

## 150TH BRITISH OPEN

# Smith rallies past McIlroy to win The Open

**It's the first major title for the Australian player**

BY DOUG FERGUSON  
AP Golf Writer

ST. ANDREWS, Scotland — The stage at St. Andrews was all set for Rory McIlroy.

The show belonged to Cameron Smith, and so did that silver claret jug he won in a Sunday stunner at the British Open with the best closing round the Old Course had ever seen.

Smith was four shots behind at the start as a record crowd was eager to see McIlroy cap off a week of celebrations at the 150th Open in style. He was three behind when he made the turn.

And then the plucky Australian with his magical putter ran off five straight birdies to take the lead, stared down a nervy putt around the edge of the nefarious Road Hole bunker to save par and finished with two putts from 80 feet for birdie for an 8-under 64.

“To win an Open Championship in itself is probably going to be a golfer’s highlight in their career,” Smith said. “To do it around St. Andrews I think is just unbelievable.”

So was his golf.

In the 29 previous times golf’s oldest championship was held at St. Andrews, no winner had ever closed with a 64. Smith finished at 20-under 268, a record score for the Old Course and matching the lowest score to par in any major.

“I got beaten by the better player this week. To go out and shoot 64 to win the Open Championship at St. Andrews is a hell of a showing. Hats off to Cam,” McIlroy said.

McIlroy hit every green in regulation and two-putted all of them — two were birdies, the rest were pars — for a 70 that left him in third place and having to wait nearly nine months before he can try to end his drought in the majors that now is at eight full years.

Smith won by one shot

over Cameron Young, who holed a 15-foot eagle putt on the final hole to ever-so-briefly tie for the lead.

It wasn’t enough, and neither was anything McIlroy could muster.

McIlroy couldn’t make a putt early. He couldn’t hit it close enough late. His last good chance was a 15-foot birdie attempt on the dangerous Road Hole at No. 17, and it narrowly missed to the left. McIlroy needed eagle to tie him, and his chip through the Valley of Sin had no chance.

Smith won for the third time this year, all on entirely different courses — the generous fairways of Kapalua, the visual intimidation of water on the TPC Sawgrass and the oldest links in the world with its double greens and pot bunkers.

He beat the No. 1 player in the world (Jon Rahm) at Kapalua. He beat the best field in golf at The Players Championship. And he had to overcome a four-shot deficit against a heavy crowd favorite to capture his first major.

Even with the silver claret jug in his hands, it was hard to believe.

“All the names on there, every player that’s been at the top of their game has won this championship,” Smith said. “It’s pretty cool to be on there. It really hasn’t sunk in yet. I don’t think it will for a few weeks. Yeah, it’s just unreal.”

Smith is the first Australian to win at St. Andrews since Kel Nagle in 1960, when he topped a rising American star named Arnold Palmer, the people’s choice.

All day there was an energy along the humps and hollows of the Old Course, all of them waiting to celebrate McIlroy as an Open champion at St. Andrews.

He gave them little to cheer.

“The putter went cold on me,” McIlroy said. “When both Camerons — especially Smith — went on that run on the back nine, I had to dig deep to make birdies. And I just couldn’t.”

false start kept the U.S. from a possible sweep in the 110-meter final and what could’ve been the 10th medal of the day. The speedster-slash-receiver will now take his talents to the football field, where he’ll attempt to make the roster for the Philadelphia Eagles. It was hardly the way he wanted to finish at worlds.

With their big-medal haul Sunday, the Americans now have six golds and 14 total medals. The next most is three medals each by Ethiopia, Poland, China and Jamaica, which swept the women’s 100 to close out the night.

## BAKER FOOTBALL

# Big shakeup in Bulldogs’ fall gridiron schedule

**Baker’s new league rivals are Pendleton, Madras, The Dalles, and Crook County**

BY JAYSON JACOBY  
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If Baker High School’s football schedule this fall were a haircut, it would be a mullet.

If it were a TV channel, it would be MTV during its heyday.

The Bulldogs’ schedule, to put it another way, has a decidedly 1980s flavor.

A major shakeup in Baker’s league has resulted in games against multiple former rivals from the old Intermountain Conference.

In those days Baker was a Class AAA school, a division that included Oregon’s largest high schools.

Today Baker is in the Class 4A ranks, with bigger schools divided among the Class 5A and Class 6A divisions.

“Big changes from last year,” said Buell Gonzales Jr., the Baker School District’s athletic director.

Baker’s longtime Greater Oregon Conference foes Ontario and Mac-Hi are gone — Ontario having dropped from Class 4A to 3A for football only, and Mac-Hi having done so for all sports.

Although Baker hasn’t played Mac-Hi in football since 2018, Ontario has been a regular rival.

The Tigers remain on the schedule for 2022, but this time it’s a nonleague game, set for Sept. 23 at 7 p.m. at Baker Bulldog Memorial Stadium.

Only one Greater Oregon League rival remains as a league opponent — La Grande.

In the newly constituted 4A Special District 5, Baker will travel to La Grande for its first league game on Sept. 30 at 7 p.m.

The Bulldogs then play four straight games, three of those at Baker Bulldog Memorial Stadium, against other members of the new special district:

- home against The Dalles, Oct. 7, 7 p.m.
- home against Madras, Oct. 14, 7 p.m.
- at Crook County (Prineville), Oct. 21, 7 p.m.
- home against Pendleton, Oct. 28, 7 p.m.

Baker varsity coach Jason Ramos said he’s excited about the new league.

“I’m in favor of it,” he said. “Getting more teams in our league is a positive. We’re excited to have new teams in our league.”

For the past several years the Greater Oregon League had just four teams — Baker, Ontario, La Grande and Mac-Hi.

That made it tough to fill the schedule some years, Ramos said.

In 2019, for instance, when Mac-Hi didn’t compete in the Greater Oregon League, Baker played La Grande and Ontario twice



Corey Kirk/Baker City Herald, File

**Baker’s Dash Bloomer (middle) and Drake Harper (No. 16) tackle a Weiser Wolverine on Friday evening, Sept. 17, 2021, at Baker Bulldog Memorial Stadium.**

each. The Bulldogs also traveled to Bend for a non-league, neutral site game, and to Washington for another nonleague contest.

In 2021, Baker played Newport in a neutral site non-league game at Sisters.

Ramos acknowledged that the new special district offers a tough slate of games, with Pendleton, The Dalles and Crook County dropping down from the Class 5A ranks.

“It’s a challenge, but it’s a welcome challenge,” Ramos said. “Every game’s going to be a big game, which is what you want in league play.”

Ramos noted that although the more daunting league schedule could make it tougher for Baker to qualify for the playoffs, that might be offset by the Oregon School Activities Association giving the league an additional playoff slot.

Regardless, if the Bulldogs qualify for the playoffs they’ll be better prepared due to the

### Baker football schedule

- Sept. 3, at Cascade, 2 p.m. (nonleague)
- Sept. 9, vs. Homedale, 7 p.m. (nonleague)
- Sept. 16, at Vale, 6 p.m. PDT (nonleague)
- Sept. 23, vs. Ontario, 7 p.m. (nonleague)
- Sept. 30, at La Grande, 7 p.m. (league)
- Oct. 7, vs. The Dalles, 7 p.m. (league)
- Oct. 14, vs. Madras, 7 p.m. (league)
- Oct. 21, at Crook County, 7 p.m. (league)
- Oct. 28, vs. Pendleton, 7 p.m. (league)

higher level of competition, Ramos said.

He’s also excited about Baker having five home games this fall, three of them against new league foes in Madras, The Dalles and Pendleton.

Baker had just three home

games in 2019, mainly because the Bulldogs, with Ontario and La Grande as the only league foes, had to settle for road games to round out its schedule.”

“It’s going to be fun to have some new teams coming in,” Ramos said.

Baker opens its nine-game schedule with four nonleague contests.

The Bulldogs will travel to Turner, near Salem, on Sept. 3 to take on Cascade, a rematch of the 2021 season opener at Baker, which the senior-laden Cascade squad won 35-0.

The opener is Baker’s only Saturday game, with the other eight set for Friday.

Baker’s home opener is Sept. 9 at 7 p.m. against Homedale, Idaho, the Bulldogs’ lone game against an out-of-state school.

Baker travels to Vale on Sept. 16 for a 6 p.m. PDT game, and then returns home for the final nonleague game against Ontario.

## WORLD ATHLETICS CHAMPIONSHIPS

## U.S. has record-setting medal day

BY PAT GRAHAM

Associated Press

EUGENE — Except for a single, barely perceptible flinch, this would’ve been a Perfect 10 for the U.S. track and field team.

As it ended up, the Americans still won nine medals on home turf Sunday, July 17 at the world championships in what will go down as one of the most memorable days for the red, white and blue in its long, successful history. It was the best single medal day for a nation at worlds, according to meet organizers.

Hurdler Devon Allen’s

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