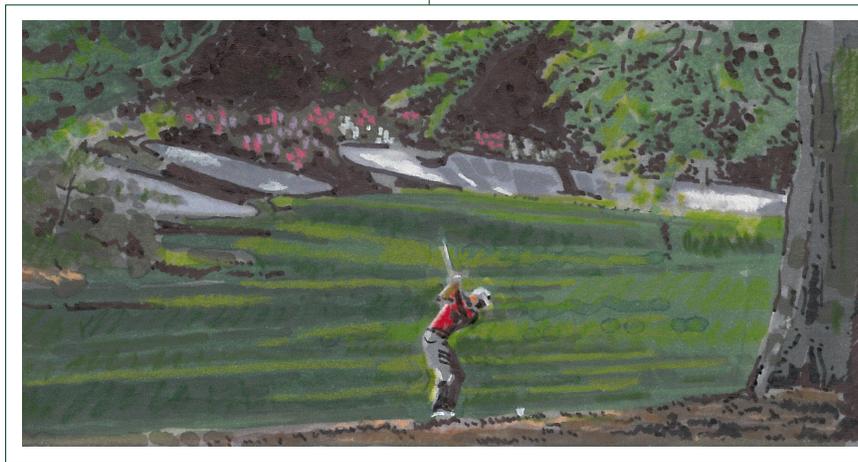
2 p.m. Weather

53° Cloudy
Wind: 17 m.p.h. NWN
Humidity: 35%
Slight chance of rain

Next came Scottie Scheffler (starting 11:26) with a very steady 13 pars, 4 birdies, and one bogey. It was enough to move him from 14/1 betting odds on Thursday morning to 7/1 on Friday morning.

Last to finish at 69 was Dustin Johnson (starting 2:00), the 2020 Masters champion. Like Mr. Scheffler, Mr. Johnson's card included 13 pars, 4 birdies, and one bogey.

Most watched was the round of Mr. Woods (starting 11:04), one of only 18 competitors to finish under par on Thursday. Mr. Woods was out in even par with a birdie at the 6th and bogey at the 9th. The back saw him birdie the 13th and 16th and bogey the 14th. His 71(-1) put him in a tie for eleventh place.



APPROACHING AZALEA BY TAG GALYEAN

Mr. Smith, commenting kindly about Mr. Woods' performance, said, "I almost felt like a patron out there at some points today. You can't not watch him. He's unreal."

Friday

At 8 a.m. the chilly 50-degree morning was accompanied by a 4 m.p.h. breeze. The afternoon was forecasted to reach 66 degrees, with a 16 m.p.h. wind. Either way, this was to be a tough scoring day—a day for persistence. It took 1 hour and 56 minutes before Friday's first birdie was posted.

By noon the winds arrived, and the best round on the course was 2-under par. Mr. Im turned at even par, which was good enough for him to remain one stroke in the lead. By 3 o'clock he finished his round of 74 and was tied for the lead with Charl Schwartzel at 3-under.

Despite the strengthening afternoon wind and cool temperatures, the second round resulted in 15 competitors being under par.

The last to finish on Friday, Mr. Scheffler posted 67 to tie the tournament record (5 strokes) for a midway lead. Under Friday's trying conditions, Mr. Scheffler's lead over four players at 3-under set the stage for the high probability of his victory on Sunday.

Saturday

"We all wish we had that two, three month window when we get hot," commented Mr. Woods about Mr.

Scheffler, "and hopefully majors fall somewhere along that window. We take care of it in those windows."

Saturday's low-50-degree, windy weather challenged again. Mr. Scheffler was steady with his 71, one of only nine scores under par; but it was Mr. Smith's day to shine with Saturday's lowest score, 68. He was the only competitor to break 70. "Scottie was making birdies, so just trying to keep up," said Mr. Smith.

Each player made six birdies but Mr. Scheffler also made five bogeys - Mr. Smith, only two.

Mr. Scheffler's bogey at the 18th is touted as perhaps the most important of his tournament. He pulled his

drive into the trees and bushes on the left. There was a scramble just to find the ball. "We saw the guy with the flag that always finds the balls kind of panicking," Scheffler said. "I was like ... wonder what's going on here?" The ball was found under a bush, an unplayable lie declared, and Mr. Scheffler dropped his ball on pine straw clear of the bush where he could take a full swing. He played a long iron 237 yards to just off the back of the green, and two putted for five. Disaster was dodged.

Sunday

64 v. 71

Just as the leaders began (starting 2:40) in the clear, warm air that had finally arrived, Min Woo Lee turned the front nine taking just 30 strokes. His eagle at the 2nd and four birdies on the 6th through 9th, let everyone

Par 3s					
ALL ROUNDS					
	4 th	6 th	12 th	16 th	TOTAL
Scheffler	+1	-1	-1	-1	-2
McIlroy	-1	+2	+1	E	+2
Smith	+2	-2	+2	-1	+1
Lowry	+2	-2	+1	E	+1

Par 5s					
ALL ROUNDS					
	2 nd	8 th	13 th	15 th	TOTAL
Scheffler	-2	-3	-2	-1	-8
McIlroy	-2	-1	-4	-1	-8
Smith	-2	-2	-1	-4	-9
Lowry	-3	-1	-3	E	-7

2022 Masters Top Finishers' Statistics								
72 HOLES								
	EAGLES	BIRDIES	BOGEYS	DOUBLE BOGEYS+	FAIRWAYS HIT	GREENS IN REG.	SAND SAVES	PUTTS PER HOLE
Scheffler	0	21	9	1	77%	68%	50%	1.53
McIlroy	1	15	8	1	68%	69%	60%	1.61
Smith	0	22	10	3	66%	65%	50%	1.57
Lowry	1	15	7	2	82%	64%	67%	1.51

know that anything was possible on this beautiful day. Adrenalin was flowing through the contenders and the leaders. Mr. Scheffler's lead was reduced to one stroke after the 1st when he bogeyed and Mr. Smith birdied. Through the 4th, his lead over Mr. Smith returned to four, where it remained through the 10th.

Just ahead, Rory McIlroy turned the front in 32 strokes and his game was on. Shane Lowry, starting with Mr. Im in the penultimate pairing, went out in 34 strokes that included a triple bogey at the 4th. He finished with 69 on Sunday, and tied Mr. Smith in third place at 5-under for the tournament.

As usual, the 12th was pivotal to the final pairings. Mr. Scheffler pulled his tee shot into the back left foliage but it rolled down the incline to a place from which he chipped to ten feet and holed for par. Mr. Smith's tee shot fell short into the water; he dropped on the line of where he last crossed the margin in line with the hole; pitched long right; chipped to eight feet; and took two putts. His triple bogey ended his hopes of winning as he fell six strokes behind with six holes to play.

By the time Messrs. Scheffler and Smith finished the 12th, Mr. McIlroy, playing five groups ahead, had already eagled the 13th to go 6-under - four back of Mr. Scheffler. As the final pairing played the 13th (both making par), Mr. McIlroy holed his bunker shot for birdie at the last to post a score of 64, 7-under for the tournament.

Standing on the 14th tee, Mr. Scheffler had a four shot lead over Mr. McIlroy, his closest competitor. Persisting, Mr. Scheffler proceeded to birdie the 14th and



For A., C., S., & G.:

"Perhaps [a stirred cocktail] is the type of drink our current era calls for: less noise, more clarity. Forget the elbows-out agitation and the racket of cubes against the tin. Instead of the showy clatter of shakers, let's embrace the meditative music of the mixing glass."

Betsy Andrews
WINE & FOOD

**Sunday Morning
LADBROKE Odds**

Scheffler -9	1/2
Smith -6	5/2
Im -4	14/1
Lowry -2	40/1
Thomas -1	50/1
McIlroy +1	250/1

2 p.m. Weather

70° Clear
Wind: 7 m.p.h. W
Humidity: 20%
No chance of rain

15th to lead by six. He parred the 16th and 17th. He drove to the right rough at the last, and played his second to the green, 41 feet from the hole. He could six-putt and still win. He took four and became the 86th Masters Champion.

The easiest statistic—not necessarily the best—revealing Mr. Scheffler's victory is that he played the par-3 holes better than the others ... four better than Mr. McIlroy and three better than Messrs. Smith and Lowry.

Mr. Smith's 65 holes—prior to the 12th on Sunday—of contention bedazzled. He led the winners in birdies (22), bogeys (10), double bogeys (3), and total score on the par-5s (-9).

The fact that Mr. Scheffler four putted at the last and still won by three is a testament to the excellence of his persistence, his Sitzfleisch. His first PGA victory came in February, his second and third in March, his #1 world ranking and Masters win in April. With major championships in each of the next three months, his persistence will be continually tested.

"... my identity isn't a golf score," Mr. Scheffler said at the end. "Like [my wife] told me this morning, 'If you win this golf tournament today, if you lose this golf tournament by ten shots, if you never win another golf tournament again,' she goes, 'I'm still going to love you, you're still going to be the same person, Jesus loves you and nothing changes.' All I'm trying to do is glorify God and that's why I'm here and that's why I'm in this position."

Some will scoff at his reference to Jesus Christ, but the peace and persistence Mr. Scheffler's faith gives him cannot be refuted.

Yours vry truly,

Gary A. Galyean
Editor & Publisher

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