

# COLUMN

**Compleat Golfer's playing editor is South Africa's Louis Oosthuizen. Apart from providing regular instruction, his monthly column takes you into his world**

## Major Moments

**It's hard to believe that the four Majors are already a thing of the past for 2016, but they will be remembered for a long time - especially by first-time winners Danny Willett, Dustin Johnson, Hendrik Stenson and Jimmy Walker.**

The Masters presented a different challenge. Strong, gusting winds combined with the slick Augusta greens made for a huge challenge and required patience. I started with a 72 and followed with a 77 to make the cut. On Saturday my 71 featured some of the best golf I played and was one of only two rounds under par on the day. Another 71 on Sunday placed me tied 15th.

Oakmond CC hosted the US Open and what a golf course! Narrow fairways, thick rough and very, very quick greens made for a true test in controlling the ball from different lies in the rough and on the fairways. Sometimes you had to aim 20 or even 30 feet away from the pin to get the ball remotely close to it. Rounds of 75, 65, 74 and 73 saw me tied 23rd.

Then it was time for my favourite Major - The Open Championship - at Royal Troon. I was well placed after my first-round 71. However, I made the worst decision in changing shafts in my driver and was hammered with crosswinds. I had no control

with my driver. I thought it was going to be a wet day so changed to a softer shaft. Man, did I get that wrong. Instead it was a howling crosswind the whole day. But what a show Sunday's final round delivered!

I was feeling good for The PGA Championship at Baltusrol GC in New Jersey. Thursday was hot and humid and the staff had to irrigate the greens in between groups to stop them from burning. At Baltusrol, you just hang in and go for pars on the first nine, and then try to fire some birdies on the second nine. I started badly being two over par after three, but recovered for a two-under 68.

The second round was played in cool conditions.

Some of the greens were burnt from the previous day and they were also slower. Come Saturday it was raining, with a severe weather warning. We were called off the course; I had completed seven holes and then it was the long wait. Only a few players had completed their third rounds and most of us had to play between 30 and 36 holes on Sunday.

The weather again played its part with showers during the morning before clearing up in the afternoon. This made for soft conditions and we even played preferred lies on Sunday. I followed my 68 with two rounds of 70 and another 68 to finish tied 22nd on a score of four under par. ☺



### LINING UP A PUTT

On a pretty straight putt, inside edge, right edge, not outside the hole, anything inside eight feet, I look at the hole when I putt, not the ball. For something longer or trickier, I take my line and get into the position where I want to be before I putt. Then, line up, line up, and just before I putt I'll look at the hole and I'll make the stroke. I have more of a feel of it when I see the highest

point where the ball should be and that's my starting point. If it's a really slow putt I'll look a little beyond the hole to get my pace right. If it's a really fast putt I'll 'move the hole' a bit closer to me, so that the pace of the putt is spot on. Then just take a spot that you see your ball, at the highest point of the line, focus on that and try to make a good pace.