



# GARY GALYEAN'S GOLF LETTER

THE INSIDE REPORT ON WORLD GOLF

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Dear Subscriber:

ANYTHING HEREIN TO THE CONTRARY notwithstanding, it was a year of dazzling major championship performances, lasting memories within those competitions, dismal player petulance elsewhere, recurring criminal on-course mayhem, and woke political correctness. So, really, nothing new. The events speak for themselves:

## JANUARY

• 9th - After missing a putt on Kapalua's 4<sup>th</sup> hole, Justin Thomas mutters a homosexual slur to himself, about himself, and it is overheard. He apologizes profusely and promises to do better.

• 10th - The P.G.A. of America (the club pros who own and operate the P.G.A. Championship, the Ryder Cup, and others) retracts their awarding of the 2022 P.G.A. Championship to Trump National - Bedminster. "It has become clear that conducting the P.G.A. Championship at Trump National - Bedminster would be detrimental to the P.G.A. of America brand and would put at risk the P.G.A.'s ability to deliver on many programs and sustain the longevity of our mission."

• Tiger Woods' agent, Mark Steinberg, characterises the two-part H.B.O. documentary about Mr. Woods as "just another unauthorized and salacious outsider attempt to paint an incomplete portrait of one of the greatest athletes of all-time".

• 15th - Due to his slurring himself as he did, Justin Thomas' sponsorship by the Ralph Lauren Corporation, which began in 2013, is discontinued.

• 20th - Rory McIlroy comments on Mr. Thomas' situation, "I've gotten to know Justin really well, and he is as good a guy as they come. He's got a lot of integrity, a

lot of character. Obviously it doesn't make what he said any better, but you know, I think in this day and age, it's hard because it seems like you're not allowed to make a mistake anymore. Any mistake gets jumped on. Look, he made a mistake; he owned up to it, and he'll be better because of it."

• 22nd - Japan is pressured domestically to cancel the Tokyo Olympics due to the pandemic. The International Olympic Committee says they are fully committed to having the Summer Games as scheduled.

• 23rd - Jessica Korda shoots 28 on the back nine on her way to scoring 60 in the third round of the the

Diamond Resorts Tournament of Champions.

• 24th - Recreation of The Lido, C.B. Macdonald's renowned design built in 1917 on land re-purposed by the Navy in World War II, is underway by Tom Doak.

• 25th - The 2022 P.G.A. Championship is awarded to Southern Hills in Tulsa.

• Citibank announces they will maintain their partnership with Justin Thomas in a blog post titled "When an Apology is Not Enough". The bank condemns his words but will work with Mr. Thomas to support LGBTQ+ causes.

• 31st - Patrick Reed declares his ball embedded in the 10<sup>th</sup> hole rough despite the ball's having bounced to that spot during Saturday's play of the Farmers Insurance Open. As usual, he eschews the comments and condemnations and goes on to win (\$1.35 million) by five shots the next day. "Obviously, the talk amongst the boys isn't great, I guess," said Xander Schauffele, "but he's protected by the tour and that's all that matters, I guess."

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

### 2021 IN REVIEW

## F E B R U A R Y

- 7th - Brooks Koepka wins the Phoenix Open - his first victory in 18 months - after knee injuries in 2019, and a dismal 2020, and missing three consecutive cuts the previous weeks. "Last year didn't happen," he says.
- 14th - At Pebble Beach, Russell Knox, 11-under and two strokes out of the lead, is initially absolved on the 1<sup>st</sup> hole when his ball moves after address. During play of the 5<sup>th</sup> hole, he is told the tour re-assessed and decided he caused it to move. A penalty is incurred when this happens anywhere but on the putting green.
- 12th - Tokyo Olympic organizing chief, Yoshiro Mori, 83, resigns after commenting: "Women have a strong sense of rivalry. If one raises her hand to speak, all the others feel the need to speak, too. Everyone ends up saying something."
- 17th - Mike Whan, the outgoing L.P.G.A. commissioner and noted toothpaste and golf equipment marketer, is named U.S.G.A. C.E.O. and promises "there will be no louder promotor of the game". Don't we play to get away from loud promoters?
- 23rd - Tiger Woods causes a single-vehicle rollover collision in Los Angeles. He suffers multiple injuries to both legs, is removed through the windshield opening, taken to a hospital, and undergoes surgery.

## M A R C H

- 7th - Bryson DeChambeau strikes a 377-yard drive (330 yards over water) during the final round of the Arnold Palmer Invitational in Orlando. At the par-5, 555-yard 6<sup>th</sup> hole, he aims 20 yards further left than usual and propels his ball to a near greenside bunker and makes birdie. He wins by one over Lee Westwood.
- Brooks Koepka withdraws from the forthcoming Players Championship after straining his right knee.
- 9th - THE WALL STREET JOURNAL reports that rapper Macklemore, through his clothing line Bogey Boys, is one of several new clothing lines projecting a "new cool factor to golf's once-stuffy style". Logo'd hoodies, of-the-moment streetwear ... get 'em while you can.
- 14th - Justin Thomas wins the Players with just 132 strokes on the weekend. It is his 14<sup>th</sup> tour victory before his 28<sup>th</sup> birthday.



• 16th - Tiger Woods leaves his Los Angeles hospital to return home to Florida for leg surgery recovery.

• 21st - Tokyo Olympic organizers and local city government officials announce that no international spectators will be allowed at the Summer Games in July.

• 28th - Twice in two holes, a subtlety in the order-of-play rules is applied during the second of the World Match Play Championships in Austin, Texas. In match play, the order of play is determined by where the original play lies *before* relief is taken from a penalty area. This allows Matt Kuchar to play first even though Scottie Scheffler's ball - *after* he takes relief from a penalty area - is further from the hole. Most astounding - or maybe not - is that Nick Faldo, 40 years a professional golfer, says he does not know the Rule. Ironically, the Rule is applied again to the same match on the next hole.

## A P R I L

• 4th - Brooks Koepka, having undergone knee surgery 18 days previously, shows up to practice at Augusta National.

• 6th - Rory McIlroy visits Tiger Woods at home where he is recuperating. Mr. McIlroy says that in the family room there is one cabinet holding all 15 of Mr. Wood's major championship trophies. "That's really cool," Mr. McIlroy comments. "Where are all the others?"

"I don't know," Mr. Woods replies. "My mom has some and a few are in the office and a few are wherever." Mr. McIlroy reflects, "[Tiger always] talked about these are the four weeks that matter. So, the weeks that didn't matter, you know, he racked [those wins] up at a pretty fast clip. I'm just thinking to myself, how easy must that have felt for him if all he cared about were four weeks a year? The other stuff must have been like practice."

• 8th - Mr. McIlroy's approach to the 7<sup>th</sup>, during round one of the Masters, hits his father, who is watching this son play, in the back of the leg.

• Justin Rose begins a scoring streak from the 8<sup>th</sup> that, in 10 holes, requires only 32 strokes: 1 eagle, 7 birdies, and 2 pars. He is -1 through the 9<sup>th</sup> and -7 through the last. He holds a three stroke lead with 65.

• 9th - The overnight, odds-on Masters favorite, Mr. Rose produces a dull even par second round score. He leads after 36 holes.

- 10th - 3:35 - Third round Masters play is suspended for two hours due to dangerous weather. Rain falls and the putting surfaces soften. Resuming play with a birdie at the 12<sup>th</sup>, Hideki Matsuyama ties the leaders at 7-under, eagles the 15<sup>th</sup> to take the lead, birdies the 16th and 17<sup>th</sup>, and pars the last to take a four stroke (-11) lead into the final round. His back nine score is 30.

- 11th - The pressure of becoming the first Japanese man to win a major championship is immeasurable. Mr. Matsuyama is able to navigate the tension. He loses three of the four leader strokes with which he began the day but holds on to win, as contenders fall back.

- As the crowd erupts and Mr. Matsuyama climbs the hill to submit his scorecard, his caddie, Shota Hayafuji, wearing his white overalls with Matsuyama's name across his shoulders, performs the winner's ritual of removing the flag from the 18<sup>th</sup> green flagstick. Having done so, he carries the bare flagstick back to the hole and replaces it. Facing down the fairway, he removes his green hat, bows for a few seconds, replaces his hat, and walks off the green in silence and without demonstration.

- 23rd - Police respond to a brawl over slow play between two groups of four at Greenway Hall Golf Club in Stockton Brook, England. Weapons are involved; bones are broken.

- The International Olympic Committee confirms its traditional ban on "demonstration or political, religious or racial propaganda" on the field of play, medal podiums or official ceremonies.

#### M A Y

- 9th - The United States wins the 48th Walker Cup at Seminole by a score of 14-12.

- 20th - The P.G.A. of America invokes three tenuous local rules for the 103<sup>rd</sup> P.G.A. Championship at Kiawah: 1) distance-measuring devices are permitted for use by players and caddies; 2) it is declared that there are no bunkers on the Ocean Course - but rather "sandy areas". In these sandy areas, practice swings are permitted, as is lightly grounding a club in front or behind a ball, and 3) there is no relief this week for an embedded ball under Rule 16.3b i.e. in sand in a part of the general area that is not cut to fairway height or less.

- John Catlin is penalized one penalty stroke for slow play after taking 74 seconds to play his second at the 7<sup>th</sup>, and five holes later 63 seconds to play his second there. His final score is 75.

- 21st - Dustin Johnson becomes the second player ranked number one in the world to miss consecutive major championship cuts. Greg Norman was the first in 1997.



- 22nd - After a dismal three rounds, Jon Rahm responds when asked how the leaders might play the Ocean course in the afternoon, "I don't know and I don't care, to be honest. I hit the ball tee to green as well as I could have for the most part and barely made any putts. And

yeah, I'm not really happy, and to be honest, being in 40<sup>th</sup> place and finishing bogey-bogey like that, I really don't want to be here right now." Another petulant, professional moment.

- 23rd - Phil Mickelson, 50, wins the P.G.A. Championship by two shots by playing the par 5s three shots better than Louis Oosthuizen and four better than Brooks Koepka. It is an astonishing feat at his advanced age.

#### J U N E

- 5th - According to OKLAHOMA NEWS4: At Kickingbird Golf Course in Edmond, a 55-year-old man, told police: When he approaches the four-ball in front of him and asks to play through one of the members of the group, age 67, takes exception, telling the victim he works at the course. The victim, a diagnosed paranoid schizophrenic, takes a step back because he gets nervous when others are in his personal space. When approached for a second time, things turn violent.

"It escalated to the point that the victim was being hit in the head with a putter and (sic) the top of his head and the front of the head, and then another member of that foursome (sic) hit him from behind," said Jenny Wagnon of the Edmond Police Department. Another member, age 72, of the four-ball joined the fight and began hitting the victim on his buttocks and legs.

Luckily, a third member of the four-ball broke things up, but not before the victim suffered injuries that required three staples and 10 stitches in his head. The alleged assailants were later charged with assault and battery with a dangerous weapon.



- 9th - U.S. Senators from both sides of the aisle mostly agree that Congress needs to quickly pass legislation that allows college athletes to monetize their name, image, and likeness - a privilege presumed by senators for 232 years.

- 14th - At the Monday qualifier for the Korn Ferry Wichita Open, according to reporting by THE FIREPIT COLLECTIVE, two players fight after one fails to help look for the other's wayward ball and the group falls into a slow play situation. The group is falling behind before Austen Dailey hits his ball left on a par 3 hole. The third player in the group joins in to hunt for the ball, but the second player, Luke Smith, declines.

At the next tee, Mr. Dailey mentions to Mr. Smith that their game would move faster if Mr. Smith helps to look for lost balls. Mr. Smith's father, Oliver, who is caddieing for his son, shouts that Mr. Dailey's poor play is what is slowing them down and his son "isn't here to look for balls". As Mr. Dailey turns away, Mr. Smith (the son) allegedly jumps Mr. Dailey from behind. The third player moves in to break things up but is stopped by Mr. Smith (the father) who waves a putter in his face to keep him at bay. The two players are eventually taken to the clubhouse where Mr. Smith (the son) is placed under arrest. The third player's round is interrupted later on the 10<sup>th</sup> hole so local police can take his statement.

- 17th - The 121<sup>st</sup> U.S. Open begins at Torrey Pines. It produces, for the second time, competition of the highest order without presumption, unfairness, or ostentation as to its legacy or architectural superiority.

- 20th - After a four-day struggle with Louis Oosthuizen, Jon Rahm wins the U.S. Open with birdies at the 71<sup>st</sup> and 72<sup>nd</sup> holes. Mr. Oosthuizen's bogey at the 71<sup>st</sup> is the difference. "I was glad that the redesign of the 17<sup>th</sup> hole was really the determining factor of the championship," Rees Jones comments.

## J U L Y

- 6th - Cobb County, Georgia, police find golf professional Eugene Siller and two other men shot to death at the 10<sup>th</sup> hole of the Pinetree C.C. The police report that Mr. Siller was shot when he investigated a pickup truck that drove onto the course. Mr. Siller was not targeted, police say, "but rather was killed because he witnessed an active crime taking place" that apparently had nothing to do with the club or its employees.

- 11th - Jon Rahm's three week run as world No. 1 ends when he finishes seventh in the Scottish Open at the Renaissance Club in North Berwick.

- 12th - Brooks Koepka opines that Royal St. George's is not his favorite because it has too many blind shots.

- 15th - After an opening 65 at the Open Championship, Jordan Spieth observes that Royal St. George's brings a lot of the feel aspect into the game. "Instead of just a driving-range shot in Palm Springs," he comments, "there's always some shot you have to play that gives you a little bit of an advantage."

- 17th - When Louis Oosthuizen is asked Saturday if, in light of his multiple runner-up finishes in major championships, the golf gods owe him one, he flashes a wry smile and replies slowly, "No. It's just golf."

- Jordan Spieth leaves the 16<sup>th</sup> green tied for the lead at 11-under. He bogies the 17<sup>th</sup> hole and at the last misses a two-foot putt for another bogey to fall two back.

- 18th - The final round breaks quickly. Mr. Koepka goes out in 31, then in at 34 for the day's lowest round. Mr. Spieth plays the final 12 holes 6-under for runner-up honors. Mr. Morikawa's 265 (67, 64, 68, 66) is superior. He is the Champion Golfer of the Year.

- 25th - Jon Rahm and Bryson DeChambeau both test positive for Covid, eliminating their joining the Summer Olympics competition.

- 29th - Austrian Sepp Straka leads the first round of the Olympic golf competition at Kasumigaseki with 63.

## A U G U S T

- 1st - American Xander Schauffele, leading through the final three rounds, wins the gold medal with an 18-under four round total. Rory Sabbatini posts 61 in the final round for the silver medal. Seven playoff for the bronze that is won by Pan Cheng-tsung from Taiwan.

- After competing in the bronze medal playoff, Rory McIlroy comments, "I never tried so hard in my life to finish third."

- 13th - At Southerns Marsh Golf Club in Plymouth, Massachusetts, a golfer, 47, is arrested and charged with mayhem after biting off another man's finger "to his knuckle", according to a report from WCVB-TV. The 911 dispatch audio: "Be advised - an update from the PD. Apparently there are two foursomes (sic) that got into an altercation and there's been a finger that's been bitten off. ... The victim's laying (sic) down on the main entrance road in between three golf carts." The rest of his finger is apparently being kept on ice.

- 16th - The U.S. retreats from Afghanistan in chaos.

- 29th - Patrick Cantlay's sudden death win over Bryson DeChambeau in the BMW Championship - second playoff event prior to the Tour Championship - gives him a 10 *starting-stroke* advantage with which to start the Tour Championship at East Lake. His two 66s in the two last rounds were eight strokes better than Mr. Rahm's two 70s.

S E P T E M B E R

- 5th - Jon Rahm outplays Mr. Cantlay by four shots during the four days of the Tour Championship. Without his 10 starting strokes, Mr. Cantlay ties with Justin Thomas for fourth place. With his 10-stroke advantage, Mr. Cantlay's net score is 259 - one better than Mr. Rahm's. If a frog had starting strokes, he could win \$15 million.

- 7th - Jon Rahm sweeps P.G.A. of America Player of the Year and Vardon Trophy Awards.

- 14th - Patrick Cantlay is voted 2021 P.G.A. Tour Player of the Year by the tour players.

- 8th - With the most captain's picks in Ryder Cup history, Steve Stricker adds four more rookies to his team on Tuesday to join the six players who earned automatic spots. He chooses the next four players in the Ryder Cup standings — Tony Finau, Xander Schauffele, Jordan Spieth and Harris English — along with Daniel Berger and Scottie Scheffler.

- 19th - Not your grandfather's hoodie. Ralph Lauren includes the rapper "of-the-moment" look in their Ryder Cup team uniform prêt-à-porter.

- 27th - The U.S. team dominates the Ryder Cup at Whistling Straits and wins 19 to 9.

For P.C.:



*"He has been rewarded for this service by a huge fortune amassed in a time bewilderingly short. But mental efficiency in one direction, knowledge and insight as to one range of facts or forces, gives no guarantee of efficiency in other matters ... All of which ought to be a truism. Yet our American guilelessness goes on swallowing the utterances of men who are accepted, and esteem themselves, as authority on all subjects because they are an authority on one."*

Author unknown

O C T O B E R

- 10th - In cold, rainy conditions [New Jersey], Jin Young Ko shoots 66, her 14<sup>th</sup> consecutive round in the 60s, tying the L.P.G.A. record set by Annika Sorenstam in 2005 and equaled by So Yeon Ryu in 2016 into 2017.

- 24th - Phil Mickelson, the reigning P.G.A. Champion and self-proclaimed genius, makes two 9s at the C.C. of Virginia's 9<sup>th</sup> hole during the third and fourth rounds of the Dominion Energy Charity Classic.

Mr. Mickelson dismisses a reporter's query [earlier in the week] about his saying he'd have to be more careful in moving his ball around the course in this tournament after being 81<sup>st</sup> in accuracy in his last win. "So, I look at longest, like I try to hit it the farthest out here, and I was No. 1 in driving distance," he said. "That's the way I look at it. If you want to look at stuff that's irrelevant, have at it." ... Yet again; he helps us do just that.

N O V E M B E R

- 21st - Jin Young Ko wins the CME Group Tour Championship by one shot and clinches the L.P.G.A. Player of the Year title over Nelly Korda.

- Tiger Woods hits practice balls for the first time since his car accident in February.

D E C E M B E R

- 1st - The R&A and the U.S.G.A. issue a model local rule (MLR) "to further limit the use of Green-Reading Materials". The MLR enables a committee to limit players to using only the yardage book that it has approved for use in the competition. It is intended only for the highest level of competitive golf and also limits the handwritten notes that players and caddies are allowed to add to the approved yardage book.

Yours very truly,

Gary A. Galyean  
Editor & Publisher

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