

Leopard Creek Times

Alfred Dunhill Championship Daily News



ROUND 4, SUNDAY 10 DECEMBER, 2023



Louis Oosthuizen



Charl Schwartzel

Major friends chasing glory at Leopard Creek

It's a story that goes back to their junior golf days together and it's one that will continue on Sunday as co-leaders Louis Oosthuizen and Charl Schwartzel will battle it out for the Alfred Dunhill Championship title at Leopard Creek.

The two South Africans and fellow Major champions came through Saturday's third round tied for the lead on 15 under par, five strokes clear of their nearest challengers Christiaan Bezuidenhout and Andy Sullivan. Oosthuizen secured his place at the top of the leaderboard with a magnificent joint course record 63, while an injury-free Schwartzel showed exactly why he so loves this course with his round of 65. And now Schwartzel, the winner of four Alfred Dunhill Championship titles and with a further four runners-up finishes here, and Oosthuizen, who has twice finished runner-up in this championship, will do what they've done since their early amateur days and battle each other for a title they both desperately want.

"We've been friends for a long time and we've played this game for a long time. I don't think we'll treat it any other way than just trying our best and let the outcome be what it will," said Schwartzel. Oosthuizen certainly wants to add his name to a trophy that is close to any South African golfer's heart. "It would mean a lot. It's the one event I've really wanted on my CV and I've come close a few times. I think I've got a good shot at it now," he said. Both Oosthuizen and Schwartzel were certainly in incredible form on Saturday.

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Andy Sullivan



Christiaan Bezuidenhout



Oosthuizen surged through the field with a round of seven birdies and an eagle, while Schwartzel produced a strong back nine in which he made four birdies and an eagle over his final seven holes.

“You know, this golf course can bite you and I’ve been on the bad side of this course a few times. There are certain holes where you can’t back down and you just need to make a good swing – I stuck with that today and didn’t back off on tough shots. It was pretty cool to tie the course record. The golf course is in such good shape that you feel like you have to play well because it’s such a beautiful setting,” said Oosthuizen.

Schwartzel had a similar approach to not fear certain shots on this course.

“Everything felt good and my golf swing was back to how I remember it. I had total control of the golf ball and that was fun.”

Behind them, Bezuidenhout remains a very real threat as well having won this title in 2020 and now lining up a shot at a second triumph here following his third round of 68.

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- Louis Oosthuizen



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Charl Schwartzel

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- Charl Schwartzel



Louis Oosthuizen

ALFRED DUNHILL CHAMPIONSHIP
- DRAW FOR ROUND 4
Groups starting off the 1st tee

Game	Time	Tee	Name	Country	Attachment	R1	R2	R3	R4	Agg	Par
1	07:53	1	Keenan DAVIDSE	RSA	Stellenbosch GC	73	66	73	212	-4	
			Aaron COCKERILL	CAN	The Els Club Dubai	69	72	71	212	-4	
2	08:02	1	Espen KOFSTAD	NOR	Oslo GC	69	72	71	212	-4	
			Matthis BESARD	BEL	Waregem GC	70	71	71	212	-4	
3	08:11	1	Antoine ROZNER	FRA	RCF la Boulie	71	71	70	212	-4	
			Matthew BALDWIN	ENG	The Royal Birkdale GC	74	68	70	212	-4	
			Thriston LAWRENCE	RSA	Pretoria CC	73	69	70	212	-4	
4	08:22	1	Samuel JONES	NZL	Manaia GC	67	75	70	212	-4	
			Dale WHITNELL	ENG	Crondon Park	71	69	71	211	-5	
			Matthias SCHWAB	AUT	Schladming GC	70	71	70	211	-5	
5	08:33	1	Dylan NAIDOO	RSA	The Club at Steyn City	70	71	70	211	-5	
			Ugo COUSSAUD	FRA	Golf de Arcangues	68	74	69	211	-5	
			Darius VAN DRIEL	NED		70	72	69	211	-5	
6	08:44	1	Will ENEFER	ENG	Trinifold Sports	72	71	68	211	-5	
			Paul WARING	ENG	Bromborough GC	68	68	74	210	-6	
			Erik VAN ROOYEN	RSA		68	70	72	210	-6	
7	08:55	1	Renato PARATORE	ITA		69	70	71	210	-6	
			JC RITCHIE	RSA	Serengeti Estates	73	67	70	210	-6	
			Andrea PAVAN	ITA	TPC Craig Ranch	70	70	70	210	-6	
8	09:06	1	Pieter MOOLMAN	RSA	Benoni Lake GC	70	72	68	210	-6	
			Sam BAIRSTOW	ENG	Hallowes GC	71	66	72	209	-7	
			Luca FILIPPI	RSA	Millerton GC	68	70	71	209	-7	
9	09:17	1	Christiaan MAAS (AM)	RSA	Pretoria CC	67	73	69	209	-7	
			Kristian Krogh JOHANNESSEN	NOR	Drammen GK	70	72	67	209	-7	
			Alejandro DEL REY	ESP	RCG La Moraleja	72	71	66	209	-7	
10	09:28	1	Casey JARVIS	RSA	State Mines CC	67	67	74	208	-8	
			Robin WILLIAMS	RSA	Peterborough Milton GC	65	71	72	208	-8	
			Jayden SCHAPER	RSA	Ebortse Golf Estate	66	72	70	208	-8	
11	09:39	1	Wynand DINGLE	RSA	Silver Lakes CC	70	68	70	208	-8	
			Matti SCHMID	GER	GC Herzogenaurach	72	69	67	208	-8	
			Johannes VEERMAN	USA		70	71	67	208	-8	
12	09:50	1	Marco PENGE	ENG	The Caversham	69	66	72	207	-9	
			Ashun WU	CHN		68	70	69	207	-9	
			Andy SULLIVAN	ENG	Stratford-on-Avon GC	68	69	69	206	-10	
13	10:01	1	Christiaan BEZUIDENHOUT	RSA	Serengeti Wildlife & Golf Estate	68	70	68	206	-10	
			Charl SCHWARTZEL	RSA	Maccaulei GC	68	68	65	201	-15	
			Louis OOSTHUIZEN	RSA	Stinger GC	70	68	63	201	-15	

Groups starting off the 10th tee

Game	Time	Tee	Name	Country	Attachment	R1	R2	R3	R4	Agg	Par
14	07:53	10	Manuel ELVIRA	ESP	R.S.H.E. Club de Campo	66	71	75	212	-4	
			Christo LAMPRECHT (AM)	RSA		67	69	76	212	-4	
			Anthony MICHAEL	RSA	Randpark GC	71	72	70	213	-3	
15	08:04	10	Jaco PRINSLOO	RSA	Serengeti Golf & Wildlife Estate	67	76	70	213	-3	
			Adrien SADDIER	FRA	Esery GC	68	75	70	213	-3	
			Thomas AIKEN	RSA	The Abaco Club	71	72	70	213	-3	
16	08:15	10	Dylan FRITTELLI	RSA	UT GC	72	71	71	214	-2	
			Alexander LEVY	FRA		71	72	71	214	-2	
			Scott JAMIESON	SCO		67	76	71	214	-2	
17	08:26	10	James MORRISON	ENG	St Georges Hill	69	73	72	214	-2	
			Jaco VAN ZYL	RSA	Benoni CC	68	74	72	214	-2	
			Joakim LAGERGREN	SWE		68	71	75	214	-2	
18	08:37	10	Jean HUGO	RSA	The Els Club, Cooperleaf	72	71	72	215	-1	
			Edoardo MOLINARI	ITA	Edoardo Molinari Golf Academy	70	73	72	215	-1	
			Neil SCHIETEKAT	RSA	Royal Jhb. & Kensington GC	72	69	74	215	-1	
19	08:48	10	Louis DE JAGER	RSA	VEA Group	70	69	76	215	-1	
			Daniel VAN TONDER	RSA	Serengeti Golf & Wildlife Estate	72	71	73	216	PAR	
			Mike LORENZO-VERA	FRA	Golf International du Cap d'Agde	74	69	73	216	PAR	
20	08:59	10	Nikhil RAMA	RSA	Bryanston CC	71	71	74	216	PAR	
			Wilco NIENABER	RSA	Costaterra G&OC	72	70	74	216	PAR	
			Søren KJELDSEN	DEN	The Scandinavian	71	71	74	216	PAR	
21	09:10	10	Francesco LAPORTA	ITA	San Domenico Golf	70	71	75	216	PAR	
			Jamie DONALDSON	WAL		71	70	75	216	PAR	
			Joshua BERRY	ENG	Doncaster GC	70	73	74	217	1	
22	09:21	10	Jeff WINTHER	DEN		74	68	75	217	1	
			Dean BURMESTER	RSA	Stinger GC	69	73	75	217	1	
			Kyle BARKER	RSA	Serengeti Golf & Wildlife Estate	70	67	80	217	1	
23	09:32	10	Chase HANNA	USA	Wolf Creek GC	72	71	75	218	2	
			Darren FICHARDT	RSA	Centurion CC	69	73	76	218	2	
			Zander LOMBARD	RSA	Pearl Valley GC	73	70	76	219	3	
24	09:43	10	Andrew JOHNSTON	ENG		69	72	78	219	3	
			Doug MCGUIGAN	SCO	Fancourt G&CC	73	70	78	221	5	
			Malcolm MITCHELL	RSA	Kloof CC	69	72	81	222	6	



The stage is set and the magnificent 13th awaits for the final day.



Just a normal day at the office.



Erik van Rooyen and his caddie comparing notes.



No visit here is complete without a sighting of one of these majestic animals.



L'Ormarins

FONDÉE

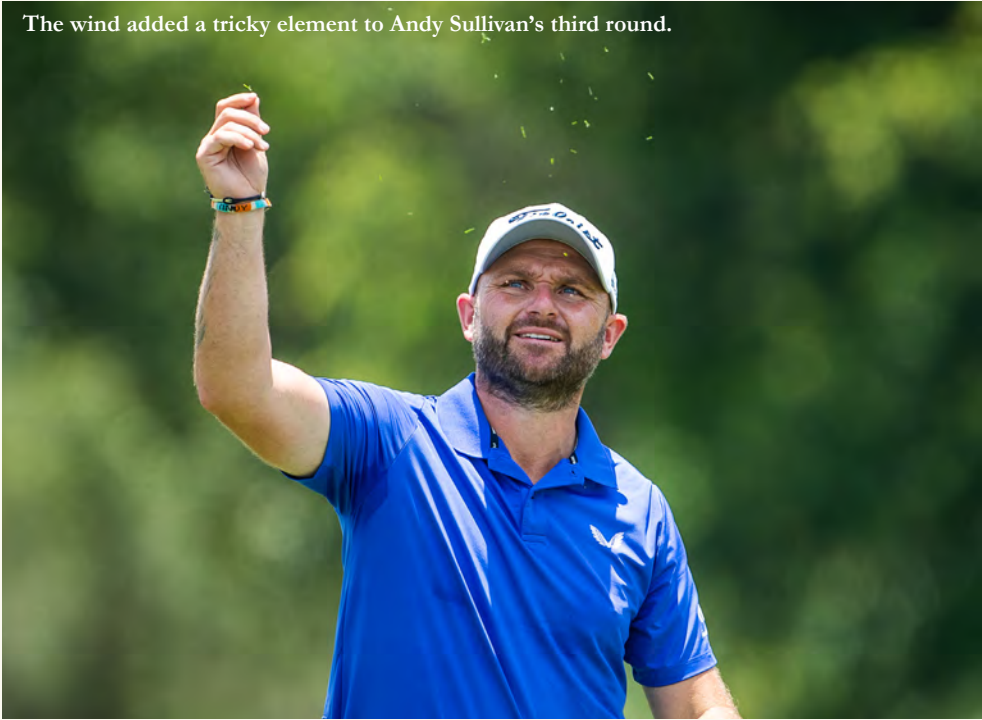


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Nature in action.



The wind added a tricky element to Andy Sullivan's third round.



The magnificent expanse of the Crocodile River bordering the course.



The golfers aren't the only ones competing for a prize.



Marco Penge will be hoping for a strong finish to start his new season on the right note.



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Bezuidenhout, Sullivan ready to chase down leaders



Christiaan Bezuidenhout



Andy Sullivan

An advertisement for Momentum. It features a man in a grey blazer and dark trousers running up a set of concrete stairs. The background is a light grey wall with circular patterns. The text 'momentum' is in white on a red background, with the tagline 'Here for your journey to success' below it. A large white circle is positioned over the man's head. The text 'SUCCESS IS MOTION' is written in large, white, stylized letters across the bottom. The website 'momentum.co.za' is at the bottom right.

momentum
Here for your journey to success

SUCCESS IS MOTION

momentum.co.za

They may be five shots off the lead going into the final round, but both Christiaan Bezuidenhout and Andy Sullivan are more than capable of chasing down the leading duo of Louis Oosthuizen and Charl Schwartzel.

Bezuidenhout won this title in 2020 and is looking to become only the third player in Alfred Dunhill Championship history to win it more than once. His deep love for the golf course and surrounding bush could see him make a charge today.

“Hopefully I can put two good nines together and make a run at them. It’s an exciting leaderboard with Louis and Charl at the top and I’m not too far behind. I’ll have to play some good golf to catch Louis in particular. He’s obviously playing well and nine under par is a great score on this golf course. But I’ll try and make as many birdies as I can early on and hope for the best,” said Bezuidenhout.

And Sullivan’s record in South Africa makes him a threat as well. The Englishman won the Investec South African Open and Joburg Open in 2015. “Maybe I should take out South African citizenship,” he joked.

“I think I’ve stayed patient out there and taken my chances. Obviously Louis has gone absolutely crazy which is no surprise as he’s a quality player. It would be great for me to win in South Africa again. It’s been a while. I’m obviously trying to chase down a world-class player like Louis, but I’ll just go out there and do what I do and hopefully I’m somewhere near it with the last few holes to go.”

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- Andy Sullivan



Charl Schwartzel



Louis Oosthuizen

The birth of a golf friendship

In a game which Gary Player once described as a “friend-making machine”, Louis Oosthuizen and Charl Schwartzel have emerged as two of the greatest examples of this. It was way back in 1996 that the two first met each other in the SA Boys Championship at Randpark Golf Club. Oosthuizen was 14 and Schwartzel was 12. Oosthuizen and his father drove from their farm in Albertinia near Mossel Bay to the tournament, with their car breaking down a few times on the way. “My dad was worried about the big Johannesburg city traffic so he got us to the club way too early, well before seven o’clock in the morning,” recalls Oosthuizen. Schwartzel and his father had arrived and he was set to tee off at 7am. When Schwartzel’s playing partner failed to turn up, Oosthuizen was told to join that tee time. Schwartzel remembers seeing Oosthuizen running to the tee box waving his arms and shouting “Hier’s ek! Hier’s ek!”, and that’s how one of the great friendships in golf began. It’s a friendship that has spanned Major victories and their chase to join the greats of South African golf. Today at Leopard Creek, that friendly rivalry will continue.

G/FORE

ADD COLOUR TO YOUR GAME

A full-body photograph of a man with dark hair, looking off to the side. He is wearing a tan-colored, quilted jacket with a high collar and a zipper. Underneath, he has a light blue button-down shirt and a grey turtleneck. He is also wearing grey trousers. He is leaning his right arm on a dark wooden surface. The background is a solid dark grey.

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