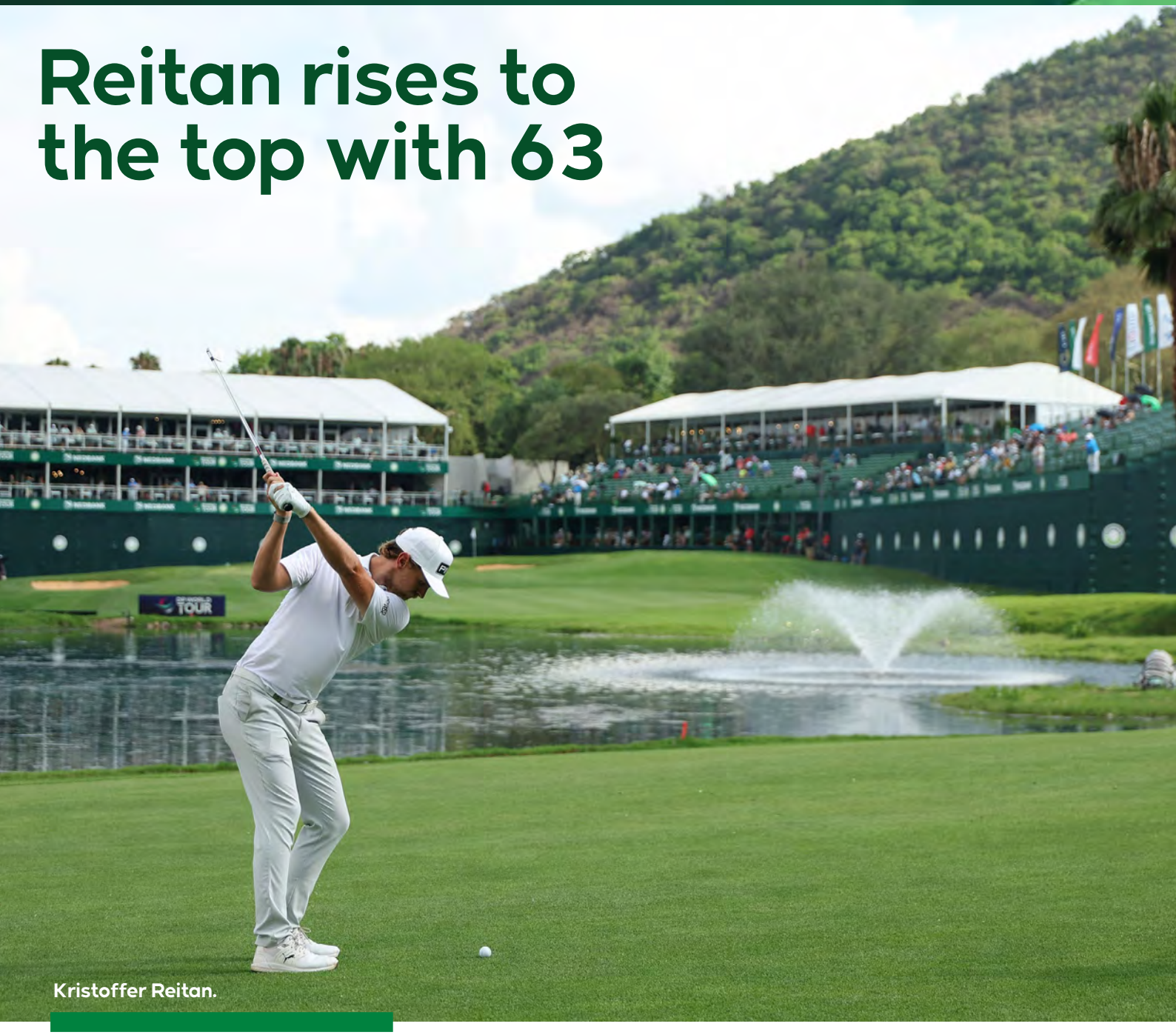
NEDBANK Sun GOLF CHALLENGE
IN HONOUR OF GARY PLAYER

daily NEWS

ROUND 2 | FRIDAY 05·12·2025

Reitan rises to the top with 63



Kristoffer Reitan.

Kristoffer Reitan had no expectations on his debut in the Nedbank Golf Challenge in honour of Gary Player. And nobody expected an incredible opening round that was one shot off the course record to give the Norwegian the lead by the end of day one.

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Reitan's nine-under-par 63 started with back-to-back birdies on his opening two holes. Then he tore through the turn like an elephant bull on the charge with five birdies in six holes. His closing five holes featured three birdies and just a single bogey on the 17th.

It was more than enough to earn him a three-stroke lead over England's Marcus Armitage, Frenchman Adrien Saddier and Swede Jesper Svensson who had two eagles in his second nine holes.

"I had no idea what the course record was," Reitan said of the 62 shot by Lee Westwood in 2011. "I was just trying to hit good shots."

"It was a brilliant day. I'm very happy with the way I played. I've played a lot of golf in South Africa before but I haven't had particularly good results here, so I'm hoping to change that this week."

On a cooler day than usual in this tournament, Reitan said it remained a challenge to quite literally not take his eye off the ball on a Gary Player Country Club course that remains a stern test in the game.

"You need to stay on top of it all the time on this golf course because it can bite you pretty quickly. It's a tough course, but if you hit the ball well you get opportunities, which is what I saw today. But it will be a tough next three rounds to keep the quality and the concentration up."

Kristoffer Reitan.
Getty.

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Will is back – literally!

American Will Zalatoris has made one of the most talked about comebacks in the game, and he's chosen to do so at the Nedbank Golf Challenge in honour of Gary Player.

Zalatoris was one of the undoubted new stars of the game and underlined this when he finished in the top-10 in six of nine Majors, including three runner-up finishes.

But then he was beset by back issues.

This year he had the same surgery as Tiger Woods.

This is the first tournament since the surgery, and Zalatoris admits to feeling better than ever.

"Essentially, I had gotten to a point where I was bone on bone and needed some help. The fake discs have been incredible. This one was almost like a rebirth, where I'm waking up feeling taller, feeling more structured in my back, and it's made my golf swing better without even making some changes."

It's an apt return for Zalatoris, who says he grew up in Texas watching this tournament.

And a win this week would be an absolute fairytale for him.

"Considering everything I've gone through the last three years, it would probably be the most important win I've ever had. Going through those few years that I've had, not knowing if I was going to be able to play again...the fact that I'm on the other side of it now is so gratifying."

Credit: Getty.

Higgo and Norris lead SA charge

The last South African winner of "Africa's Major" was back in 2017, but two South Africans have given themselves a great chance to change that this year.

Garrick Higgo and Shaun Norris finished round one as the joint leading South Africans on four under par and just five shots off the lead.

And both credited their control off the tee as the key to their success on day one.

"It was a good day. The ball striking was good to start, then around the turn it wasn't as good as I would've liked but my putter kept me in it. I've been working on ball striking so I knew if I could hit fairways and greens here I'd have a good day. It all starts off the tee here and hitting a lot of fairways and getting momentum that way," said Higgo after his bogey-free 68.

Garrick Higgo. Getty.

Higgo has won on this golf course before in his career in the 2019 Sun City Challenge. This, combined with a strong year in which he won on the PGA TOUR to reclaim his playing privileges there, has given him plenty of confidence for the next three rounds.

"It's still a long way to go but this is a great start," he said.

Alongside him, Norris showed tremendous composure to bounce back from a double-bogey seven on the second hole and play his way into contention.

"I had a mishap on the second but clawed my way back. Any day you can shoot 68 around this course you'll always be smiling," said Norris, who responded to that seven with three birdies in his next four holes.

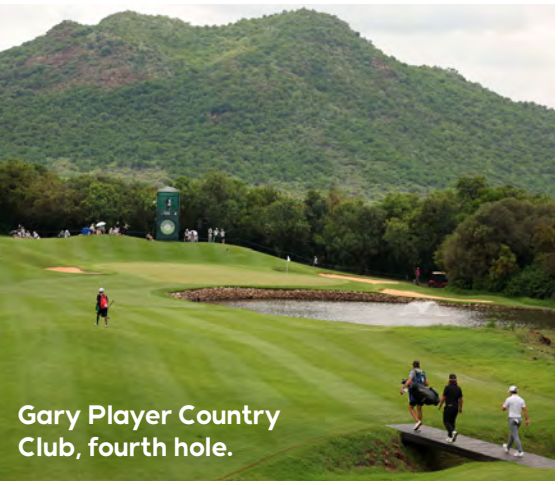
"I haven't felt this comfortable on the tee in a long time. This course is very demanding from the tee all the time. So for most of my round I was aggressive and trusted my swing. My dad always said it doesn't matter if you start badly, you can always finish great. So it was nice to pull it back so quickly."

Aldrich Potgieter and Thriston Lawrence are the next best-placed South Africans on three under par.

DRAW FOR ROUND 2 - FRIDAY 5 December 2025

Game	Time	Tee	Name	Country	Attachment	R1
1	09:22	10	Richard MANSELL	ENG		72
			Pablo LARRAZÁBAL	ESP	11:am Golf	72
			Francesco MOLINARI	ITA	GC Torino	72
2	09:33	10	John PARRY	ENG	Harrogate GC	72
			Matteo MANASSERO	ITA	GardaGolf CC	72
			Rikuya HOSHINO	JPN		72
3	09:44	10	Marco PENGE	ENG		72
			Antoine ROZNER	FRA	RCF La Boulie	73
			Yuto KATSURAGAWA	JPN		73
4	09:55	10	Eugenio CHACARRA	ESP	Southern Hills G&CC	73
			Angel AYORA	ESP	La Hacienda GR	73
			Jordan SMITH	ENG	Bowood	73
5	10:06	10	Martin COUVRA	FRA		73
			Darius VAN DRIEL	NED		73
			Laurie CANTER	ENG	Cumberwell Park GC	73
6	10:17	10	David RAVETTO	FRA	RCF La Boulie	73
			Adrian MERONK	POL		74
			Dylan NAIDOO	RSA	The Club at Steyn City	74
7	10:28	10	Nacho ELVIRA	ESP		74
			Angel HIDALGO	ESP	RCG Las Brisas	74
			Nicolai VON DELLINGSHAUSEN	GER	GC Hubbelrath	75
8	10:39	10	Jacques KRUYSWIJK	RSA	Centurion CC	75
			Marcel SIEM	GER	Heritage Mauritius	75
			Will ZALATORIS	USA	Dallas National GC	75
9	10:50	10	Ockie STRYDOM	RSA	South Africa	75
			Frederic LACROIX	FRA	RCF La Boulie	76
			Jacob Skov OLESEN	DEN	Næstved GC	76
10	11:01	10	Calum HILL	SCO	Gleneagles Hotel	77
			Guido MIGLIOZZI	ITA		77
			Dylan FRITTELLI	RSA	UT GC	77
11	11:12	10	Paul WARING	ENG	Jumeirah Golf Estates	79
			Johannes VEERMAN	USA	Winston Golf	80
			Daniel GAVINS	ENG	Howley Hall GC	81

Game	Time	Tee	Name	Country	Attachment	R1
12	09:22	1	Christo LAMPRECHT	RSA		72
			Joost LUITEN	NED		72
			Yurav PREMLALL	RSA	Glendower GC	72
13	09:33	1	Joakim LAGERGREN	SWE	Black Mountain GC	71
			Grant FORREST	SCO	The Renaissance Club	71
			Thorbjørn OLESEN	DEN		71
14	09:44	1	Connor SYME	SCO	Drumoig Golf Centre	71
			Ryggs JOHNSTON	USA	Cabinet View GC	71
			Nick TAYLOR	CAN	Ledgerview G&CC	70
15	09:55	1	Jayden SCHAPER	RSA	Ebotse Golf Estate	70
			Alejandro DEL REY	ESP	RCG La Moraleja	70
			Christiaan BEZUIDENHOUT	RSA	Serengeti Wildlife & Golf Estate	70
16	10:06	1	Andy SULLIVAN	ENG	Stratford-on-Avon GC	70
			Daniel VAN TONDER	RSA	Serengeti Golf & Wildlife Estate	70
			Viktor HOVLAND	NOR		69
17	10:17	1	Jorge CAMPILLO	ESP	Norba Club de Golf de Caceres	69
			Thriston LAWRENCE	RSA	Pretoria CC	69
			Junghwan LEE	KOR	Woori Financial Group	69
18	10:28	1	Aldrich POTGIETER	RSA	Pinnacle Point Golf Estate	69
			Ewen FERGUSON	SCO	Emirates GC	69
			Niklas NORGAARD	DEN	Kokkedal GC	69
19	10:39	1	Oliver LINDELL	FIN	Virvik Golf	69
			Dan BRADBURY	ENG	Wakefield GC	69
			Garrick HIGGO	RSA	De Zalze GC	68
20	10:50	1	Julien GUERRIER	FRA	Golf de la prée La Rochelle	68
			Haotong LI	CHN		68
			Thomas DETRY	BEL	Royal GC of Belgium	68
21	11:01	1	Tom MCKIBBIN	NIR	Galgorm	68
			Shaun NORRIS	RSA	Silver Lakes CC	68
			Adrien SADDIER	FRA	Esery GC	66
22	11:12	1	Jesper SVENSSON	SWE	Upsala GC	66
			Marcus ARMITAGE	ENG	Howley Hall GC	66
			Kristoffer REITAN	NOR	GC de Genéve	63



Gary Player Country Club, fourth hole.

Shaun Norris.

Viktor Hovland.

Aldrich Potgieter.