

1999 open golf championship

1999 Open Golf Championship

Introduction

The 1999 Open Championship, often simply referred to as The Open or the British Open, was a historic and memorable event in the world of professional golf. Held at the renowned Carnoustie Golf Links in Angus, Scotland, this edition of the championship showcased world-class talent, dramatic lead changes, and a compelling narrative that captivated golf fans worldwide. Not only did it feature intense competition among the sport's elite, but it also marked a significant milestone in the career of one of golf's most charismatic and talented players. This article explores the details of the 1999 Open Championship, from its venue and key players to the dramatic final rounds and lasting legacy.

Venue: Carnoustie Golf Links

Overview of Carnoustie

Carnoustie Golf Links, located in Angus, Scotland, is one of the most challenging and historic golf courses in the world. Known for its rugged terrain, deep bunkers, and unpredictable weather, Carnoustie has earned a reputation for testing even the best golfers. The Championship Course, used for the 1999 Open, was designed in 1892 and has hosted numerous Open Championships over the years.

Course Features and Challenges

The layout of Carnoustie is characterized by:

- Narrow fairways that demand precision off the tee
- Large, deep bunkers strategically placed around the course
- Undulating greens that require careful putting
- Coastal winds that can significantly influence shot selection and difficulty

These features often lead to high scores and dramatic shifts in standings, making it a favorite among players seeking a true test of skill.

Key Players and Contenders

Tiger Woods: The Rising Star

By 1999, Tiger Woods was already establishing himself as a dominant force in golf. Having won multiple major titles, Woods entered the Open with high expectations. His powerful game and mental toughness made him a favorite to contend for the title.

Sergio García: The Young Challenger

Sergio García, at just 19 years old, was emerging as one of golf's promising talents. Known for his fiery temperament and exceptional shot-making, García was seen as a potential future star and a serious contender in this championship.

The Established Veterans

Veterans like Tom Lehman, David Duval, and Mark O'Meara brought experience and seasoned skill to the tournament, each with their own aspirations for victory.

The Tournament Progression

Early Rounds

The 1999 Open saw a competitive field with several players making strong starts. The unpredictable weather conditions often led to fluctuating scores. Key highlights included:

- Solid performances by experienced players who navigated the course's challenges
- Several leading scores that set the tone for the final rounds
- Unexpected slips and rises among contenders, setting up an intriguing leaderboard

The Final Round Drama

As the tournament moved into its final day, the standings were tight. Tiger Woods and Sergio García emerged as primary contenders, with other players lurking just a few strokes behind.

- Woods showcased his resilience, making critical pars and clutch shots under pressure
- García displayed youthful exuberance, making bold efforts to chase down the leaders
- The weather conditions, including gusting winds and intermittent rain, added complexity to shot selection

The Climax: Final Round and Decisive Moments

Tiger Woods' Masterclass

In the final holes, Woods demonstrated exceptional composure. His strategic play and precise putting allowed him to maintain a narrow lead. Key moments included:

- A crucial birdie on the 15th hole that extended his advantage
- Exceptional putting on the 17th green to save par under pressure
- A steady finish that secured his first Open Championship victory

Sergio García's Charge

García, showing remarkable talent and courage, made a late surge with aggressive shots and birdies. Despite his effort, he fell just short of catching Woods, finishing as the runner-up.

The Final Score and Outcome

- Winner: Tiger Woods
- Final Score: 269 (15-under-par)
- Margin of Victory: 2 strokes over Sergio García

This victory marked Woods' first Open Championship win and was a pivotal moment in his career, heralding a new era in golf dominance.

Legacy and Significance

Tiger Woods' Impact

The 1999 Open solidified Tiger Woods' reputation as one of the greatest golfers of his generation. His win at Carnoustie:

- Demonstrated his ability to handle tough courses and pressure situations
- Boosted his confidence, leading to further major victories
- Inspired a new generation of golfers worldwide

Sergio García's Promise

Although García narrowly missed out, his performance established him as a future star and a formidable competitor in major championships.

Broader Influence

The 1999 Open Championship contributed to the evolving landscape of professional golf, emphasizing:

- The importance of mental toughness and course management
- The appeal of young, dynamic players challenging established stars
- Increased global interest in the sport, especially among younger audiences

Memorable Moments and Highlights

- Tiger Woods' clutch par putt on the 17th green
- Sergio García's aggressive approach shots in the final stretch
- The dramatic weather conditions that tested players' adaptability
- The atmosphere of Carnoustie, filled with passionate golf fans

Conclusion

The 1999 Open Championship at Carnoustie remains a landmark event in golf history. It was a tournament that showcased the emergence of Tiger Woods as a major champion, featured inspiring performances from young talents like Sergio García, and tested players against a formidable course and unpredictable weather. Its legacy endures as a testament to the spirit of competitive golf and the

enduring allure of The Open. Whether as a memorable victory for Woods or a showcase of emerging talent, the 1999 Open will forever be remembered as a pivotal chapter in the sport's rich history.

Frequently Asked Questions

Who won the 1999 Open Championship?

Paul Lawrie won the 1999 Open Championship, becoming the first player to win the tournament after qualifying through the final qualifying event.

What was notable about Paul Lawrie's victory in the 1999 Open?

Paul Lawrie's victory was notable because he was trailing by several strokes entering the final round and managed to come from behind to win, marking one of the most remarkable comebacks in Open history.

Where was the 1999 Open Championship held?

The 1999 Open Championship was held at Carnoustie Golf Links in Angus, Scotland.

What was the final score of Paul Lawrie in the 1999 Open?

Paul Lawrie finished with a total score of 283 (-1), winning in a playoff against Jean van de Velde and Justin Leonard.

How did Jean van de Velde's final round impact the 1999 Open?

Jean van de Velde famously collapsed on the final hole, going from a commanding lead to a tie, which allowed Lawrie to force a playoff and ultimately win the tournament.

What was the significance of the 1999 Open for the Open Championship history?

The 1999 Open is considered one of the most dramatic and unpredictable editions, especially due to van de Velde's final-hole meltdown and Lawrie's unlikely victory after qualifying.

Did Paul Lawrie achieve any other major victories after the 1999 Open?

While Paul Lawrie had a successful career, his win at the 1999 Open remains his most significant major victory to date.

How did the 1999 Open influence future playoff formats or tournament approaches?

The dramatic finish of the 1999 Open highlighted the importance of resilience and mental toughness, influencing how players approach final holes in major tournaments, though the format itself remained unchanged.

What memorable moments are associated with the 1999 Open Championship?

Memorable moments include Jean van de Velde's triple-bogey on the final hole, Lawrie's remarkable comeback, and the intense playoff that concluded the tournament.

Additional Resources

The 1999 Open Championship: A Historic Tournament of Resilience and Drama

The 1999 Open Championship, held at the revered Carnoustie Golf Links in Scotland, marked a memorable chapter in the annals of golf history. Known for its challenging links terrain, unpredictable weather conditions, and a dramatic finish, this edition of the Open offered fans a compelling mix of skill, strategy, and resilience. From a fiercely contested leaderboard to a historic victory, the tournament encapsulated the essence of links golf and showcased some of the sport's finest talents at the turn of the millennium.

Overview of the 1999 Open Championship

Venue and Course Characteristics

The 1999 Open was hosted at Carnoustie Golf Links, a course renowned for its penal design, deep bunkers, undulating fairways, and unpredictable weather patterns. The layout presents a formidable challenge even to the most seasoned professionals, with thick rough, fast greens, and strategic bunkering demanding precision and mental toughness.

Carnoustie's history as a championship venue dates back over a century, and its reputation as one of the toughest courses in Championship golf was well-earned. The course's natural links characteristics—such as coastal winds and firm conditions—played a pivotal role in shaping the play during the tournament, testing players' adaptability and shot-making skills.

Dates and Field Composition

The tournament ran from July 15 to July 18, 1999, featuring a field of 156 players, including the world's top-ranked golfers and emerging talents. The qualifying process was rigorous, with regional and international qualifiers determining the final entrants. The field was a diverse mix of seasoned veterans, rising stars, and international competitors, all vying for one of golf's most coveted titles.

Key Players and Pre-Tournament Expectations

Leading Contenders

In the lead-up to the 1999 Open, several players were considered favorites based on their recent performances and form:

- Tiger Woods: At only 23 years old, Woods was rapidly establishing himself as a dominant force in golf, having already won multiple majors and setting records. His aggressive style and mental toughness made him a top contender.
- Phil Mickelson: Known for his creative shot-making and fiery temperament, Mickelson was also among the favorites, with his consistent play in links and American tournaments.
- Costantino Rocca: The Italian veteran had a strong record in Open Championships, with previous top finishes, and was viewed as a potential dark horse.
- Justin Leonard: The American player demonstrated a steady game and had previous success in majors, making him a notable contender.

Pre-Tournament Hype and Expectations

The 1999 Open attracted significant attention due to Woods' burgeoning career and the possibility of him becoming the tournament's youngest champion. Additionally, the challenging nature of Carnoustie promised a fiercely competitive event, with many expecting a tight race among the world's best.

Day-by-Day Breakdown and Key Moments

Round 1: Setting the Stage

The opening round saw a mix of steady performances and early surprises. The course's difficulty was

evident as players navigated wind and tricky greens. Tiger Woods fired a solid 69 (-3), positioning himself among the early leaders. Phil Mickelson also posted an impressive score, while seasoned links players like Rocca kept pace.

The standout moment of Round 1 was a remarkable eagle by Justin Leonard on the 14th hole, setting the tone for his tournament. However, no player managed to break away significantly, leaving the leaderboard tightly packed.

Round 2: The Cut and Rising Tensions

Friday's play intensified the competition, with weather conditions becoming more variable. Many players struggled with the swirling winds and firm greens, leading to higher scores. Woods maintained his composure, carding a 70, and was among the leaders heading into the weekend.

Notably, a significant cut was made after the second round, with notable players like Colin Montgomerie and Mark O'Meara missing the weekend. The cut line fell at +5, emphasizing the tournament's tough conditions.

Round 3: The Battle Intensifies

Saturday's third round was critical in shaping the final podium. Players faced a demanding course that demanded strategic shot placement rather than brute force. Woods delivered a masterful 68 (-4), taking a commanding lead. Simultaneously, Rory Sabbatini emerged as a surprise contender, shooting a 66 to move into contention.

The narrative of the round was Woods' resilience—his ability to navigate the treacherous Carnoustie landscape under pressure. His calm demeanor and strategic approach contrasted with some of his rivals' inconsistent rounds.

Final Round: Historic Drama and Triumph

The final day delivered high tension and dramatic moments. Woods entered with a four-shot lead but faced a fierce challenge from Justin Leonard, who had been lurking just behind.

Leonard's aggressive play paid off early, and he briefly took the lead after a birdie on the 15th. However, Woods responded with clutch play on the final holes, including a crucial par on the 17th and a nerveless par on the 18th to secure his first Open Championship.

The climax of the tournament was Woods' closing putt on the 18th green, sealing his victory by two strokes at 271 (-13). At just 23 years old, Woods became the youngest player to win the Open since 1873, shattering previous records and establishing himself as a major champion.

Winning Performance and Key Factors

Statistics and Technique

Tiger Woods' victory was characterized by a combination of exceptional shot-making, strategic course management, and mental resilience. His driving was precise, allowing him to position himself well for approach shots. His iron play was sharp, especially on the challenging back nine, where he avoided the bunkers and hazards that tripped many others.

Putting was another crucial element. Woods' calmness on the greens, particularly under tournament pressure, enabled him to convert key par saves and maintain his lead.

Strategic Approach

Woods employed a conservative game plan, choosing to avoid risky shots that could lead to double bogeys. His patience and discipline were evident, allowing him to capitalize on opportunities and minimize mistakes.

The ability to adapt to Carnoustie's unpredictable conditions—altering club selections and shot strategies—highlighted Woods' professionalism and experience beyond his years.

Impact of Weather Conditions

The variable weather—wind, rain, and changing green speeds—played a significant role. Woods' adaptability and focus allowed him to handle these challenges better than many of his rivals. His experience in links golf, combined with a keen understanding of course conditions, gave him an edge.

Historical Significance and Legacy

Records and Milestones

- Youngest Open Champion: At 23 years and 169 days, Woods became the youngest winner since 1873, surpassing previous records.
- First Major Win: The 1999 Open marked Woods' first major victory, setting the stage for a record-breaking career.
- Changing the Game: Woods' dominance heralded a new era in golf, characterized by increased

athleticism, professionalism, and global popularity.

Impact on Golf and Popular Culture

Woods' victory at Carnoustie was a watershed moment, inspiring a new generation of players and elevating the sport's profile worldwide. His charismatic presence and relentless drive challenged traditional perceptions, making golf more accessible and exciting to broader audiences.

The 1999 Open also demonstrated the importance of mental toughness, strategic play, and resilience—values that continue to influence professional golf.

Legacy and Subsequent Tournaments

Woods' win at Carnoustie set the tone for his illustrious career, which includes multiple Open victories and other majors. It also contributed to the evolution of golf equipment, training, and course design, as players and organizers sought to emulate Woods' success.

Conclusion: A Tournament for the Ages

The 1999 Open Championship at Carnoustie stands out as one of the most compelling and historic editions of the tournament. It was a showcase of youthful talent, strategic mastery, and unyielding resilience. Tiger Woods' triumph not only etched his name into the record books but also transformed the landscape of professional golf, inspiring countless players worldwide.

As fans and analysts reflect on this iconic event, it remains a testament to the unpredictable, thrilling nature of links golf and the enduring spirit of competition that defines the sport. The 1999 Open will forever be remembered as a milestone—where a young prodigy announced his arrival on the world stage amidst the rugged beauty and unforgiving challenge of Carnoustie.

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1999 open golf championship: *The Wee Ice Mon Cometh* Ed Gruver, 2024 A look back at golfer Ben Hogan's historic 1953 season, still the closest any player has gotten to winning golf's Grand Slam.

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toughness goes hand in hand with success and yet it is often misunderstood. True mental toughness is about preparation, resilience, control, risk management and above all execution. So, how do you utilise this elusive but critical attribute? By starting with a "game plan." The Game Plan is about winning. More importantly, it's about you winning. It's about how you can create a personal performance environment that enables you to deliver at the crucial times. The Game Plan explores different types of mental toughness and examines how each one can give you the platform for significantly increased levels of self-confidence and resilience. Learn the easy-to-apply lessons that have created an environment of success for a host of world-beating performers in the business world and beyond. Imagine being able to apply a winning performance mindset to everyday work situations such as: Making presentations razor sharp Wowing new clients Being in control during performance appraisals Staying cool during even the most hectic and pressurized days Maintaining your self-belief even when things go wrong Making the right decision at the right time. Read and learn from The Game Plan and you will have at your fingertips a robust strategy to give you the edge over your closest competitors and the very best chance of success.

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1999 open golf championship: *Bud, Sweat & Tees* Alan Shipnuck, 2012-12-11 It's 1999 and although Rich Beem has just been nominated for Rookie of the Year following his first ever victory, he's still just another golfer on the PGA Tour desperately trying to break out from Tiger's shadow. Alan Shipnuck takes us inside Beem's world, exploring the complex relationship with his faithful caddie, Steve Duplantis, from being arrested together for drink-driving at Carnoustie, all the way to glorious and unexpected victory at the 2002 PGA Championship. In *BUD, SWEAT & TEES* Alan Shipnuck takes a no-holds-barred look at modern professional golf. Through the unlikely partnership

of golfer Rick Beem and his caddie Steve Duplantis, Shipnuck shows all the highs and lows, temptations and pitfalls that await all players on the Tour. Reminiscent of Lawrence Donegan's bestselling *FOUR-IRON IN THE SOUL* (Penguin), *BUD, SWEAT & TEES* is an exciting and often poignant book that will leave readers with an unforgettable insight into a unique relationship.

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1999 open golf championship: The Golf Book Andy Farrell, Steve Carr, Steve Newell, 2008-03-17 Golf is one of the world's fastest growing sports, with more than 60 million players worldwide generating billions of dollars a year, and book sales in the millions. The Golf Book opens with a history of the game, including its origins and rich traditions. The story continues later as the book visits the world's most prestigious golf championships, including The Open and The Ryder Cup. Many of these have been the settings of the greatest moments in golf, and a separate section is devoted to a celebration of the special feats that have defined the sport over the years. A lavish tour of the most coveted golf courses, from St. Andrews in Scotland, to Augusta in the US, and Cape Kidnappers in New Zealand, transports the reader to the fairways of golfing fantasies. The accent is on style, design, and technology as The Golf Book showcases the very latest developments in equipment, from the evolution of the golf ball to custom-fitted clubs. Harnessing the new technology is the focus of the unique techniques section that examines and dissects the shots of the professionals, and suggests ways in which players of all skill levels can improve their game. The book would not be complete without the records and statistics that tell their own story of the game.

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