



IN HONOUR OF
GARY PLAYER

daily NEWS

ROUND 2 | FRIDAY 06.12.2024

Homa starts strong in defence of Nedbank Golf Challenge



Max Homa began the defence of his Nedbank Golf Challenge title in the same way he ended it last year – at the top of the leaderboard. The six-time PGA Tour champion birdied his first three holes and opened with a six-under-par 66 to lead the first round by a single stroke over South Africa's Ockie Strydom. Homa did drop two shots on the back nine, but then finished strong with birdies at 17 and 18 to give him the confidence that what he's been working on with his swing combined with his love for this tournament is coming together very nicely this week.

"I haven't played a tournament in a while and I've been working on a lot of new things so it felt really good to come out and birdie the first three holes. I felt really comfortable with the golf swing. As far as first rounds defending my title, it's definitely one I'll remember," said Homa.

A day of intense heat and the traditionally fickle winds on this golf course tested the 66-man field on day one.

"It was really tricky with the wind. It threw us for a bit of a loop but I thought I did a really good job of adjusting to it. Overall I did a good job

of playing within myself and not hitting shots I don't really love to hit. You come to a golf course like this where you cannot fake it off the tee. You have to hit good tee shots here.

"I was a little sloppy on the back nine but I still liked the way I was swinging it. I'm very happy with the last two holes because those are two difficult holes so to make birdie there was great. There's a long way to go but it's really cool to see some more good golf here." Behind him, Strydom feels equally comfortable on a course he's played countless rounds of golf on in Sunshine Tour events here.

"It's good to be back home. I love it here. I know the golf course and it's looking great. This is Africa's Major. All the South Africans dream of playing here, so just to be here is something special." Strydom was particularly impressive on the par fives, highlighted by his eagle on the 14th.

"You have to score on the par fives here. The par fours and par threes are tricky, so to be minus four on the par fives is decent. But overall, I've been struggling with injuries so to be pain free and out there competing again is very pleasant."



Ockie Strydom
Credit: Getty

Strydom trying to 'hook' a win while son hopes to hook a fish

Ockie Strydom may well be a two-time DP World Tour champion and multiple Sunshine Tour winner, but when it comes to his son's sport of choice, he's rather interested with what's in the water hazards on a golf course.

"It's nice to have my family here. My wife had to go back to Johannesburg to drop off my son, Tiaan, who is going to the South African National Championships for fishing. He got his Mpumalanga provincial colours for fishing, and is now off to the SA Champs, which start on Monday," said Strydom.

And the proud dad will be there to support his 17-year-old son.

"They start on Monday so I'm actually leaving Sun City on Monday morning to go and support him. Then I'll come back Wednesday night, and drive straight through on Thursday morning to go and play the first round of the Alfred Dunhill Championship at Leopard Creek."



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Africa's creativity decorates 'Africa's Major'

The Nedbank Golf Challenge has once again been given a touch of cultural creativity with the Yarn Bombing art that can be seen decorating various areas around the Gary Player Country Club.

Yarn Bombing involves taking trees and objects around the golf course and turning them into art by covering them in knitted or crocheted material. This year it's not just the trees that are being decorated, but also beautiful examples of wire art animals that were created specifically for this year's tournament.

"For us to be involved with the Nedbank Golf Challenge has changed our lives," says Mmapula Levukuvu, the Yarn Bombing Project Manager who leads a group of women from Mahobieskraal, working under Entle Media, who are dedicated to "Weaving joy, stitch by stitch".

"This initiative with the Nedbank Golf Challenge has allowed us to put food on our tables. We can now make money with our hands, and it means a lot for the women involved. For me personally, this project has changed my life. I was given a home in 2019, but I've been able to build an extra three rooms onto my house thanks to the money we have been able to make through our association with the Nedbank Golf Challenge. So God bless the NGC."

The philosophy behind Yarn Bombing is about fostering a sense of connection within the community and allowing this to express itself in the beauty of everyday spaces, such as trees on a golf course.

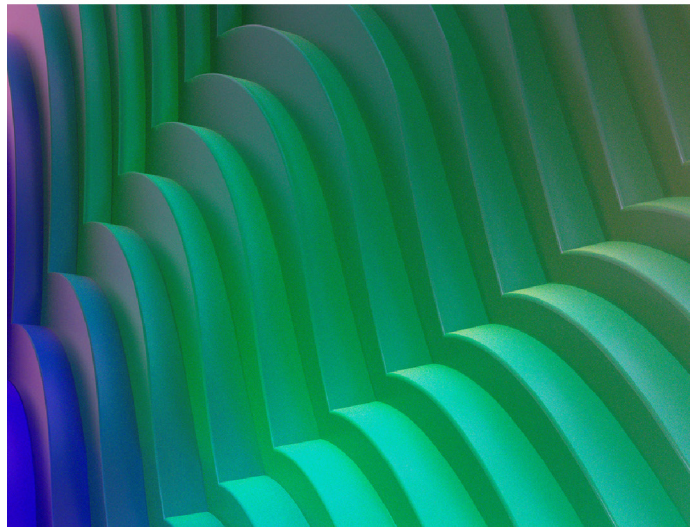
This year, about 700 balls of wool have been used in the Yarn Bombing initiative. And Levukuvu has decided on a specific colour scheme for this year's tournament.

"This year we decided to use only the three colours of white, black and grey. My aim is to use this to bring the nation together. We are white and black, and the grey brings us all together."

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China's 20-year-old star Wenyi Ding meeting Gary Player.



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Gary Player shaking hands with Erik van Rooyen.



Sunshine Tour Commissioner Thomas Abt with Ken Payet, Nedbank Golf Challenge Tournament Director.



Children at the much anticipated annual Christmas function.



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*According to a report conducted by Tariffica on the Mobile Category 2023. T8 & C1 apply. E80E.

DRAW FOR ROUND 2 - FRIDAY

| Time | Tee | Name | Country | Attachment | R1 |
|-------|-----|-------------------------|---------|----------------------------------|----|
| 09:21 | 1 | Paul WARING | ENG | Jumeirah Golf Estates | 72 |
| | | Corey CONNERS | CAN | The Bears Club | 72 |
| | | Simon FORSSTRÖM | SWE | Gamebook | 72 |
| 09:32 | 1 | Yuto KATSURAGAWA | JPN | | 72 |
| | | Daniel HILLIER | NZL | Royal Wellington | 72 |
| | | Sam BAIRSTOW | ENG | Club de Golf Alcanada | 72 |
| 09:43 | 1 | Jordan SMITH | ENG | Bowood | 72 |
| | | Marcel SIEM | GER | Heritage Mauritius | 72 |
| | | Frederic LACROIX | FRA | RCF La Boulie | 72 |
| 09:54 | 1 | Angel HIDALGO | ESP | RCG Las Brisas | 72 |
| | | Jordan GUMBERG | USA | Adios GC | 72 |
| | | Thriston LAWRENCE | RSA | Pretoria CC | 71 |
| 10:05 | 1 | Daniel BROWN | ENG | Romanby GC | 71 |
| | | Mackenzie HUGHES | CAN | Quail Hollow Club | 71 |
| | | Todd CLEMENTS | ENG | | 71 |
| 10:16 | 1 | Niklas NORGAARD | DEN | Kokkedal GC | 71 |
| | | Wenyi DING | CHN | | 71 |
| | | Ewen FERGUSON | SCO | Bearsden GC | 71 |
| 10:27 | 1 | Alex FITZPATRICK | ENG | Hollinwell GC | 71 |
| | | Elvis SMYLIE | AUS | Southport GC | 71 |
| | | Dan BRADBURY | ENG | Wakefield GC | 71 |
| 10:38 | 1 | Julien GUERRIER | FRA | Golf de la prée La Rochelle | 71 |
| | | Christiaan BEZUIDENHOUT | SUD | Serengeti Wildlife & Golf Estate | 70 |
| | | Johannes VEERMAN | USA | Winston Golf | 70 |
| 10:49 | 1 | Ugo COUSSAUD | FRA | Golf de Arcangues | 70 |
| | | Romain LANGASQUE | FRA | GC De Cannes Mougins | 70 |
| | | Robin WILLIAMS | RSA | Peterborough Milton GC | 70 |
| 11:00 | 1 | Thorbjørn OLESEN | DEN | | 69 |
| | | Matthew JORDAN | ENG | Royal Liverpool GC | 69 |
| | | Andy SULLIVAN | ENG | Stratford-on-Avon GC | 69 |
| 11:11 | 1 | Pablo LARRAZÁBAL | ESP | Real Club de Golf el Prat | 69 |
| | | Ockie STRYDOM | RSA | South Africa | 67 |
| | | Max HOMA | USA | | 66 |

| Time | Tee | Name | Country | Attachment | R1 |
|-------|-----|---------------------|---------|-------------------------------|----|
| 09:21 | 10 | Aldrich POTGIETER | RSA | Pinnacle Point Golf Estate | 73 |
| | | Laurie CANTER | ENG | Cumberwell Park GC | 73 |
| | | Nacho ELVIRA | ESP | | 73 |
| 09:32 | 10 | Adrian OTAEGUI | UAE | Goiburu Golf | 73 |
| | | Danny WILLETT | ENG | The Belfry H&R | 73 |
| | | Francesco LAPORTA | ITA | San Domenico Golf | 73 |
| 09:43 | 10 | Nicolai HØJGAARD | DEN | | 73 |
| | | Brandon STONE | RSA | Durban CC | 74 |
| | | Matteo MANASSERO | ITA | Gardagolf CC | 74 |
| 09:54 | 10 | Will ZALATORIS | USA | Dallas National GC | 74 |
| | | Ryggs JOHNSTON | USA | Cabinet View GC | 75 |
| | | Jorge CAMPILLO | ESP | Norba Club de Golf de Caceres | 75 |
| 10:05 | 10 | Sebastian SÖDERBERG | SWE | Black Mountain GC | 75 |
| | | Erik VAN ROOYEN | RSA | | 75 |
| | | Dylan FRITTELLI | RSA | UT GC | 76 |
| 10:16 | 10 | Bernd WIESBERGER | AUT | | 76 |
| | | Guido MIGLIOZZI | ITA | | 76 |
| | | Jesper SVENSSON | SWE | Upsala GC | 76 |
| 10:27 | 10 | Thomas DETRY | BEL | Royal GC of Belgium | 76 |
| | | Aaron COCKERILL | CAN | The Els Club Dubai | 76 |
| | | Ryo HISATSUNE | JPN | SBS Holdings | 76 |
| 10:38 | 10 | Darius VAN DRIEL | NED | The Outpost Club | 76 |
| | | Connor SYME | SCO | Drumlogie Golf Centre | 76 |
| | | Dale WHITNELL | ENG | Crondon Park | 76 |
| 10:49 | 10 | David RAVETTO | FRA | RCF la Boulie | 77 |
| | | Tom MCKIBBIN | NIR | Galgorm | 77 |
| | | Grant FORREST | SCO | The Renaissance Club | 77 |
| 11:00 | 10 | Joe DEAN | ENG | College Pines GC | 78 |
| | | Daniel GAVINS | ENG | Howley Hall GC | 78 |
| | | Calum HILL | SCO | Gleneagles Hotel | 78 |
| 11:11 | 10 | Alexander BJÖRK | SWE | Vaxjo GK | 78 |
| | | Ryan VAN VELZEN | RSA | Benoni CC | 79 |
| | | Sami VÄLIMÄKI | FIN | Nokia River Golf | 79 |

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