Sunday, April 28, 2024

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On the tee with Trevor

Memorable 112th SA Amateur victory for Nienaber

Courtesy of Golf RSA



The South African flag was raised at the **South African Amateur Championship** after South Africa's top ranked **Wilco Nienaber** won the country's most coveted amateur title.

In a gripping final round that went the distance at King David Mowbray Golf Club, the world number 59 was ruthlessly tested by 16-year-old **Jordan Duminy** in the 36-hole final.

The **2018 Amateur Championship Qualifier winner** was undoubtedly the favourite going into the final day, but unheralded Duminy showed maturity beyond his years to knock out two top Irish golfers to reach the final.

On the back foot for most of the final, an uncharacteristic fist pump after he holed a par-putt at the 36th hole to beat Duminy 1-up, signalled Nienaber's joy and relief at achieving a lifelong dream.

"It is such an honour for me to lift this trophy," he said.

"At the start of the week I said that I rated this **championship** higher than the runner-up finish in the Brabazon
Trophy or winning the qualifier at the Amateur Championship last year. It's been a dream for many years and I
am overjoyed that I finally achieved it.

"There was little to separate the two players after their first tee shots.

Duminy gave Nienaber a three-foot putt at the first, but got his first inkling of playing in the really **big leagues** after he lagged his first putt from the front of the green to three feet and had to putt to halve the hole in birdies.

At the next hole, Duminy leaked his tee shot left and Nienaber went up for the first – and only – when the Mossel Bay youngster paid the price with a bogey.

Nienaber dropped a shot at four, but recovered with a **birdie** at five to stay 1-up, but Duminy levelled the game with a gain of his own at the par five sixth. He went 1-up at seven when the Free State golfer surrendered another shot.

"I definitely didn't bring my A-game to the final and it was a see-saw battle between us, with him going up and me trying to square. Jordan was unbelievable solid. He drove it well and his short-game was **outstanding**. He holed putts from everywhere and he made very few mistakes."

After a third bogey at seven, **Nienaber** used his booming drive at the par five ninth and squared the match with

an eagle. Two holes later, Duminy had the advantage again after a birdie at the 12th and he went 2-up with an eagle of his own at the par five 14th.

"I hit a good shot into 16 and boxed the birdie putt, and at 17, I made another birdie putt after Jordan overshot the green. We halved the **18th in pars** to start the last 18 holes all square. I was streaky with the putter and hit some errant tee shots. He was really solid, though. Credit to the little guy; he was in the match and it would take some hard work to beat him."

Duminy birdied the first and the fourth to move 2-up through 24 holes.

The **Louis Oosthuizen**, Junior Golf Academy member, kept the lead until Nienaber clawed a shot back with a birdie at 25th, but was still 1-up through the turn after Nienaber cancelled a bogey at the short eighth (26th) with a birdie at the 27th hole.

"I made birdie at 11 (28) to square; he birdied 13 (31) to go 1-up again," Nienaber said. "That was the story of the day. When I saw his drive finish short at 17 (35), I went for the green. I hit 4-iron front edge, lagged the **eagle putt** give and birdied to square the match. It was now or never."

Duminy had a birdie chance from 10 foot, but his putt missed the mark.

"It may have looked as if I didn't break a sweat, but my heart was racing a few times, especially when I gave a hole away coming down the home stretch," Nienaber said after he closed out the victory with a par at the last.

"I hit it into the trees left and Jordan was in the trees right. We both had tough shots to the green with the flag on the left near the water. I managed to work it on the green. Jordan was in the really thick stuff and he caught a flier that went straight and finished under a cart. He had to chip in and he missed his par putt. I gave that last putt everything I had.

"Jordan never gave an inch. He never gave me a chance to pounce, but my own game didn't allow for it to happen either. I really had to **work for this one**. I'm absolutely ecstatic."

In addition to the amateur world golf ranking points he earned with this victory, Nienaber will get another stab at the **Freddie Tait Trophy** with a start in the South African Open Championship later this year.

But first, he has the **South African Stroke Play Championship** at De Zalze Golf Club next week on his mind. "I came so close last year, going five-under in the final round, but I just couldn't catch Oliver Gilberg. I ended up finishing third, so I will enjoy this for a bit and switch my focus to the SA Stroke Play. More than anything, I would love to win the double."

At the time of preparing this newsletter, **Wilco is in 2nd place**, with roughly 9 holes to go and **Therion Nel**, also member of the Bloemfontein Golf Club, is tied **17th place**, with 9 holes to go.



For the latest on the Bloemfontein Golf Club tune in every Tuesday after 9am.



Upcoming events

- Friday, the 1st of March is the OFM/ Shoprite Chip for Charity
- Saturday, the 2nd of March is The Blair Group of Companies Monthly Medal.
- **Wednesday, the 6th of March**, is a BBS, we have the Medics joining us, and the competition is co-sponsored by The Golfers Club.
 - Friday, the 8th of March, is the Big Fat Greek golf day.
 - Saturday, the 9th of March, is a B.B.B.B sponsored by K.W.V
 - The 2019 Newton Club Champs will be played over the weekend of the 16th and 17th of March
- The 2019 Captains Cup has been scheduled for **Thursday the 25th, Friday the 26th and Saturday the 27th of July**!









What about a mini holiday away?



Take it to the tee box in style















Sundays are for golf!



Friday Club draw

Marie du Toit missed out on the roll-over draw. The Stella Artois beers were won by **Alec Levin**.

The next draw will take place today, on the 1st of March 2019. The draw will be worth R 7 700.



Membership enquiries

Through these tough economical times, we at the Bloemfontein Golf Club have started implementing affordable ways of paying your **annual membership fees**. We have a monthly debit order facility that has been very successful.

Please give either Lodia or Carla a call at **051 447 0571**, who will assist you in renewing your membership, or to become a new member.

Happy birthday

Happy birthday to the following members!

1 March	Marleze van Wyk	6 March	Wynand Hurter
	Johan Kemp		Pieter Schoeman
2 March	Willem du Preez		Johann Britz
			Michelle Britz
		7 March	John Barry Fichardt



Saturday, the 23rd of February

IPS sponsored by NTT Nissan



1st - Rudi Besselaar with 42 pts

2nd - Pierre Joubert with 40 pts (winning the c/o)

3rd - Reg Krohn with 40 pts

4th - Rhyno Smith with 38 pts

5th - Pieter du Plessis with 36 pts (winning the c/o)

6th - Pieter Myburgh with 36 pts

Wednesday, the 27th of February

First round of The Race to Sun City, sponsored by Lindsay Saker and The Windmill Casino

Feel the thrill

Two steps to the ride of your life

Generating longer distance from the tee with a perfect strike is made a lot easier if you're playing with two components fitted for your tee shot.

The shaft flex and the way the shaft performs needs to match both your clubhead speed and how you "load" the shaft. Do you have an even tempo or do you start back aggressively?



The clubhead design needs to work with your swing speed and strike pattern to transfer your clubhead speed into the maximum ball speed on the best trajectory with the optimum spin rate.

Hitting zone size

Center of Gravity location

on and location



Loft









CoG location has a much greater impact on launch angle and spin rate than golfers imagine.

This is an obvious search for golfers. Some drivers are designed to better accommodate needs to take into account the certain strike patterns.

Loft is again an obvious selection criteria, but it's a selection that shaft and CoG location.

We're delivering thrills

Creating the perfect match of ball speed, launch angle, and spin rate, maximises the distance you'll get off the $tee.\,A\,change\,of\,just\,1^{\circ}\,and\,500rpm\,can\,unlock\,20\,metres.\,How\,much\,potential\,can\,we\,unlock\,for\,you?\,Act\,now.$

Effortless distance



You can almost "feel" the distance when hitting the new Srixon 6th generation Z-STAR golfball. If you want to hit it further, we can help.

Speak to us >

How good could you be?

Play together. Practice together.

Life needs more than work. Experts now believe that loneliness reduces your life span, mental agility, earning power, and ability to hit #7 irons closer. OK, maybe we added the last one, but not the rest. Those same experts also recommend exercise, but we'd also offer additional advice.







What are you up for now?

Try and walk to the bar after an hour on that saddle!

Golf is great exercise. Even hitting 50 – 70 shots practicing burns calories. Add a focus to that practice, and you gain the reward of accomplishment; a new skill acquired (with payback out on the golf course). And bring friends to practice. It's fun; it's feedback, it's a "recovery drink" in the bar afterward.



You need someone to share a drink with

Getting friends to practice, provides the opportunity for fun competition, feedback, and a shared experience afterward. We'd be happy to help make your sessions as productive as possible with some extra advice and feedback.





To ensure delivery, please add bloemgolf@greensidegolfer.retailtribenews.com to your contacts.

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