

BY GODFREY ROBERT

# IS TIME RIGHT FOR ANOTHER **YOUNG WINNER AT US OPEN?**

With Collin Morikawa's sensational triumph in the US PGA Championship early this month, is it the start of a changing of the guard in professional golf's hierarchy?

In the light of a topsy-turvy golf world because of the Covid-19 pandemic with disruptions to schedules and player preparations — coupled with the Majors and PGA events being played behind closed doors — there is scope for surprise results.

And against a background where 15-time Major winner Tiger Woods is already 44 and coping with injuries and fitness problems, it is time for some young hopefuls like Mori-

kawa to move up the rungs.

America-born Morikawa, of Japanese origin, won his first Major at only age 23. And what's promising is that four of the top eight finishers at the recent US PGA Championship are 26 years or under.

Bryson DeChambeau is 26, Scottie Scheffler is 24, and Matthew Wolff is 21.

And Viktor Hovland who turned pro last year and finished tied for 33rd position — four places better than Tiger Woods — is only 22.

So the focus will be on the young ones when the next Major, the US Open, comes along in less than three weeks' time from Sept 17 to 20 at the Winged Foot

Golf Course in Westchester County, New York.

Two Rolex Testimonees, Justin Thomas and Brooks Koepka, will also throw their hats in for the event where the Swiss watchmakers are big players as sponsors.

## **SPECIAL MENTION**

Early this month, the brand name received special mention when PGA Tour commissioner Jay Monahan announced that the Presidents Cup will return to The Royal Montreal Golf Club in Quebec, Canada, in 2024.

As hosts of the Presidents Cup in 2007, The Royal Montreal Golf Club will become the second inter-



**Thumbs-up  
for US PGA  
champion  
youngster  
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national venue to host the event more than once, joining The Royal Melbourne Club in Australia.

The 2007 event saw two legendary captains lead their respective teams for the final time, with four-time captain Jack Nicklaus guiding the United States team to victory over three-time captain Gary Player's International Team by 19-1/2 to 14-1/2.

Rolex and its exclusive global sponsorship partner Citi were praised by Monahan for their significant

relationship in the unique event where there is no purse or prize money, but each competitor allocates an equal portion of the funds generated to charities of his choice.

Through philanthropic programmes and a broad palette of sponsorship activities, Rolex is also actively involved in supporting the arts, sports an exploration, and encourages the spirit of enterprise, as well as the conservation of natural environment.

— GODFREY ROBERT