



GARY GALYEAN'S GOLF LETTER

THE INSIDE REPORT ON WORLD GOLF

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Dear Subscriber:

85TH MASTERS TOURNAMENT

AUGUSTA NATIONAL — THE COURSE — HAS ALWAYS been the essential element. It creates the test that provides the drama. It has been admirably referred to as “the microscope”. At the resolution of the competition it is easy to see only the clenched fists and hear the animal howling of the champions; it is easy to put the course’s role to the side when adulating the players and the Club. But it is always the course that silently provides the exceptional stage that draws the world’s attention when the Masters Tournament is played.

This year a caddie from Tokyo, bowing in silence, on the periphery of the limelight of his player’s monumental win, gave the course the acknowledgement and respect it has earned through 85 competitive years.

While the cameras, applause and cheering followed Hideki Matsuyama to the clubhouse following his one-stroke victory, his caddie, Shota Hayafuji, wearing his white overalls with Matsuyama’s name across his shoulders, at the east side of the final green, performed the winner’s ritual

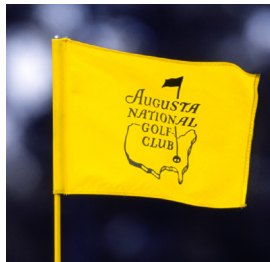


of removing the flag from the 18th green flagstick as Mr. Matsuyama’s well earned souvenir.

Mr. Hayafuji then carried the bare flagstick back to the hole and replaced it. Facing down the 18th fairway, before stepping away from the flagstick, he removed his green hat with his right hand, bowed for a few seconds, replaced his hat, and walked in silence and without demonstration away from the hole and off the green.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

REFLECTIONS ON THE MASTERS



Round One - *Rose Rising*

Having adapted to and survived the demands of the viral pandemic, the Masters returned to nearly normal. With three and a half hours more daylight in April than last November, a single-tee start was returned and the traditions of competitive golf were instantly apparent.

Thursday morning at 8 a.m. it was 57 degrees, clear, and a slight breeze blew. The already exacting preparation of Augusta National would be exaggerated by the dry wind throughout the day producing the most difficult playing surfaces that would be presented all week.

Thursday Morning LADBROKE Odds

D. Johnson	8/1
DeChambeau	10/1
J. Thomas	10/1
Rahm	11/1
Spieth	11/1
McIlroy	16/1

Round one particularly demanded approaching each hole from the correct angle as many times as possible. Ten Englishmen were in the field of 88—seven would make the cut. At 12:48, the pairing of Justin Rose, Shane Lowry, and Matt Kuchar came to the tee at the 1st. It was Mr. Rose’s 16th Masters having made the cut in his first 13 starts and finishing runner-up twice (2015 and ‘17).

His drive found the fairway, his approach just short, three more to hole, a mundane start. Pars followed for five holes before another bogey at the 7th.

Playing four hours ahead of Mr. Rose, Masters rookie Will Zalatoris began his round with a fine drive, approached to 11 feet, two putts for par. He bogeyed at the 5th, birdied at the 8th, and turned at even par.

Exactly three hours before Mr. Rose's start, Mr. Matsuyama began his tenth appearance at the Masters. With a birdie at the 2nd and an eagle at the 8th, his 33 on the out nine put him early in a noticeably competitive position.

About the time Mr. Matsuyama neared the finish of his 3-under round, having played the back even par, and Mr. Zalatoris had already finished at 2-under, Mr. Rose began a scoring streak from the 8th that, in 10 holes, required only 32 strokes: 1 eagle, 7 birdies, and 2 pars. He was -1 through the 9th and -7 through last.

Mr. Rose's 65 bettered Mr. Matsuyama and Brian Harman by three; and Mr. Zalatoris, Patrick Reed, Webb Simpson, and Christiaan Bezuidenhout by five.

Under the hard and fast conditions presented by the sunshined and wind-dried course, it was a round of stunning accomplishment—a round more expected on an easier day after some rain or by a player with less to lose vis-à-vis John Rahm's 66 on Sunday.

"It reminds me a bit of the 90s," commented two-time Masters champion José María Olazábal. "We used to have hard greens and a fast golf course, and this was very, very similar ... this is what the Masters should be like."

ELSEWHERE ON THURSDAY: Sungjae Im made quadruple bogey at the 15th; Tommy Fleetwood made a hole-in-one at the 16th; and Rory McIlroy's approach to the 7th struck his own father who was walking with the gallery.

Round Two - Three Js and Zalatoris

Course conditions eased. Humidity climbed making the putting greens softer, and

the wind died. All the contenders took advantage except for Mr. Rose who scrambled to an even par round. Mr. Zalatoris began with a dull 37 on the out nine, but answered with birdies at the 11th, 12th, 16th, 17th, and 18th for 68—leaving him just one stroke behind Mr. Rose and tied with Mr. Harman for second place.

While there were six rounds in the sixties, they were all tied to players who posted rounds in the seventies in round one—with the exception of Mr. Harman who posted two 69s.

Mr. Matsuyama mimicked Mr. Rose by answering his first round 69 with a 71 on Friday. He finished the

second round tied with five others at 4-under—three shots behind Mr. Rose.

This was the seventh time Mr. Rose led the Masters after any round, which is the most for any player who has never won. Only 17 of those who have led previ-

ously after the first round have gone on to win. Jordan Spieth,

in 2015, was the only outright, first round leader since 1985 to go on to win.

ELSEWHERE ON FRIDAY: Matthew Wolff was disqualified for submitting a scorecard with a hole score lower than actually taken; Tony Finau and Justin Thomas (playing together) both missed putts from four feet at the 18th; and Bryson DeChambeau finished the inverse of his first round 76 with a second round 67.

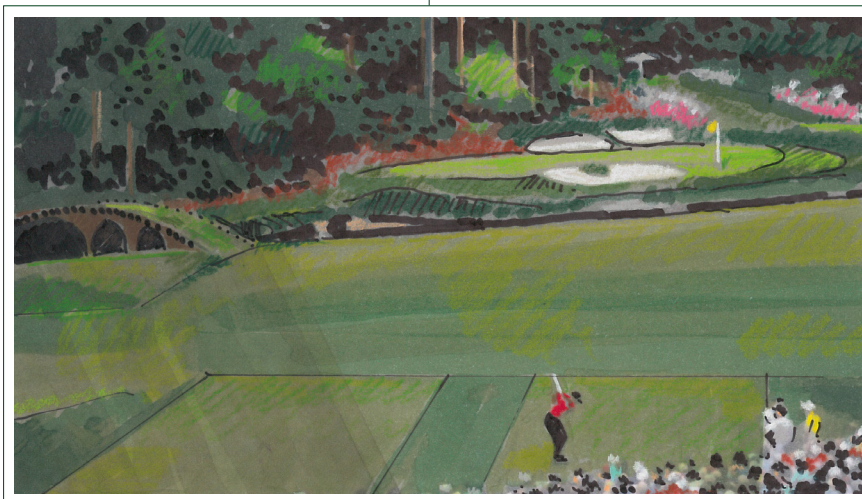
Round Three - 90 Seconds

At 3:58 p.m. on Saturday, play was suspended due to a dangerous weather situation that cleared the course of competitors and patrons. Rain fell, and the putting greens slowed—perhaps two feet on the stimpmeter—and softened. At 5:15, play resumed, and Mr. Matsuyama and Xander Schauffele exploited the conditions.

Playing together, the two men had started

Friday Morning LADBROKE Odds

J. Rose	7/2
Spieth	8/1
Rahm	12/1
Reed	12/1
Matsuyama	14/1
J. Thomas	14/1



GOLDEN BELL BY TAG GALYEAN

Saturday Morning LADBROKE Odds

Spieth	4/1
J. Thomas	5/1
Rose	11/2
Zalatoris	12/1
Harman	14/1
Finau	14/1

their round at 1:30. Both turned in 35. The weather suspension came after they played the 11th, where Mr. Matsuyama birdied to move to 6-under, two strokes ahead of Mr. Schauffele and one behind Mr. Rose and Mr. Zalatoris, who were paired together five groups back.

Beginning at the 12th after the rain, Mr. Matsuyama birdied again and, for the first time, tied Mr. Rose and Mr. Zalatoris. Having parred 13 and 14, Matsuyama played the best second shot approach to the 15th—205 yards to 6 feet and made eagle to take the lead at 9-under. Two minutes earlier Mr. Schauffele holed a 61 foot putt for eagle to go to 7-under; and nearly simultaneously Mr. Rose birdied the 12th to go 8-under.

Mr. Matsuyama played his 165-yard tee shot at the 16th to 4 feet and made the putt to go to 10-under. With a light rain falling, his 140-yard approach from the fairway at the 17th finished 10 feet behind the hole. He made that putt to go 11-under—four shots ahead—and parred the 18th to remain in that position overnight.

The four players chasing Mr. Matsuyama—Messrs. Schauffele, Leishman, Rose and Zalatoris—all parred the final three holes of the third round and all finished the day at 7-under. Mr. Rose's play was unreliable, which made his scrambling to make pars (producing an even par round) impressive and lent him hope for Sunday.

Mr. Matsuyama's third round 65 was sublime. He began Saturday at 4-under, turned with 35, and played the homeward nine in just 30 strokes!

**Round 4 - Monday,
8:03 a.m.
Japan Standard Time**

Mr. Matsuyama played 93 tournaments since last winning. While Mr. Matsuyama had previously finished in the top six at all four major championships, a Japanese man had never before won a major. His bogey-free round on Saturday—the only one of the day—gave him an impressive four shot lead but, with the weight of the Japanese nation on his shoulders, the pressure he must have felt through the night and throughout Sunday's round must have been more than anyone has ever felt playing Augusta.

The argument can be made that the weight of becoming the first Australian to win was equal to what Mr. Matsuyama felt. Greg Norman's 1996 collapse on the final day with a six stroke lead was precipitated by the pressure to perform for his country. Japan also holds and expects personal performances by its citizens as highly as any country in the world. Before Sunday, 11 different countries had produced Masters champions, but never golf-mad Japan. If he could excel, or just hold on, under the enormous pressure to honor his country with his performance, that would be a stunning moment for all.

Par 3s					
ALL ROUNDS					
	4 th	6 th	12 th	16 th	TOTAL
H. Matsuyama	E	E	E	+1	+1
W. Zalatoris	+1	E	-1	E	E
J. Spieth	+2	+1	+1	+1	+5
X. Schauffele	+1	-2	-1	+2	E
J. Rose	+2	+1	-2	E	+1

Although Justin Rose finished in 7th place, he is included in these statistics with the four leading players because he was such an integral part of the story.

Par 5s					
ALL ROUNDS					
	2 nd	8 th	13 th	15 th	TOTAL
H. Matsuyama	-2	-3	-4	-2	-11
W. Zalatoris	-1	-3	E	-4	-8
J. Spieth	-4	-2	-2	-4	-12
X. Schauffele	-3	-2	-3	-4	-12
J. Rose	-3	-2	-3	E	-8

2021 Masters Top Finishers' Statistics								
72 HOLES								
	EAGLES	BIRDIES	BOGEYS	DOUBLE BOGEYS+	FAIRWAYS HIT	GREENS IN REG.	SAND SAVES	PUTTS PER HOLE
H. Matsuyama	3	13	9	0	64%	69%	42%	1.58
W. Zalatoris	1	17	10	0	69%	73%	50%	1.67
J. Spieth	1	18	8	2	75%	77%	57%	1.68
X. Schauffele	1	19	9	2	71%	70%	33%	1.62
J. Rose	1	18	15	0	66%	69%	28%	1.65

The fourth round pairing of Mr. Matsuyama and Mr. Schauffele began at 2:40 with a nerve-racked drive from Mr. Matsuyama that finished right of the fairway bunkers. Only John Rahm, two hours in front and with nothing to lose, was posting numbers that proved Augusta National could be accommodating. He went out in 32 and would finish with 66.

Mr. Matsuyama punched out from amongst the trees, played a poor pitch from 40 yards to 35 feet, and just missed the putt. He moved to 10-under, whereas Mr. Zalatoris birdied the 1st just 20 minutes earlier. The lead was quickly reduced to two.

Mr. Matsuyama pulled himself together producing birdies at the 2nd, 8th, and 9th to climb back to 13-under. Elsewhere, Mr. Zalatoris turned at 9-under, and Mr. Schauffele at 6-under.

The Back Nine, Sunday Afternoon

Mr. Schauffele produced and dashed the greatest hope. Seven birdies for the round (2nd, 7th, 8th, 12th, 13th, 14th, 15th) including four in a row on the back; but two bogeys; a double (5th); and a triple (16th). He drew to within two of the lead after birdieing the 15th, after Mr. Matsuyama's bogey. However, at the 16th, Mr. Schauffele's 8-iron found the water, his after-penalty third finished over the green, his chip was uninspired, he two-putted for six, and dropped four behind Mr. Matsuyama with two to play.

Mr. Zalatoris' back nine was similarly uninspired or perhaps pressure-prone as first Masters appearances can be. He turned with 34 (3 birdies, 1 bogey), then gave two back at the 10th (three putts) and the 12th (missed a five foot putt) to move six back of Mr. Matsuyama through 13 holes.



For S.H. & H.M.:

“Played in the right spirit there is no sport which is capable of developing man’s finest qualities to anything like the same extent. [It] teaches unselfishness ... sportsmanship ... self-control ... moral and physical courage ... and the ability to think.”

Sir Donald Bradman
describing cricket

Sunday Morning LADBROKE Odds

Matsuyama	4/5
Schauffele	5/1
Rose	8/1
Leishman	10/1
Zalatoris	10/1
Spieth	16/1

Mr. Zalatoris finished respectably with birdies at the 15th and 17th that resulted in a 72 for the day, 9-under for the tournament, and second place.

Mr. Matsuyama's ability to navigate the course and the potential of his place in Japanese sports history was a tenacious performance of steady management amongst intense anxiety. He lost three of the four leader strokes with which he began the day.

As the back nine unfolded, Mr. Schauffele and Mr. Zalatoris made their runs at the title but, as Ben Hogan was known to comment, “They lingered but they didn't last.” Mr. Matsuyama's bogey at the 12th was produced by a drive into the back, rear bunker followed by a tedious play just onto the putting surface, safe from the water, to 20 feet, and two putts. His lead was five.

His birdie at the 13th came after his drive loudly struck a tree on the right side, an iron to the swale behind the green, a magnificent chip to three feet, and a holed putt. His lead was still five over Mr. Schauffele who birdied the 12th and 13th. Another by Mr. Schauffele at the 14th reduced the lead to four; and another by Mr. Schauffele at the 15th, as Mr. Matsuyama's bogey there made the lead just two. The demise of Mr. Schauffele at the 16th (see above) eliminated his threat; and birdies by Mr. Zalatoris at the 15th and 17th gave Mr. Matsuyama a two stroke lead with only the 18th to play. The pressure built. After a wonderful drive at the last, the reality of what was about to happen could not be denied. His 134-yard, pitching wedge approach found the right greenside bunker. He played out to five feet and two putted for victory. The crowd erupted.

It remained only for Mr. Hayafuji to replace the flagstick and show his fervent respect and gratitude for what had just been accomplished.

Yours vy truly,

Gary A. Galyean
Editor & Publisher

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