



IN HONOUR OF
GARY PLAYER

daily NEWS

ROUND 3 | SATURDAY 07-12-2024

Guerrier has 'Africa's Major' in his sights

Frenchman Julien Guerrier will take a one-stroke lead into the weekend of the Nedbank Golf Challenge after a day when the Gary Player Country Club course charged back at the field like an angry elephant bull.

A combination of intense heat, firm greens and tricky winds turned Friday's second round into a stern test.

Guerrier managed to make the best of a tough day with his 68 to lead on five under par overall. He is one stroke clear of fellow Frenchman Romain Langasque, who signed for a 70, and South Africa's Ockie Strydom, who posted a 73.

Defending champion Max Homa was amongst the leaders and at one stage held the sold lead before dropping four shots over his final three holes with back-to-back double bogeys on 16 and 17 for a 75. But he is still only two shots off the lead.

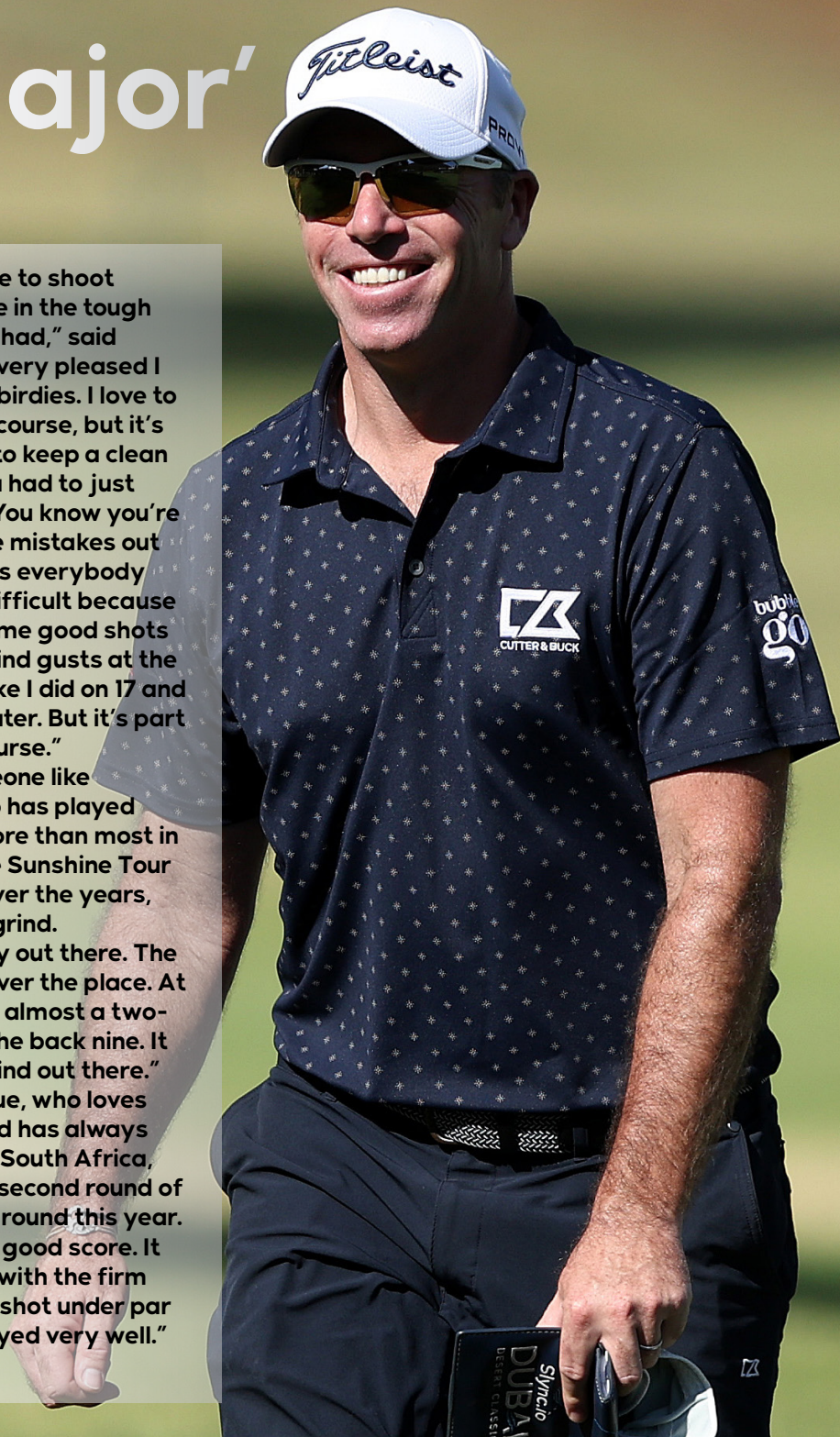
It was a day when most of those near the top of the leaderboard considered whatever they shot some of the best golf they have played.

"It's a privilege to shoot under par here in the tough conditions we had," said Guerrier. "I'm very pleased I made a lot of birdies. I love to play this golf course, but it's very difficult to keep a clean card here. You had to just stay patient. You know you're going to make mistakes out there, and so is everybody else. But it's difficult because you can hit some good shots and get the wind gusts at the wrong time, like I did on 17 and went in the water. But it's part of this golf course."

Even for someone like Strydom, who has played this course more than most in the field in the Sunshine Tour events here over the years, Friday was a grind.

"It wasn't easy out there. The wind was all over the place. At a stage it was almost a two-club wind on the back nine. It was a total grind out there."

And Langasque, who loves this course and has always played well in South Africa, described his second round of 70 as his best round this year. "It was a very good score. It played tough with the firm greens. If you shot under par today you played very well."





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The real secret to the Gary Player Country Club

The Gary Player Country Club is well known for the challenge it has posed to the world's best professionals in the decades of the Nedbank Golf Challenge.

But one of its biggest challenges is not on the fairways. It's actually up in the air.

The wind around this golf course can be fickle, switching all the time. It's one of the biggest factors in what has kept this golf course such a challenge over the years. Even after his victory last year, Max Homa declared, "The wind was the most confusing thing in the entire world".

This year's field has experienced the same.

"When this place bites, it bites hard," said Andy Sullivan, who is two shots off the lead.

"The wind here goes everywhere. I've played here before so I know the wind will switch around. The wind is something very tough here. It goes from one way to completely the other way. But this is what makes this course so special. You need to trust a lot what you choose and just go for it. Sometimes it will finish in a bad place but that doesn't matter because it will happen to everyone," added Romain Langasque, who is just one shot behind going into the weekend.

And Ockie Strydom, who is also just one shot back, said the biggest part of dealing with the wind is just a simple



Mackenzie Hughes.
Credit: Getty.

acceptance of what it will do to your shots.

"You've just got to put the bad shots behind you. You're going to make mistakes here. It's tough out there. But us South Africans, who play here often, know a few secrets about this golf course. And I'm not telling anyone what they are."



THE NEW

X3



Pros full of praise for Sun City

Sun City has once again crept into the hearts of the players at this year's Nedbank Golf Challenge.



The fireworks display at the Beach Party is always a crowd favourite.

At the halfway stage of 'Africa's Major' and following the memorable opening night's Champions Dinner and the spectacular fireworks of the Beach Party, the field is once again in awe of this event and what it offers. "It's always such an unbelievable week here. It's amazing. You have good hotels, good food and good people here. I like South Africa in general and I would say Sun City is maybe one of the best places in South Africa because of everything around here," said Romain Langasque. England's Andy Sullivan received a few cheers as he stepped onto the first tee box. "It's always a good feeling coming here," said Sullivan. "I won early on in my career in South Africa and that helps. You get a good following and the spectators here are always behind you." And Erik van Rooyen believes Sun City is the best advert for South Africa you could ever offer the rest of the world. "In my mind, what you think of South Africa – this is it. You've got the people. You've got the game drives. You've got the golf course. You've got the sunshine. It encapsulates everything that I think about when I think of home. It's just a magical place. It gives me goosebumps just talking about it."

A taste WORTH MORE



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Left: Gary Player shaking hands with Max Homa and enjoying a light moment with Anthony Leeming and Dale Hayes.



Gearing up for the Beach Party.

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DRAW FOR ROUND 3 - SATURDAY

Game	Time	Tee	Name	Country	Attachment	R1	R2
12	09:21	1	Dan BRADBURY	ENG	Wakefield GC	71	75
			Jesper SVENSSON	SWE	Upsala GC	76	70
			Daniel BROWN	ENG	Romanby GC	71	75
13	09:32	1	Thriston LAWRENCE	RSA	Pretoria CC	71	75
			Will ZALATORIS	USA	Dallas National GC	74	72
			Brandon STONE	RSA	Durban CC	74	72
14	09:43	1	Nicolai HØJGAARD	DEN		73	73
			Sam BAIRSTOW	ENG	Club de Golf Alcanada	72	74
			Yuto KATSURAGAWA	JPN		72	74
15	09:54	1	Ewen FERGUSON	SCO	Bearsden GC	71	74
			Wenyi DING	CHN		71	74
			Angel HIDALGO	ESP	RCG Las Brisas	72	73
16	10:05	1	Daniel HILLIER	NZL	Royal Wellington	72	73
			Pablo LARRAZÁBAL	ESP	Real Club de Golf el Prat	69	75
			Robin WILLIAMS	RSA	Peterborough Milton GC	70	74
17	10:16	1	Todd CLEMENTS	ENG		71	73
			Mackenzie HUGHES	CAN	Quail Hollow Club	71	73
			Jordan SMITH	ENG	Bowood	72	72
18	10:27	1	Thorbjørn OLESEN	DEN		69	74
			Elvis SMYLIJE	AUS	Southport GC	71	72
			Francesco LAPORTA	ITA	San Domenico Golf	73	70
19	10:38	1	Aldrich POTGIETER	RSA	Pinnacle Point Golf Estate	73	70
			Christiaan BEZUIDENHOUT	RSA	Serengeti Wildlife & Golf Estate	70	72
			Frederic LACROIX	FRA	RCF La Boulie	72	70
20	10:49	1	Laurie CANTER	ENG	Cumberwell Park GC	73	69
			Paul WARING	ENG	Jumeirah Golf Estates	72	70
			Max HOMA	USA		66	75
21	11:00	1	Andy SULLIVAN	ENG	Stratford-on-Avon GC	69	72
			Matthew JORDAN	ENG	Royal Liverpool GC	69	72
			Johannes VEERMAN	USA	Winston Golf	70	71
22	11:11	1	Ockie STRYDOM	RSA	South Africa	67	73
			Romain LANGASQUE	FRA	GC De Cannes Mougins	70	70
			Julien GUERRIER	FRA	Golf de la préte La Rochelle	71	68

Game	Time	Tee	Name	Country	Attachment	R1	R2
1	09:21	10	David RAVETTO	FRA	RCF la Boulie	77	69
			Joe DEAN	ENG	College Pines GC	78	68
			Adrian OTAEGUI	UAE	Goiburu Golf	73	74
2	09:32	10	Jorge CAMPILLO	ESP	Norba Club de Golf de Caceres	75	72
			Sebastian SÖDERBERG	SWE	Black Mountain GC	75	72
			Dylan FRITTELLI	RSA	UT GC	76	71
3	09:43	10	Niklas NORGAARD	DEN	Kokkedal GC	71	76
			Guido MIGLIOZZI	ITA		76	71
			Alex FITZPATRICK	ENG	Hollinwell GC	71	76
4	09:54	10	Thomas DETRY	BEL	Royal GC of Belgium	76	71
			Corey CONNERS	CAN	The Bears Club	72	76
			Erik VAN ROOYEN	RSA		75	73
5	10:05	10	Connor SYME	SCO	Drumoig Golf Centre	76	72
			Nacho ELVIRA	ESP		73	76
			Danny WILLETT	ENG	The Belfry H&R	73	76
6	10:16	10	Matteo MANASSERO	ITA	Gardagolf CC	74	75
			Ugo COUSSAUD	FRA	Golf de Arcangues	70	79
			Aaron COCKERILL	CAN	The Els Club Dubai	76	74
7	10:27	10	Calum HILL	SCO	Gleneagles Hotel	78	72
			Simon FORSSTRÖM	SWE	Gamebook	72	79
			Marcel SIEM	GER	Heritage Mauritius	72	79
8	10:38	10	Bernd WIESBERGER	AUT		76	75
			Dale WHITNELL	ENG	Crondon Park	76	75
			Grant FORREST	SCO	The Renaissance Club	77	74
9	10:49	10	Alexander BJÖRK	SWE	Vaxjo GK	78	73
			Ryggs JOHNSTON	USA	Cabinet View GC	75	77
			Tom MCKIBBIN	NIR	Galgorm	77	75
10	11:00	10	Sami VÄLMÄKI	FIN	Nokia River Golf	79	73
			Jordan GUMBERG	USA	Adios GC	72	81
			Darius VAN DRIEL	NED	The Outpost Club	76	77
11	11:11	10	Ryan VAN VELZEN	RSA	Benoni CC	79	74
			Ryo HISATSUNE	JPN	SBS Holdings	76	78
			Daniel GAVINS	ENG	Howley Hall GC	78	76



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