

30 APRIL-1 MAY 2016 | THE BUSINESS TIMES WEEKEND

Swing

by sphgolf

Clive AGRAN

GOLF CAN HELP
SHED INCHES FROM
YOUR WAISTLINE

TIGER WOODS

DID ANYBODY
MISS HIM AT
THE MASTERS?

BY ROHIT
BRIJNATH

BRYSON DECHAMBEAU

HE IS ON A MISSION, AND GOLF
IS JUST A PART OF IT

BY JAIME DIAZ



Illustration by Cel Gulapa



OYSTER PERPETUAL
DAY-DATE 40 IN PLATINUM


ROLEX


Cortina watch
高登钟表

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WATCH FEATURED SUBJECT TO STOCK AVAILABILITY

What were you doing at the age of 22?

Me? I was a second-year student at University trying to keep up with my curriculum, some good friends and a fairly active role in a university society.

What I wasn't doing was standing in front of millions of viewers, trying to win one of golf's biggest tournaments to wrest back the mantle of being the best player in the world.

So while I sympathise with Jordan Spieth's "collapse" at the US Masters, I cannot begin to understand what he went through and is still probably going through as we speak.

I must admit that I rubbed my bleary-eyes in disbelief that Monday morning when Spieth put a second ball into the water at the par-three 12th, after already dunking his tee shot.

The quadruple-bogey all but ended his chances of winning a second-straight Green Jacket, with Danny Willett gleefully profiting from Spieth's misfortune.

Do I feel sorry for Spieth, who was supposed to have been Tiger Woods' successor as golf's ultimate closer?

Yes I do.

But haven't the rest of us mortals been there before?

DON'T YOU FRET. THIS KID WILL BOUNCE BACK

Who among us has not chunked a pitch shot into the water fronting a green when it mattered?

Anyone out there who has not made a seven on a par-three?

The irony is, almost every other big name at this year's windy US Masters had his own "collapse".

World No. 1 Jason Day hit two balls into the water on the par-five 13th in the second round after having a triple-bogey six on No. 16 a day earlier.

World No. 3 Rory McIlroy melted out of contention in the third round after a bad drive and a poor second shot into the water on No. 11.

Two-time US Masters champion Phil Mickelson splashed out of the tournament with double-bogeys at No. 15 and No. 16 in the second round, missing the cut.

Joining him on the early flight

home, pants tucked into his shoes, was Rickie Fowler, who discovered a snowman (eight) on No 13 during his first round 80.

Big-hitting Dustin Johnson, whom Augusta seems to be tailor-made for, couldn't buy a putt in the final round and imploded with double-bogeys at No 5 and No 17.

So, to set the record straight, everyone who was supposed to have won this tournament had his own "collapse" moment.

But unfortunately for Spieth, his came in the final round on the back nine on Sunday, when he looked on cruise control to win another Masters.

Another man who experienced similar water problems in a final

round of a Major, perhaps in even more spectacular fashion, was Frenchman Jean van de Velde, who gave up a three-shot lead in the final hole of the 1999 British Open.

Asked about Spieth's troubles, van de Velde said recently: "Jordan is an extraordinary player who has an extraordinary head on his shoulders and he will get over it extremely quickly. And when he does, he will become stronger and stronger."

I agree with the Frenchman. I don't see Spieth losing his confidence over this minor catastrophe.

He is going to learn from this and come back stronger.

Like most 22-year-olds, he will believe the world is still there for him to conquer.

Jordan Spieth (left) reacting to his shot going into the water hazard on the 12th hole during the final round of the 2016 US Masters.

That's what I love about golf, it slaps you on the finger five minutes after the biggest high you could ever think of. That's the beauty of the game and why it is a reflection of what life is about.

— JEAN VAN DE VELDE

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