

Have They Improved The Masters Golf Championship?

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Have They Improved The Masters Golf Championship?

By Patrick Porter

Bobby Lopez, past touring professional and swing guru say's, "I Don't Think So."

Bobby Lopez goes on to explain, "I can't tell you how disappointed I am in the powers to be at The Masters Golf Championship. They've ruined my favorite golf tournament. I'm quite certain that Bobby Jones is turning in his grave!"

He sights the Master's decision to lengthen their golf course to the point that 90% of the field doesn't have a prayer in competing for the opening major championship of the 2006 season. Everyone concerned feels that Master's officials certainly should have concern for their championship being won by a score like 22 under par. Compared to the US Open, known for it's difficult conditions, making even par a winner score again, the Masters at Augusta National with it's wide rolling fairways and light rough became outdated in today's long ball hitting environment.

Lopez, claims, "The same long hitting lineup is hitting it long at the US Open too but it's not just the length that's causing the higher scores. It's the super fast greens and tight fairways with considerable rough that makes it very difficult for any player to reach the green in regulations once in deep rough's grasp."

At the Player's Championship, we watched the best PGA touring professionals in the business agonize over a par three of only 123 yards. You have to question what made the Masters committee decide that only a 240-yard par three could tame today's long hitting bullies?

Bobby Lopez says, "Tighten up the golf course I say, don't lengthen it. Add a vicious intimidating rough that would make even the longest hitters reach for their 1 iron or a three wood to not risk hitting their drive in the rough and lose a stroke, (or maybe even your ball) to a deep club swallowing hazard."

This adjustment Not only would have the scores go up but at the same time you would bring more players into contention and in Bobby's estimation bring out the best ball strikers not just the long knockers.

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You can think of it like NASCAR. Doesn't this sport do the same thing? Look at how successful NASCAR is! They control the speed of the cars so that more competitors are bunched up at the finish to create a more exciting race.

Maybe the powers to be at The Masters, with all their glory, high income power brokers, members of the powerful business clicks, don't have as much sense as a bunch of rednecks with a beer in their hand watching a Chevy go around in a circle. Could it be true? The numbers don't lie NASCAR has the largest audience in the sports business and golf is losing popularity and participation.

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and

Bobby Lopez are never happy without trying to make the mental side of golf training more enjoyable through out the world.

The Young Tiger Woods

By Jonathon Hardcastle

They've taken to calling Tiger Woods the "chosen one" and why not? At the relatively young age of 29, he has already put together a resume that can be compared favorably with the all-time greats of the sport . In 2005, he captured his 10th major golf championship, a total that puts him fourth in history in most championships won behind Jack Nicklaus, Bobby Jones and Walter Hagen. And to think that he has probably not even reached the half-way point of his golf career.

Among today's crop of golf professionals, Woods is the only one to rank among the list of top 20 major championship winners of all time, a strong indicator of his dominance in today's game. Culturally, Woods is credited with creating renewed interest and participation in golf, not only in the United States but worldwide.

So far, his life has unfolded like a fairy-tale movie. Why, even if it is only his life before the age of 20 that you consider, the movie would already be pretty good.

Consider the following.

Born on December 30, 1975, Eldrick "Tiger" Woods' early beginnings are well-chronicled by now. At

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just four months old, Woods guested on the Mike Douglas TV show to display his golf skills and his surprisingly natural golf swing. In 1984, he won his first world championship — the 9–10 Boys Event of the Junior World Golf Championships — at the age of eight. He went on to win the Junior World Championships six times, including four consecutive wins from 1988–1991.

Woods continued with his winning ways in the U.S. Junior Amateur Championships, which he won in 1991, 1992, and 1993 and he remains as the event's youngest–ever winner. He then went on to become the only person to win the U.S. Amateur Championship three straight years. He won his first amateur in 1994 fresh out of high school, thereby also becoming the youngest to ever win the event. Before he reached the age of 20, Woods had won the USGA Championships five times. Many believe that he has already compiled the best ever under–20 career in golf history.

>From there, Woods went to Stanford University for two years, won one NCAA individual championship and then left college to pursue his professional golf career. And after that, the rest, as they say, is history.

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