

ALFRED DUNHILL
CHAMPIONSHIP

Leopard Creek Times

ROUND 3

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*Photo Credit: Carl Fourie/
Sunshine Tour/Gallo Images*



Lipsky Leads Foreign Charge in Alfred Dunhill Championship

American David Lipsky holds a one-stroke lead going into the weekend of his first appearance in the Alfred Dunhill Championship at Leopard Creek, and as he seeks to break the South African hold on this championship. Michael Vlismas reports.



Scott Jamieson.
Photo Credit: Stuart Franklin/Getty Images

With rounds of 70 and 66, Lipsky heads the field on eight under par. He is one stroke clear of the Scottish duo of Scott Jamieson and Marc Warren, while at six under lie another two Scots in David Drysdale and Doug McGuigan.

Defending champion Brandon Stone of South Africa and countryman Dylan Frittelli head into the weekend in a group on five under par. And Ernie Els is challenging for the second week running as he goes into the final 36 holes only four shots off the lead and chasing his second victory in this championship.

But there is clearly change afoot at Leopard Creek, and not just in the enhancements made to this sublime golf course.

The leaderboard points to a strong foreign challenge in a championship that traditionally has been dominated by South Africans.

Lipsky is looking to become the first non-South African winner of this championship since Spain's Pablo Martin in 2010.

In fact, in every year since 2004, if a South African has not won this championship, one of them has finished second.

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Marc Warren.
Photo Credit:Stuart Franklin/Getty Images

But Lipsky clearly feels right at home, not just at the top of the leaderboard, but also at Leopard Creek. "I've always wanted to come here. I've heard great things from almost every player, pretty much. And it's turned out to be a great experience so far. My putting and chipping have been amazing.

I'm looking forward to the weekend," he said. Behind him, Jamieson is equally at home in South Africa where he has won before. "I've had some good finishes in this country. Maybe half of my career money has come out of South Africa. I seem to enjoy it out here. It's feeling good to be in the mix for the

weekend. I had two months off and it's nice to be back out." McGuigan will also feel he has something to prove on the weekend. He was born in South Africa but plays under the Scottish flag of his footballer father, and he lost in a playoff for this championship in 2003. ■



Doug McGuigan.
Photo Credit: Carl Fourie/Sunshine Tour/Gallo Images



Scots lining up to break foreign drought at Leopard Creek

There has only been one overseas winner of the Alfred Dunhill Championship at Leopard Creek this decade, but if there is one nation that can break that drought in this year's tournament then it would appear to be Scotland. The Scots have four players within touching distance of

the lead in Scott Jamieson, Marc Warren, Doug McGuigan and David Drysdale. Between them and Americans David Lipsky, who was clinging on to the lead from the morning at eight-under, and Sean Crocker, as well as Frenchman Raphael Jacquelin, Englishman Oliver Wilson, Australia's Dimitrios

Papadatos, they would appear to have the best chance of becoming the first foreign winner at Leopard Creek since Spain's Pablo Martin won back-to-back titles in 2009/10. McGuigan, who was born in Durban but has been playing under the Scottish flag because his father,

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Scotland-born Francis, was a professional footballer for clubs such as Falkirk, Blackpool and Durban United, provided one of the highlights of the second day on Friday as he completed the back nine in just 30 strokes, including nine one-putts. That gave him a 66 and six-under-par overall.

"I've birdied eight two days in a row and to birdie that hole is a nice achievement, but on the back nine I really got things going. I played extremely solidly, putted extremely well. I had nine one-putts on the back nine and I don't think I've ever done that before. "It's exciting to be in the mix here again. I lost this event on a playoff 15 years ago at Houghton Golf Club and it's been a thorn in my flesh for many years, I began to wonder if I'll ever get back in the mix, but I played nicely today. I look forward to the weekend," McGuigan said after his round.

Jamieson, the 2012 Nelson Mandela Championship winner and last year's Nedbank Golf Challenge runner-up, also sided with the back nine as being the place to score, as he came home in 32 strokes to also sign for a 66.

"The back nine is the side you've got to make your score on. The front nine out here is tough, the holes are a lot longer and there's a little bit of water around. The par-five second hole is a little bit tougher than any of the ones on the back. So, the back nine is where you make your score.

"The par-fives there are great fun, risk and rewards and they were good to me today. I think it's key to make your score on those par-fives, when they're reachable. If you hit the ball on the fairway off the tee, you feel like you're left with no choice but to take it on and they've been good to me so far and hopefully that continues," Jamieson said. ■



Scott Jamieson.
Photo Credit: Stuart Franklin/Getty Images

AT THE MATTERS.

A photograph of a golfer in a light blue shirt pushing a golf cart on a course at sunset. The golfer is seen from behind, and the cart is filled with golf bags. The background is a bright, hazy sunset over a green landscape.

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Frittelli ready to fire on the weekend

by Ken Borland

Dylan Frittelli already has a lot of experience of playing golf in America. That is only going to increase now that he has his PGA Tour card.

And the 28-year-old South African says he gets a picture of Augusta National when he looks at some of the redesigned greens at Leopard Creek.

The Alfred Dunhill Championship will be

Frittelli's last tournament before he joins the PGA Tour next year and, if he continues his form over the weekend, he will go into 2019 with plenty of confidence. Frittelli is well in contention after a two-under 70 yesterday left him on five-under-par overall at the halfway stage.

"When you look at the features around the greens and the shaping of the bunkers, there are certainly hints of Augusta. But it's still a parkland course and they've done well to incorporate features like wide fairways for the amateurs that make it playable for them, while still making it tough for the pros. We have to think carefully on a lot of tees about whether to take three-wood or driver.

"There are also some pins out there that you just cannot afford to miss in certain spots otherwise you're going to get at least bogey. You have to be able to control the ball and if you don't get spin then the ball is just going to run everywhere and it makes it very tough," Frittelli said.

Although Frittelli was born in Johannesburg, he resides in Austin, having starred for the University of Texas golf team from 2008-2012.



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He finished 20th in the Web.com Tour Finals to earn his PGA Tour card, and he finished tied-31st in the PGA Championship this year. That experience of playing in America is also helping at Leopard Creek because the course has been largely relaid with Bermuda Grass, which is commonly used in the United States. "I know this Bermuda Grass they are using here now well because of all the golf I've played in America and my ball-striking has been really good. I feel at home, I feel comfortable and hopefully I can just keep that rolling for the the weekend." ■

Dylan Frittelli during day two of the Alfred Dunhill Championship at Leopard Creek Country Club.

*Photo Credit: Carl Fourie/
Sunshine Tour/Gallo Images*



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