



PGA News

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MORE FIRST-ROUND NOTES FROM THE SEASON'S FINAL MAJOR

PGA Director of Instruction Rick Martino Takes On the Stats:

(Note: UNISYS, the Official Event Scoring & Event Information Services Provider to The PGA of America, computed the average performance of the entire 156-player field in the 87th PGA Championship. PGA Director of Instruction Rick Martino of Stuart, Fla., gives his perspective on the results of the first round).

Driving Distance: 294.59 yards

“Statistics don’t lie, but those that interpret stats are questionable. My interpretation is that drives averaging 294 yards tells me that the fairways are rolling out on the holes measured. The disparity between the long drives over 360 yards and the short drives of 158 (Phil Mickelson topped one drive into the rough) shows the importance of landing the ball into the short grass and taking advantage of the hard, firm roll.”

Fairways Hit (Out of 14) Average of 7.30 for 52.19%

“This stat is lower than at a normal Tour event because the fairways here are angled to the player and because the premium of getting the ball long enough to leave irons that you control into the greens preclude you from throttling back to safe and straight clubs (i.e. 2-irons and rescue clubs).”

Greens in Regulation (Average 9.86 for 54.80 %)

“This again is a low number for a tour event, but not a low number if the greens are really firm. The greens at Baltusrol are very large and receive shots very well.”

Putts Per Round (29.58% - Tour average – 29.3 %)

“The greens here were not so sloped or the pins placements so adversely that putts could not be made. But, the premium was putting the ball in the correct place on the greens to leave yourself putts that you could take a run at making and leave your come-backer where you didn’t have a lot of chances of three-putting.”

BEN CURTIS MAKES HIS IMPACT

Ben Curtis’ 3-under-par 67 is a career-best for him in a major championship. It marks only the third time he has posted a round in the 60s at a major. He recorded a 2-uder 68 in the first round of the 2004 U.S Open and a 2-under 69 in the final round when he won the 2003 British Open Championship. Curtis picked up his first top-10 of the season with his third-place finish at the 2005 Cialis Western Open. He has collected only two top-10 finishes in 43 starts since winning the British Open Championship. His only other top-10 was T-8 at the 2004 Memorial Tournament. In eight major championship starts since winning the British Open he has managed to make only one cut, 30th at the 2004 U.S. Open Championship.

Tiger Woods (1 – Masters Tournament; 2 – U.S. Open, 1 – British Open) and Vijay Singh (T5 – Masters Tournament, T6 – U.S. Open, T5 – British Open) are the only two players that could earn top-10 performances in all four majors in 2005.

TIGER WOES: Tiger Woods 5-over-par 75 opening round is his worst start in relation to par in a major championship as a professional. He has recorded an over-par score in the first round of a major 15 times in 36 opening rounds. He is T-114th through the first round, his worst position through the first round at a major championship. Below is a close look at his over-par starts in major championships:

Year	Event	Finish	1 st Rd Score	1 st Rd Position	First Round Leader
2005	PGA Championship	?	75 (+5)	T114	67 (-3) Immelman/ Curtis
2005	Masters Tournament	1	74 (+2)	T33	67 (-5) DiMarco
2004	PGA Championship	T24	75 (+3)	T104	65 (-7) D. Clarke
2004	U.S. Open Championship	T17	72 (+2)	T40	66 (-4) A. Cabrera
2004	Masters Tournament	T22	75 (+3)	T44	67 (-5) J. Rose
2003	PGA Championship	T39	74 (+4)	T58	66 (-4) Pampling/ Mickelson
2003	British Open Championship	T4	73 (+2)	T19	68 (-3) Hennie Otto
2003	Masters Tournament	T15	76 (+4)	T42	66 (-6) D. Clarke
2001	PGA Championship	T29	73 (+3)	100	64 (-6) G. Waite
2001	U.S. Open Championship	T12	74 (+4)	T63	66 (-4) R. Goosen
2000	Masters Tournament	5	75 (+3)	T39	68 (-4) D. Paulson
1999	British Open Championship	T7	74 (+3)	T11	71 (E) R. Pampling
1998	U.S. Open Championship	T18	74 (+4)	T56	66 (-6) P. Stewart
1997	British Open Championship	T24	72 (+1)	T17	67 (-4) D. Clarke/ Furyk
1997	U.S. Open Championship	T19	74 (+4)	T80	65 (-7) C. Montgomerie

There are 23 players in the field at the PGA Championship who made the cut when the 1993 U. S. Open Championship was held at Baltusrol Golf Club. Lee Janzen (1st), Paul Azinger (T3), Craig Parry (T3) and Fred Funk (T7) all finished in the top-10 and Justin Leonard was the only amateur to make the 36-hole cut.

TREVOR IMMELMAN, who shares the first round lead, is making only his third start at the PGA Championship. He has made the cut in nine of the 11 major championship tournaments he has been eligible for in his career, including the 1999 Masters Tournament as an amateur. His two best finishes in majors have come during the 2005 season. He finished T5 at the Masters Tournament, thanks to a third round 7-under 65 and T15 at the British Open Championship. He did not qualify for the U.S. Open Championship at Pinehurst this year.

PHIL MICKELSON shares the first round lead in a major championship for the fourth time in his career. He has never gone on to win after leading through 18 holes in a major. See list below:
 2003 PGA Championship with Rod Pampling
 1999 U.S. Open Championship with David Duval, Paul Goydos and Billy Mayfair
 1995 Masters Tournament, David Frost and Jose Maria Olazabal

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RETIEF GOOSEN, winner of last week INTERNATIONAL, finished strong on Thursday with three birdies in his last four holes to finish at 68 (T7). Below is a list of players who have won a PGA Tour event the week prior to winning a major championship:

Sandy Lyle	1988 Greensboro Open	Masters
Lee Trevino	1971 Canadian Open	British Open
Art Wall	1959 Azalea Open	Masters
Sam Snead	1949 Greensboro Open	Masters
Ben Hogan	1946 Winnipeg Open	PGA Championship
Byron Nelson	1945 Chicago Victory	PGA Championship

HIGHS & LOWS: Tiger Woods finished second to last (155th) in putting on Thursday, with 35 putts... Sergio Garcia leads the field in fairway hit, with 13... There were nine eagles recorded on Thursday, seven came on the 554-yard par-5 No. 18.

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