

Leopard Creek Times

Alfred Dunhill Championship Daily News



SCAN ME

ROUND 1, THURSDAY 8 DECEMBER, 2022

Thriston Lawrence returns to a Leopard Creek that was his first taste of golf greatness.



Lawrence looking to join Leopard Creek history

There is a definite sense of coming full circle for Thriston Lawrence as he arrived at Leopard Creek for this week’s Alfred Dunhill Championship looking to continue his form as South Africa’s latest DP World Tour champion. Lawrence grew up in nearby Mbombela and has a special relationship with Leopard Creek. “This is a very special place for me. The Alfred Dunhill Championship was the first professional tournament I ever came to support. I remember seeing Ernie Els and all the others win here, and as a young amateur golfer standing next to the green asking for a ball. To now be here myself is very special,”

said Lawrence. The 26-year-old returns this week as one of South African golf’s most exciting talents having won three times on the DP World Tour in the past 13 months and making history as the first South African to win the DP World Tour’s Sir Henry Cotton Rookie of the Year Award. Last week he added his name to the list of South African greats when he won the Investec South African Open Championship. And this week Lawrence finds himself in illustrious company as he tees it up in an Alfred Dunhill Championship field that includes multiple Major winner and former

world number one Ernie Els, fellow Major winners Louis Oosthuizen and Charl Schwartzel, and former Alfred Dunhill Championship winners Branden Grace, Brandon Stone, Richard Sterne and Christiaan Bezuidenhout. “It’s very exciting to be here. Everybody wants to get their hands on that leopard trophy,” said Lawrence.



Els delighted with ongoing SA golf success



Ernie Els is back at a venue that for him so aptly represents the soul of South African golf, and this week also being surrounded by the ongoing success of South African golf.

"I remember coming here in 1994 when Leopard Creek was still being built, and to see it now in all its glory and looking so spectacular is just amazing," said Els. Els forms part of multiple generations of success in the South African game and which will be on display in this week's Alfred Dunhill Championship.

The multiple Major winner and former world number one paved the way for the next generation of Louis Oosthuizen and Charl Schwartzel to add to South Africa's Major success. Most recently, Thriston Lawrence's victory in the Investec South African Open Championship has added to the country's next generation of success on the global stage. Christiaan Bezuidenhout, Dean Burmester, Erik van Rooyen, Dylan Frittelli and MJ Daffue are forging their own paths on the PGA Tour. The field this week includes the even younger stars of rookie Sunshine Tour professional Casey Jarvis and top GolfRSA amateurs Aldrich Potgieter – the 2022 Amateur champion –, Kyle de Beer, Yurav Premllal and Christiaan Maas. And Heinrich Bruiners and Dylan Naidoo are a source of inspiration for the Sunshine Tour's Papwa Sewgolum Class supporting historically disadvantaged professionals with their recent Sunshine Tour success.

"We have such a rich history in the game in this country and these young players are continuing that," said Els.

"The roots of the game are in place here with the amazing work done by GolfRSA, the South African Golf Development Board (SAGDB) and other foundations such as mine and those of other golfers. Golf is in a good state in South Africa and it's great to see."

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THE BIG PILOT.



IWC
SCHAFFHAUSEN



The inspiration behind Bezuidenhout's rise

It would seem obvious that the biggest growth in Christiaan Bezuidenhout's career since he won the Alfred Dunhill Championship in 2020 has come inside the ropes with his game. But there has been another more powerful reason for the form that has seen him become a multiple DP World Tour winner and one of the most exciting new faces on the PGA Tour.

"A year ago I became an ambassador for The Blank Center for Stuttering in America.

To witness the difference it makes every day in people's lives is amazing," said Bezuidenhout as he prepares to defend his title at Leopard Creek this week.

"I just share my experiences over the past few years and how I deal with stuttering on a daily basis, especially in my role in the limelight and in media interviews. In the last year that has been the biggest privilege for me. To see the difference it has made in people's lives has been amazing."

That increased level of comfort and confidence within himself has translated onto the golf course, and Bezuidenhout's rise and experience at the highest level of the game has revealed to him exactly what it takes to reach the highs he dreams of.

"The work ethic of the top golfers is incredible. Every single one of them works so hard. There is so much depth in golf at the moment, and you have to keep working hard on all aspects of your game to get to the top."





The brooding African skies over the majestic Leopard Creek clubhouse.



Cricket legend Jacques Kallis joined other sporting greats in the official pro-am.



Joburg Open winner Dan Bradbury (second from right) enjoying his first experience of Leopard Creek in the pro-am.



Former champion Branden Grace with his pro-am team.



All eyes are on a world-class field at Leopard Creek this week.



The official Welcome Function and Pro-Am Dinner celebrated the return of friends and golfers for the first time since 2020.





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ALFRED DUNHILL CHAMPIONSHIP - DRAWS FOR ROUNDS 1 AND 2

Round 1						Round 2					
Game	Time	Tee	Game	Time	Tee	Name				Country	
1	06:20	1	40	11:20	10	Gerard DU PLOOY	RSA				
						Rupert KAMINSKI	RSA				
						JJ SENEKAL	RSA				
2	06:30	1	41	11:30	10	Herman LOUBSER	RSA				
						Gudmundur KRISTJANSSON	ISL				
						Wynand DINGLE	RSA				
3	06:40	1	42	11:40	10	Gunner WIEBE	USA				
						Jbe KRUGER	RSA				
						Anthony MICHAEL	RSA				
4	06:50	1	43	11:50	10	Darius VAN DRIEL	NED				
						Todd CLEMENTS	ENG				
						Jacques BLAAUW	RSA				
5	07:00	1	44	12:00	10	Stephen FERREIRA	POR				
						Lukas NEMECZ	AUT				
						Hennie DU PLESSIS	RSA				
6	07:10	1	45	12:10	10	Aldrich POTGIETER (AM)	RSA				
						Dylan MOSTERT	RSA				
						Mateusz GRADECKI	POL				
7	07:20	1	46	12:20	10	Jovan REBULA	RSA				
						Laurie CANTER	ENG				
						Joost LUITEN	NED				
8	07:30	1	47	12:30	10	Philip ERIKSSON	SWE				
						Niklas Nørgaard MØLLER	DEN				
						Combrinck SMIT	RSA				
9	07:40	1	48	12:40	10	Keith HORNE	RSA				
						Jaco PRINSLOO	RSA				
						Santiago TARRIO	ESP				
10	07:50	1	49	12:50	10	Martin ROHWER	RSA				
						Lyle ROWE	RSA				
						Nick BACHEM	GER				
11	08:00	1	50	13:00	10	Tobias EDÉN	SWE				
						Kyle DE BEER (AM)	RSA				
						John MURPHY	IRL				
12	08:10	1	51	13:10	10	Estiaan CONRADIE	RSA				
						Heinrich BRUINERS	RSA				
						Neil SCHIETEKAT	RSA				
13	08:20	1	52	13:20	10	Luke JERLING	RSA				
						Nikhil RAMA	RSA				
						Jake REDMAN	RSA				
14	06:20	10	27	11:20	1	Jayden SCHAPER	RSA				
						Jeremy FREIBURGHaus	SUI				
						Keenan DAVIDSE	RSA				
15	06:30	10	28	11:30	1	Nathan KIMSEY	ENG				
						Dylan NAIDOO	RSA				
						Dale WHITNELL	ENG				
16	06:40	10	29	11:40	1	George COETZEE	RSA				
						Ockie STRYDOM	RSA				
						Dan BRADBURY	ENG				
17	06:50	10	30	11:50	1	Branden GRACE	RSA				
						Christiaan BEZUIDENHOUT	RSA				
						Eddie PEPPERELL	ENG				
18	07:00	10	31	12:00	1	Ernie ELS	RSA				
						Christian MAAS (AM)	RSA				
						Edoardo MOLINARI	ITA				
19	07:10	10	32	12:10	1	Oliver BEKKER	RSA				
						Antoine ROZNER	FRA				
						Justin WALTERS	RSA				
20	07:20	10	33	12:20	1	Jorge CAMPILLO	ESP				
						Jens FAHRBRING	SWE				
						Alexander KNAPPE	GER				
21	07:30	10	34	12:30	1	Ryo HISATSUNE	JPN				
						Ross FISHER	ENG				
						Scott JAMIESON	SCO				
22	07:40	10	35	12:40	1	Anton KARLSSON	SWE				
						Richard STERNE	RSA				
						Chase HANNA	USA				
23	07:50	10	36	12:50	1	Grant FORREST	SCO				
						Brandon STONE	RSA				
						Daniel BROWN	ENG				
24	08:00	10	37	13:00	1	Harvey YOUNG (AM)	AUS				
						Jaco AHLERS	RSA				
						Gary HURLEY	IRL				
25	08:10	10	38	13:10	1	Robin SCIOT-SIEGRIST	FRA				
						Matthew SPACEY	RSA				
						Henning DU PLOOY	RSA				
26	08:20	10	39	13:20	1	Kristian Krogh JOHANNESSEN	NOR				
						Joshua LEE	USA				
						Toto THIMBA JNR	RSA				

Round 1						Round 2					
Game	Time	Tee	Game	Time	Tee	Name				Country	
27	11:20	1	14	06:20	10	Casey JARVIS	RSA				
						Yurav PREMLALL (AM)	RSA				
						Freddy SCHOTT	GER				
28	11:30	1	15	06:30	10	MJ DAFFUE	RSA				
						Marcus ARMITAGE	ENG				
						James Hart DU PREEZ	RSA				
29	11:40	1	16	06:40	10	Erik VAN ROOYEN	RSA				
						Clément SORDET	FRA				
						Daniel VAN TONDER	RSA				
30	11:50	1	17	06:50	10	Charl SCHWARTZEL	RSA				
						Sean CROCKER	USA				
						Dean BURMESTER	RSA				
31	12:00	1	18	07:00	10	Thriston LAWRENCE	RSA				
						Adrian OTAEGUI	ESP				
						Louis OOSTHUIZEN	RSA				
32	12:10	1	19	07:10	10	Zander LOMBARD	RSA				
						Wilco NIENABER	RSA				
						Sami VÄLIMÄKI	FIN				
33	12:20	1	20	07:20	10	JC RITCHIE	RSA				
						Matthieu PAVON	FRA				
						Ashun WU	CHN				
34	12:30	1	21	07:30	10	Shaun NORRIS	RSA				
						Marcel SIEM	GER				
						Matthew SOUTHGATE	ENG				
35	12:40	1	22	07:40	10	Scott VINCENT	ZIM				
						Alejandro CANIZARES	ESP				
						Albert VENTER	RSA				
36	12:50	1	23	07:50	10	Darren FICHARDT	RSA				
						Wil BESSELING	NED				
						James MORRISON	ENG				
37	13:00	1	24	08:00	10	Louis DE JAGER	RSA				
						Simon FORSSTRÖM	SWE				
						Jean HUGO	RSA				
38	13:10	1	25	08:10	10	Ruan KORB	RSA				
						Jacquin HESS	RSA				
						Divan VAN DEN HEEVER	RSA				
39	13:20	1	26	08:20	10	Joël STALTER	FRA				
						Makhetha MAZIBUKO	RSA				
						Adam BREEN	RSA				
40	11:20	10	1	06:20	1	Thabang SIMON	RSA				
						Rourke VAN DER SPUY	RSA				
						Dylan FRITTELLI	RSA				
41	11:30	10	2	06:30	1	Michael G PALMER	RSA				
						David RAVETTO	FRA				
						MJ VILJOEN	RSA				
42	11:40	10	3	06:40	1	Louis ALBERTSE	RSA				
						Sam HUTSBY	ENG				
						Angel HIDALGO	ESP				
43	11:50	10	4	06:50	1	Pedro FIGUEIREDO	POR				
						Jeong weon KO	FRA				
						Christoffer BRING	DEN				
44	12:00	10	5	07:00	1	Daan HUIZING	NED				
						Bryce EASTON	RSA				
						Tom MCKIBBIN	NIR				
45	12:10	10	6	07:10	1	Joachim B HANSEN	DEN				
						CJ DU PLESSIS	RSA				
						Luke BROWN	RSA				
46	12:20	10	7	07:20	1	Aaron COCKERILL	CAN				
						Jens DANTORP	SWE				
						Jaco VAN ZYL	RSA				
47	12:30	10	8	07:30	1	Marc WARREN	SCO				
						Merrick BREMNER	RSA				
						Thomas AIKEN	RSA				
48	12:40	10	9	07:40	1	Matthew BALDWIN	ENG				
						Tristen STRYDOM	RSA				
						Deon GERMISHUYS	RSA				
49	12:50	10	10	07:50	1	Martin SIMONSEN	DEN				
						John AXELSEN	DEN				
						Alex HAINDL	RSA				
50	13:00	10	11	08:00	1	Pieter MOOLMAN	RSA				
						Jean-Paul STRYDOM	RSA				
						Alejandro DEL REY	ESP				
51	13:10	10	12	08:10	1	Gary STAL	FRA				
						Brooklin BAILEY	USA				
						Ruan CONRADIE	RSA				
52	13:20	10	13	08:20	1	Jastice MASHEGO	RSA				
						Mikael LINDBERG	SWE				
						Keagan THOMAS	RSA				

Pros expecting a tough test



Charl Schwartzel.



Laurie Canter.



Leopard Creek is primed to provide another stern test for the field in this week’s Alfred Dunhill Championship, with many of the leading professionals already describing the course as “fast” and “tough” after their practice rounds. “It plays a lot faster now and the new grass makes it a lot tougher. The course has obviously changed a lot from the one I had success on,” said Charl Schwartzel, who is a record four-time winner of the Alfred Dunhill Championship and who also has four runner-up finishes in the tournament, holds the record for the biggest margin of victory with his 12-stroke triumph in 2012, and the lowest tournament total of 24 under par that same year. “For me this remains one of the best laid out golf courses you’ll find anywhere in the world. And the location obviously makes it so unique as well,” he said. PGA Tour campaigner Erik van Rooyen was also quick to notice a few changes for this year’s tournament. “The rough has been mowed and there are run-offs around the greens so I think it will play a little different this year. But what I love about this course is there isn’t one hole that’s similar. All the holes have something a little special. For my game, I feel that if you get off the tee well you’ll be just fine around here.” Laurie Canter is also expecting a tough test this week. “Since they’ve changed the grass and made a few other changes it’s become a tough test. They can make it as tough as they want to make it now. But this is like nothing else in the game. There’s nothing like this golf course.” And Wilco Nienaber was loathe to single out any particular hole as the toughest. “The whole golf course is one where you need to keep focus because it’s easy to make a small mistake that ends in a big number. The whole golf course is a focus golf course.”

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