



IN HONOUR OF
GARY PLAYER

daily NEWS

ROUND 1 | THURSDAY 04.12.2025

**'Africa's Major'
is ready to roar!**



Viktor Hovland.

The stage is set for the 43rd edition of the Nedbank Golf Challenge in honour of Gary Player, and the Gary Player Country Club already has the respect of one of this year's biggest stars.

For those who recognise THE MASTER OF A CRAFT



#NO14

awards

NOT FOR PERSONS UNDER THE AGE OF 18.

European Ryder Cup star Viktor Hovland had his first look of the famed golf course that hosts this DP World Tour event and declared, "It's probably the hardest resort course I've ever played. It's really challenging. It's long. It's pretty narrow. It has really small greens and there will be some tough pin locations. But I'm looking forward to it."

Hovland is making his debut in the Sun City showpiece, and forms part of an impressive field of professionals from the DP World Tour, PGA TOUR and Sunshine Tour. PGA TOUR champion Will Zalatoris makes his comeback from back surgery in this event, while Marco Penge is looking to continue his excellent form after finishing second on last season's Race to Dubai Rankings. Of the 66 players in the field, 58 have won on the DP World Tour.

American Johannes Veerman is looking to become only the eighth player in history to successfully defend this title, and the memories of his 2024 triumph came flooding back to him.

"I was walking on the ninth hole pathway with the names of all the past champions, and that one hit pretty good. The first time I played this golf course many years ago I remember seeing all the names of the players that have won here. To walk down the ninth and see my name as part of that – it hit me pretty hard."

The South African challenge is also a strong one, with six of the country's golfers making their debut in this event. Aldrich Potgieter is also back as he seeks to go one better than his runner-up finish on debut last year. And they will experience a golf course that has a few changes from last year.

“

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- Johannes Veerman

Gary Player has personally overseen key strategic and aesthetic changes to the layout. Bush has been cleared from the right side of the par-three fourth hole, showcasing more of the green and water hazard from the tee. The par-three seventh has a new tee complex, with the professional tee pushed back 25 metres. The right fairway bunker on the par-five ninth has been removed to entice the players to be more aggressive on this feature hole. And the par-five 14th has also had bush cleared down the right-hand side in preparation of a new tee here in the future.

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Dream pro-am experience for Nedbank Junior Challenge star

Fresh off a career-defining season, Schalk van Ettinger added another unforgettable chapter to his Sun City success story when he teed it up in the official pro-am of the Nedbank Golf Challenge in honour of Gary Player.

The 15-year-old from Ruimsig Country Club earned this honour when he captured the 2025 Nedbank Junior Challenge, winning by two shots with a dominant wire-to-wire triumph at the Gary Player Country Club in July.

Van Ettinger not only became the second youngest winner in the tournament's five-year history but also etched his name into the history books at Sun City as the first junior to complete the GolfRSA 'Sun City Trifecta', having previously won the Sun City Under-13 Challenge in 2022 and Under-15 Challenge in 2023.

"It's surreal," Van Ettinger said ahead of the pro-am. "To compete at Sun City is always special, but to be part of the Nedbank Golf Challenge week, playing alongside world-class players, is something I've dreamed of. I just want to enjoy it, take it all in, and learn as much as I can."

Van Ettinger has been a force across the GolfRSA circuit this year, collecting multiple top-10 finishes and establishing himself as one of the country's most exciting young talents.

Photo credit: GolfRSA



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Behind the scenes at the Nedbank Golf Challenge

The facts and figures that make up one of the biggest weeks in world golf.

The Food

Players and fans need to fuel their golf passion. And the favourite at Sun City is protein, protein, protein.

An estimated **7 tonnes** of ribs are consumed during tournament week.

Roughly **2 tonnes** of fillet are also on the menu, as well as **2.1 tonnes** of lamb.

You can also add **1.2 tonnes** each of chicken breasts and thighs.

Also, don't forget the **36 000** eggs and **2 000** litres of milk.

And for good measure, throw in **2 700** portions of Brie cheese.

Keeping things cool in the Sun City heat requires **44 tonnes** of ice.

The Build

The scaffolding starts going up at the end of July, and the marquees start taking shape at the beginning of September.

The scaffolding alone is **1 400 tonnes** worth.

And the green shade cloth is held together with **200 000** cable ties. Stretch all of that shade cloth out and you would cover **37 800** square metres.



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DRAW FOR ROUND 1 - Thursday 4 December 2025

Draw for Round 1

Game	Time	Tee	Name	Country	Attachment
1	09:22	1	Daniel VAN TONDER	RSA	Serengeti Golf & Wildlife Estate
			Paul WARING	ENG	Jumeirah Golf Estates
			Joost LUITEN	NED	
2	09:33	1	Andy SULLIVAN	ENG	Stratford-on-Avon GC
			Christo LAMPRECHT	RSA	
			Adrian MERONK	POL	
3	09:44	1	Christiaan BEZUIDENHOUT	RSA	Serengeti Wildlife & Golf Estate
			Richard MANSELL	ENG	
			Oliver LINDELL	FIN	Virvik Golf
4	09:55	1	Shaun NORRIS	RSA	Silver Lakes CC
			Thorbjørn OLESEN	DEN	
			Francesco MOLINARI	ITA	GC Torino
5	10:06	1	Jacques KRUYSWIJK	RSA	Centurion CC
			Joakim LAGERGREN	SWE	Black Mountain GC
			Tom MCKIBBIN	NIR	Galgorm
6	10:17	1	Jayden SCHAPER	RSA	Ebotse Golf Estate
			Thomas DETRY	BEL	Royal GC of Belgium
			Angel AYORA	ESP	La Hacienda GR
7	10:28	1	Jordan SMITH	ENG	Bowood
			Willi ZALATORIS	USA	Dallas National GC
			Martin COUVRA	FRA	
8	10:39	1	Aldrich POTGIETER	RSA	Pinnacle Point Golf Estate
			Haotong LI	CHN	
			Nick TAYLOR	CAN	Ledgerview G&CC
9	10:50	1	John PARRY	ENG	Harrogate GC
			Adrien SADDIER	FRA	Esery GC
			Garrick HIGGO	RSA	De Zalze GC
10	11:01	1	Thriston LAWRENCE	RSA	Pretoria CC
			Laurie CANTER	ENG	Cumberwell Park GC
			Kristoffer REITAN	NOR	GC de Genève
11	11:12	1	Viktor HOVLAND	NOR	
			Marco PENGE	ENG	
			Johannes VEERMAN	USA	Winston Golf

Draw for Round 1

Game	Time	Tee	Name	Country	Attachment
12	09:22	10	Yurav PREMLALL	RSA	Glendower GC
			Antoine ROZNER	FRA	RCF La Boulie
			Ryggs JOHNSTON	USA	Cabinet View GC
13	09:33	10	Nicolai VON DELLINGSHAUSEN	GER	GC Hubbelrath
			Connor SYME	SCO	Drumoig Golf Centre
			Dan BRADBURY	ENG	Wakefield GC
14	09:44	10	Dylan NAIDOO	RSA	The Club at Steyn City
			Marcus ARMITAGE	ENG	Howley Hall GC
			Pablo LARRAZÁBAL	ESP	11:am Golf
15	09:55	10	Jesper SVENSSON	SWE	Upsala GC
			Yuto KATSURAGAWA	JPN	
			Nacho ELVIRA	ESP	
16	10:06	10	Grant FORREST	SCO	The Renaissance Club
			Alejandro DEL REY	ESP	RCG La Moraleja
			Eugenio CHACARRA	ESP	Southern Hills G&CC
17	10:17	10	Niklas NORGAARD	DEN	Kokkedal GC
			Marcel SIEM	GER	Heritage Mauritius
			Calum HILL	SCO	Gleneagles Hotel
18	10:28	10	Guido MIGLIOZZI	ITA	
			Ewen FERGUSON	SCO	Emirates GC
			Frederic LACROIX	FRA	RCF La Boulie
19	10:39	10	Junghwan LEE	KOR	Woori Financial Group
			Darius VAN DRIEL	NED	
			Jacob Skov OLESEN	DEN	Næstved GC
20	10:50	10	Angel HIDALGO	ESP	RCG Las Brisas
			Julien GUERRIER	FRA	Golf de la prée La Rochelle
			Matteo MANASSERO	ITA	GardaGolf CC
21	11:01	10	Ockie STRYDOM	RSA	South Africa
			Jorge CAMPILLO	ESP	Norba Club de Golf de Caceres
			Rikuya HOSHINO	JPN	
22	11:12	10	Dylan FRITTELLI	RSA	UT GC
			Daniel GAVINS	ENG	Howley Hall GC
			David RAVETTO	FRA	RCF La Boulie



Green Time

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Emirates



Celebrating the 90th birthday of the legendary Gary Player at the Nedbank Golf Challenge Champions' Dinner.

Defending champion, Johannes Veerman.



Aldrich Potgieter.

