

GARRICK HIGGO: South African golf's in a really, really good place.

ANNC: From South Africa, Garrick Higgo is the champion at Congaree.

ERIK VAN ROOYEN: Really healthy; really good.

ANNC: What a way to finish for Erik van Rooyen!

RETIEF GOOSEN: It's great to see those guys come through and play so well and winning.

ERNIE ELS: It's come in waves.

LOUIS OOSTHUIZEN: We've just got sport blood in our country.

ANNC: And how clutch is Brendan Grace.

GARY PLAYER: South African golf is actually phenomenal. People forget that a small country like South Africa has won more than 20 major championships.

ERIK VAN ROOYEN: For a relatively small country and a small population that play golf it's phenomenal to see the amount of players playing at such a high level.

ERNIE ELS: It's been healthy for a long time. You'll keep seeing our players come through the system because we've really got it in place.

GARRICK HIGGO: I think it's got to do with who you kind of look up to, I guess, in a way.

### **THE EVERCHANGING TIDE OF SOUTH AFRICAN'S ON THE PGA TOUR IS OFTEN TRACED BACK TO THE PATRIARCH, GARY PLAYER...**

ANNC: Oh my word!

### **YET, THE BLACK KNIGHT IS WELL AWARE OF THE PROPER WAVELENGTH.**

GARY PLAYER: Bobby Locke was the godfather – I gotta give him credit. He won four British Opens and he came over here and he won seven out of the first 11 tournaments; he beat Hogan and Snead and Nelson.

ERNIE ELS: Harold Henning, Simon Hobday, Nick Price after that and then David Frost is also in the generation before us and now the next generation comes to mind.

ERIK VAN ROOYEN: It was guys like Ernie and Retief Goosen and Trevor Immelman – those kind of guys that inspired me and then Louis came along and Charl.

RETIEF GOOSEN: Garrick winning in Europe and over here. Bezuidenhout's been pretty solid. Erik has been playing very well and then Wilco that hits the ball a mile.

ANNC: Wow, this one absolutely torched.

RETIEF GOOSEN: Don't forget Louis Oosthuizen had a chance to win a few majors and he's still showing the younger kids how to do it. It's great to see them coming up out of the shadows of me and Ernie now.

ERNIE ELS: They're young, they're hungry. They can play a huge role in the Presidents Cups in years to come.

**THE CREST OF A SOUTH AFRICAN INFLUX AT THE PRESIDENTS CUP COULD HAPPEN AS EARLY AS 2022 – CONSIDERING COUNTRYMAN AND 2008 MASTERS CHAMPION IS HEADING THE CHARGE AT QUAIL HOLLOW.**

TREVOR IMMELMAN: We're on a nice run right now. Eight players in the top 100 in the world ranking, which is quite impressive really when you think of the size of South Africa and the amount of golfers that we have down there.

**IT'S ESPECIALLY SIGNIFICANT CONSIDERING THE TIDE OF THE EVENT COULD BE TURNING – THANKS TO A FELLOW SOUTH AFRICAN CAPTAIN'S INFLUENCE IN 2019, REGARDLESS OF A LOSING EFFORT.**

ERNIE ELS: They learned a lot from themselves and from each other that week. I'd say to them, I guarantee you're gonna start winning tournaments, which happened. It's a hell of a learning curve for these youngsters to play against a team like the USA.

GARY PLAYER: Ernie brought a certain amount of peace and confidence that when he was telling them something that they had to listen so that was very important. Trevor's had experience and he's played in the Presidents Cup so he knows exactly what to do. And these young guys can really play. And if they make the right decisions and they get the right help, we've got some stars coming along in the future.

ERNIE ELS: We've just got a really good system in place in South Africa, starting from grassroot level of the game.

TREVOR IMMELMAN: In the last 10 or 15 years there's been a few people down in South Africa that really focused on grassroots building of Junior Golf. We're starting to see the benefit of that now with these players coming through the ranks.

ERNIE ELS: We introduce youngsters to the game through the South African Golf Development or numerous different organizations. I've got a foundation where we nurture young players, Louis has a foundation now, and Gary Player has a foundation.

GARY PLAYER: I'm grateful that I've been able to do that and to have longevity. I'm trying to be the ambassador to help them set the example, be the trend. Don't be the follower.

GARRICK HIGGO: Everyone in South Africa does such a good job motivating all the juniors. And our tour back down there is also very strong. I think that gives us a nice platform to start on if you didn't come to the States early on.

ANNC: A victory for another rising star of the South African game.

WILCO NIENABER: The competition back home is really good. There's a lot of South Africans really doing well on all tours. I do think some of it starts on the Sunshine Tour. We love sport and we really like to compete against each other. I think that's what pushes us to the next level.

LOUIS OOSTHUIZEN: We've got others knocking on the door and playing some good golf. It's great to see the guys coming through and we will always be a big golf country.