

# Pro Golf

## Now a favorite, Day once thought of quitting at Masters

By PAUL NEWBERRY  
Associated Press

AUGUSTA, Ga. — Jason Day was lurking just outside Augusta National Golf Club, wondering if he wanted to go in.

The game just wasn't fun anymore.

Even though he was set to play in his first Masters in 2011, Day thought it might be time to do something else.

"Golf is a very, very frustrating game," Day recalled.

Whether he was really serious about quitting, no one will ever really know. Certainly, it's not a consideration these days.

As the 28-year-old Aussie prepares to tee off in the Masters for the sixth time Thursday, he's ranked No. 1 in the world and coming off his first major championship, one of the favorites along with defending champion Jordan Spieth and four-time major winner Rory McIlroy.

"I feel comfortable around this course," Day said. "I know it sets up well for me. It's a golf course where I can compete and play well and win."

Working against Day: the last top-ranked player to win at Augusta was Tiger Woods in 2002.

Indeed, this might be the most wide-open Masters since the pre-Tiger days.

Spieth captured the first two majors of 2015 and nearly won the other two. McIlroy is missing only the Masters from a career Grand Slam. Day and 2013 Masters champion Adam Scott are both two-time winners on the PGA Tour this year. Two other Masters champs, Bubba Watson and Charl Schwartzel, also have victories in 2016.



AP Photo/Charlie Riedel

Jason Day, of Australia, hits out of a bunker on the sixth hole during the pro three competition at the Masters golf tournament Wednesday, April 6, 2016, in Augusta, Ga.

So does rising Japanese star Hideki Matsuyama, and let's not forget Phil Mickelson, a three-time Masters winner and hardly ready to fade away at age 45.

"There's a lot of guys who have a lot of success here that really brought some strong finishes and motivation and some momentum into this week," said Spieth, who tied for second in his Masters debut in 2014 before cruising to victory with an 18-under score a year ago. "I know that the people who are down maybe a few — three, four, five shots after the first couple of rounds — are capable of making up a lot of ground here."

Coming off one of the greatest years in golf history,

Spieth isn't even rated the favorite.

That would be Day.

"He can be the favorite," Spieth said with a shrug. "We'll go ahead and just do our thing."

Day hardly felt like the man to beat before the Masters five years ago.

In fact, he had totally lost his love for the game.

"You have to perform, because if you don't perform, then you're off the tour," Day said. "Then you start stressing about, 'OK, is there enough money up to get my card for next year.' And then you start losing a little bit of confidence. Then you start getting frustrated out there, and then you don't practice because you're

frustrated with how you're playing, and it's a downward spiral from there."

Right before the Masters, it almost came to a head during a meeting with his wife, his agent and his sports psychologist.

"I'm like, 'I just do not like the game right now. I'm just having a very, very hard time picking up the golf club to even just enjoy myself out there,'" Day said. "But we came to the conclusion of just going and saying, 'This might be my last Masters ever playing, I may as well enjoy it.'"

"So," he added, with a smile, "I went out there and finished second."

So much for finding another line of work.

Day followed up with

# Watson prepares for final round at Augusta

By JIM LITKE  
Associated Press

Tom Watson's to-do list at the Masters has changed plenty over four decades, but it usually ended with the same goal: a major championship.

On the eve of his last competitive go-round at Augusta National, the 66-year-old, two-time winner finally acknowledged a much more modest plan.

"This is a lot like when I first joined the tour," Watson said, "in that all I'm trying to do is make the cut."

"That's not enough," he added a moment later, "so it's time to say, 'Adios.'"

Watson concedes he doesn't have the length for Augusta, even though he was competitive enough on the hard links courses across the Atlantic to contend for a British Open title in 2009.

But he said his good-byes to the galleries at St. Andrews last and while he plans to return to Augusta for the Champions Dinner, and could likely be convinced to join Nicklaus and Gary Player for the ceremonial starters' tee shots, this will be his last tour as a member of the field.

Watson opened with a 71 last year, but followed it with an 81 and failed to unseat Tommy Aaron, who was 63 in 2000, as the oldest player to make the cut.

## SCOREBOARD

### Local Slate

PREP BASEBALL			
Today	Pendleton at La Grande, 4 p.m.		
Friday	Hermiston at Parkrose, 4 p.m.		
Saturday	Weston-McEwen vs. Dufur (DH), 11 a.m. Mac-Hi vs. Ontario (DH), Noon Stanfield vs. Burns (DH), 2 p.m. Umatilla at Vale (DH), 2 p.m. Pilot Rock vs. Sherman, 4 p.m.		
PREP SOFTBALL			
Today	Pendleton at La Grande, 4 p.m.		
Friday	Echo vs. Burns, 2 p.m.		
Saturday	Heppner at Echo, 11 a.m. Mac-Hi vs. Ontario (DH), Noon Umatilla at Vale (DH), Noon Weston-McEwen at Riverside (DH), 1 p.m.		
PREP TRACK & FIELD			
Friday	Pendleton, Mac-Hi, Pilot Rock, Weston-McEwen, Irrigon, Lone, Echo, Stanfield at Umatilla, Noon		
Saturday	Hermiston, Pendleton at Oregon City, 10 a.m. Weston-McEwen, Pilot Rock, Heppner, Helix, Echo at Stanfield Invite, 11 a.m. Lone at Burns, Noon		
PREP GOLF			
Friday	Heppner at John Day GC, 11 a.m.		
PREP TENNIS			
Today	Umatilla at Riverside, 4 p.m. Weston-McEwen vs. Helix, 4 p.m.		
Friday	Helix at Riverside, 4 p.m. Lone at Mac-Hi, 4 p.m. Stanfield at Sherman, 2 p.m.		
PREP LACROSSE			
Friday	Hermiston vs. Lincoln, 5:30 p.m.		
COLLEGE BASEBALL			
Saturday			

Blue Mountain at Columbia Basin (DH), 1 p.m.			
COLLEGE SOFTBALL			
Friday	Eastern Oregon at Carroll (DH), 2/4 p.m.		
Saturday	Eastern Oregon at Great Falls (DH), 11 a.m./1 p.m. Wenatchee Valley at Blue Mountain (DH), 2/4 p.m.		
Sunday	Yakima Valley at Blue Mountain (DH), Noon/2 p.m.		

### Basketball

NBA				
Atlantic Division				
W	L	Pct	GB	
y-Toronto	52	25	67.5	—
x-Boston	46	32	59.0	6½
New York	31	48	39.2	22
Brooklyn	21	57	26.9	31½
Philadelphia	10	68	12.8	42½
Southeast Division				
W	L	Pct	GB	
x-Atlanta	46	32	59.0	—
x-Miami	45	32	58.4	½
x-Charlotte	45	33	57.7	1
Washington	38	40	48.7	8
Orlando	33	45	42.3	13
Central Division				
W	L	Pct	GB	
y-Cleveland	56	23	70.9	—
Indiana	42	36	53.8	13½
Detroit	42	37	53.2	14
Chicago	39	39	50.0	16½
Milwaukee	32	46	41.0	23½
WESTERN CONFERENCE				
Southwest Division				
W	L	Pct	GB	
y-San Antonio	65	12	84.4	—
Memphis	42	36	53.8	23½
Dallas	40	38	51.3	25½
Houston	38	40	48.7	27½
New Orleans	29	49	37.2	36½
Northwest Division				
W	L	Pct	GB	
y-Oklahoma City	54	25	68.4	—
x-Portland	43	37	53.8	11½
Utah	39	39	50.0	14½
Denver	32	47	40.5	22
Minnesota	26	52	33.3	27½
Pacific Division				
W	L	Pct	GB	

y-Golden State	69	9	88.5	—
x-L.A. Clippers	50	28	64.1	19
Sacramento	31	47	39.7	38
Phoenix	20	58	25.6	49
L.A. Lakers	16	62	20.5	53
x-clinched playoff spot y-clinched division				
Wednesday's Games				
Indiana 123, Cleveland 109				
Detroit 108, Orlando 104				
Washington 121, Brooklyn 103				
Boston 104, New Orleans 97				
Charlotte 111, New York 97				
Dallas 88, Houston 86				
Portland 120, Oklahoma City 115				
L.A. Clippers 91, L.A. Lakers 81				
Today's Games				
Phoenix at Houston, 5 p.m.				
Chicago at Miami, 5 p.m.				
Toronto at Atlanta, 5 p.m.				
Minnesota at Sacramento, 7 p.m.				
San Antonio at Golden State, 7:30 p.m.				

### Hockey

NHL					
Eastern Conference					
Atlantic Division					
GP	W	L	OT Pts	GF GA	
y-Florida	80	46	25	9	101 233 198
x-Tampa Bay	80	45	30	5	95 221 194
Detroit	80	41	28	11	93 207 216
Boston	80	41	30	9	91 234 222
Ottawa	80	36	35	9	81 227 245
Buffalo	80	34	35	11	79 196 215
Montreal	80	36	38	6	78 212 232
Toronto	80	28	41	11	67 193 238
Metropolitan Division					
GP	W	L	OT Pts	GF GA	
z-Washington	79	55	17	7	117 244 186
x-Pittsburgh	80	47	25	8	102 240 197
x-N.Y. Rangers	80	45	26	9	99 232 211
x-N.Y. Islanders	79	44	26	9	97 223 206
Philadelphia	79	39	27	13	91 203 211
Carolina	80	35	29	16	86 194 217
New Jersey	80	37	35	8	82 177 203
Columbus	80	32	40	8	72 210 247
Western Conference					
Central Division					
GP	W	L	OT Pts	GF GA	
x-Dallas	80	48	23	9	105 260 226
x-St. Louis	80	48	23	9	105 221 195
x-Chicago	80	47	26	7	101 230 202
x-Nashville	80	40	26	14	94 223 210
x-Minnesota	81	38	32	11	87 215 204

Colorado	80	39	37	4	82 211 231
Winnipeg	80	33	39	8	74 206 232
Pacific Division					
GP	W	L	OT Pts	GF GA	
x-Anaheim	79	44	24	11	89 210 187
x-Los Angeles	80	47	28	5	99 220 190
x-San Jose	80	45	29	6	96 236 205
Arizona	80	35	38	7	77 207 241
Calgary	80	33	40	7	73 222 256
Vancouver	80	30	37	13	73 184 233
Edmonton	81	31	43	7	69 200 241

NOTE: Two points for a win, one point for overtime loss.

x-clinched playoff spot					
y-clinched division					
z-clinched conference					
Wednesday's Games					
Columbus 5, Toronto 1					
Edmonton 6, Vancouver 2					
Detroit 3, Philadelphia 0					
Today's Games					
Detroit at Boston, 4 p.m.					
Tampa Bay at New Jersey, 4 p.m.					
N.Y. Islanders at N.Y. Rangers, 4 p.m.					
Toronto at Philadelphia, 4 p.m.					
Pittsburgh at Washington, 4 p.m.					
Montreal at Carolina, 4 p.m.					
Florida at Ottawa, 4:30 p.m.					
Arizona at Nashville, 5 p.m.					
St. Louis at Chicago, 5:30 p.m.					
Colorado at Dallas, 5:30 p.m.					
Vancouver at Calgary, 6 p.m.					
Anaheim at Los Angeles, 7:30 p.m.					
Winnipeg at San Jose, 7:30 p.m.					

### Baseball

MLB				
American League				
East Division				
W	L	Pct	GB	
Baltimore	2	01.000	—	
Tampa Bay	2	2.500	1	
Toronto	2	2.500	1	
Boston	1	1.500	1	
New York	1	1.500	1	
Central Division				
W	L	Pct	GB	
Detroit	2	01.000	—	
Chicago	2	1.667	½	
Cleveland	1	1.500	1	
Kansas City	1	1.500	1	
Minnesota	0	2.000	2	
West Division				
W	L	Pct	GB	

Seattle	2	1.667	—
Houston	1	1.500	½
Oakland	1	2.333	1
Texas	1	2.333	1
Los Angeles	0	2.000	1½
NATIONAL LEAGUE			
East Division			
W	L	Pct	GB
Washington	2	01.000	—
New York	1	1.500	1
Atlanta	0	2.000	2
Miami	0	2.000	2
Philadelphia	0	2.000	2
Central Division			
W	L	Pct	GB
Pittsburgh	3	01.000	—
Chicago	2	01.000	½
Cincinnati	2	01.000	½
Milwaukee	1	2.333	2
St. Louis	0	3.000	3
West Division			
W	L	Pct	GB
Los Angeles	3	01.000	—
Colorado	2	1.667	1
San Francisco	2	1.667	1
Arizona	1	2.333	2
San Diego	0	3.000	3

AMERICAN LEAGUE				
Wednesday's Games				
Tampa Bay 5, Toronto 3				
Seattle 9, Texas 5				
Detroit 7, Miami 3				
Cleveland 7, Boston 6				
N.Y. Yankees 16, Houston 6				
Baltimore 4, Minnesota 2				
Oakland 2, Chicago White Sox 1				
Today's Games				
Chicago White Sox (Latos 0-0) at Oakland (Graveman 0-0), 12:35 p.m.				
Houston (Fiers 0-0) at N.Y. Yankees (Eovaldi 0-0), 1:05 p.m.				
Boston (Kelly 0-0) at Cleveland (Salazar 0-0), 3:10 p.m.				
Minnesota (Hughes 0-0) at Baltimore (Jimenez 0-0), 4:05 p.m.				
Texas (Holland 0-0) at L.A. Angels (Santigo 0-0), 7:05 p.m.				

NATIONAL LEAGUE				
Wednesday's Games				
Milwaukee 4, San Francisco 3				
Colorado 4, Arizona 3				
Detroit 7, Miami 3				
Pittsburgh 5, St. Louis 1				
Cincinnati 3, Philadelphia 2				

Washington 3, Atlanta 1				
L.A. Dodgers 7, San Diego 0				
Today's Games				
Philadelphia (Morton 0-0) at Cincinnati (Stephenson 0-0), 9:35 a.m.				
Miami (Conley 0-0) at Washington (Roark 0-0), 1:05 p.m.				
L.A. Dodgers (A Wood 0-0) at San Francisco (Peavy 0-0), 1:35 p.m.				
Chicago Cubs (Lackey 0-0) at Arizona (R. De La Rosa 0-0), 6:40 p.m.				

### Soccer

MLS					
Eastern Conference					
W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
Orlando City	2	0	2	8	8
Montreal	2	0	6	6	5