# Scottie Scheffler eyes comeback amid fierce rivalry at Quail Hollow



Scottie Scheffler, the world’s top-ranked golfer, stepped onto the greens of Quail Hollow this week amid swirling narratives about his recent performance fluctuations. Just ten days prior, discussions of a slump in form seemed inevitable after a series of mixed results following a significant hand injury sustained during the festive season. While his history at the PGA Championship is punctuated by an unusual incident—from an arrest for driving through a police cordon to a seven-month winless streak—Scheffler has navigated the turbulence with a resilience that is becoming his trademark.

The 7,626-yard course is set to challenge many, but Scheffler's recent eight-stroke victory at the CJ Cup has reinstated confidence in his capabilities, suggesting that any notions of decline can be swiftly quashed. "I definitely started off the year a bit more challenging than I would have expected," Scheffler remarked after a practice round. However, he acknowledged the importance of momentum, especially given his strong work ethic leading into this tournament.

The first two rounds will see Scheffler vie alongside Masters champion Rory McIlroy and defending champion Xander Schauffele. With McIlroy arriving fresh from his own triumph at Augusta, a venue where his performance has often resembled a masterclass, the spotlight is not just on Scheffler. Both players bring distinct advantages that could shape the week’s outcomes. McIlroy’s deep familiarity with Quail Hollow, where he has claimed four titles, sets a formidable benchmark for his competitors. Meanwhile, Scheffler's strengths off the tee and with second-shot accuracy may prove crucial on this demanding layout.

Compounding the excitement is Bryson DeChambeau, another heavy hitter who has recently shown signs of resurgence after winning in Korea on the LIV Golf circuit. DeChambeau, who narrowly missed out on the title at the previous PGA Championship, echoes the sentiments of players like Scheffler and McIlroy about being at the peak of their games. “It’s a golf course that sets up for Rory pretty well, and I think it sets up well for me, too," he stated, hinting at the fierce competition ahead.

As the tournament unfolds, the stakes elevate considerably. Major championships often hang in the balance due to evenly matched fields, and the nuances of luck versus skill come to the forefront. DeChambeau, reflecting on his past performances, emphasised the thin margins that dictate success at this level. "You can have all the skills in the world, but sometimes luck comes into play," he noted, setting the stage for a thrilling contest.

Moreover, with recent weather conditions causing the course to be softer, driving distance could be a decisive factor. Scheffler, McIlroy, and DeChambeau possess the powerful swings necessary to navigate such challenges, anticipating that the final trio of holes, notoriously dubbed “The Green Mile,” will demand both mental fortitude and precision.

In anticipation of the tournament, it is clear that not only is Scheffler focused on reclaiming his place at the top, but the surrounding narratives of his competitors also add to the thrill. With McIlroy eyeing a potential calendar Grand Slam and Schauffele aiming to repeat his previous success, this year’s PGA Championship promises to be a battle not just for victory, but for the legacy that comes with it. As the players prepare to tee off, the world of golf watches keenly, knowing that the days ahead could redefine careers and rivalries alike.

### Reference Map

1. Paragraphs 1, 2, 3, 4
2. Paragraphs 5, 6
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4. Paragraph 7
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6. Paragraph 7
7. Paragraph 8

Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

## Bibliography

* <https://www.dailymail.co.uk/sport/golf/article-14708915/Scottie-Scheffler-return-PGA-Championship.html?ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490&ito=1490> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
* <https://www.reuters.com/sports/golf/precision-poise-lot-luck-dechambeau-eyes-pga-championship-after-falling-short-2025-05-13/> - Bryson DeChambeau is aiming for victory at the upcoming PGA Championship at Quail Hollow, following near misses at recent major tournaments. Last year, he narrowly lost the PGA Championship to Xander Schauffele by a single shot, and most recently, he lost momentum in the final round at the Masters, finishing tied for fifth as Rory McIlroy completed a career grand slam. DeChambeau emphasized the fine margins that determine success in majors, highlighting the importance of both skill and a bit of luck. He attributed his Masters setback to inconsistent iron play, but he has shown progress, recently winning on the LIV Golf circuit in Korea thanks to strong driving and improved irons. Confident in the direction of his game, DeChambeau is optimistic about his chances this week if he can maintain his improved form.
* <https://www.reuters.com/sports/golf/bryson-dechambeau-popular-early-pga-championship-pick-2025-05-12/> - Bryson DeChambeau has emerged as a popular early pick to win his first PGA Championship at Quail Hollow, with odds shortening from +1200 to +950 due to significant public backing—27% of the money wagered. He is the third-favorite behind Scottie Scheffler (+400) and Rory McIlroy (+450). Scheffler holds 23% of the betting money and leads in total wagers at 22%, while McIlroy and DeChambeau each account for 14%. DeChambeau brings strong major credentials, including a recent U.S. Open win and a fifth-place Masters finish. His driving power is expected to be advantageous given the forecasted soft course conditions from anticipated rain. Scheffler, coming off a recent win at the CJ Cup Byron Nelson, also seeks his first PGA title following a T2 finish in 2023. Meanwhile, McIlroy has extensive success at Quail Hollow, claiming his first PGA Tour win there in 2010, and remains a fan favorite with three PGA Tour victories in 2025. His familiarity and strong track record at the course bolster his status as a top contender.
* <https://www.reuters.com/sports/golf/five-storylines-follow-this-weeks-pga-championship-2025-05-12/> - As the 2025 PGA Championship kicks off at Quail Hollow Club in Charlotte, North Carolina, five major storylines are in focus. Rory McIlroy enters as the favorite following his recent Masters victory, completing a career Grand Slam, and aims to secure a calendar-year Grand Slam with a win at a venue where he has had dominant past performances. Jordan Spieth, meanwhile, takes his ninth shot at completing his own career Grand Slam, his best PGA finish being a 2015 runner-up. Defending champion Xander Schauffele returns after recovering from a rib injury, looking to become the first repeat champion since 2019. Justin Thomas, who ended a three-year winless streak last month, returns to the site of his first major victory in 2017, carrying renewed confidence. Lastly, the treacherous "Green Mile" — Quail Hollow’s final three holes — remains a critical test, notorious for its difficulty and capable of derailing even the most composed players.
* <https://apnews.com/article/ff3bae32164b2a4e212aad3605cd897c> - Xander Schauffele claimed his first major title at the Valhalla Club during the PGA Championship, famously sinking a critical 6-foot putt to secure victory. Known for his consistent performances and often being labeled as the best player without a major, Schauffele's win silenced critics questioning his ability to clinch large tournaments. Throughout the tournament, he faced stiff competition from prominent players like Bryson DeChambeau and Viktor Hovland. Despite the pressures and past near-misses, Schauffele managed to remain composed and demonstrated exceptional skill and attitude, particularly in the final rounds. His 21-under par 263 score set a record for a 72-hole major. This victory not only affirmed his talent but also marked a significant milestone in his golf career, proving his capacity to win at the highest level of the sport.
* <https://www.reuters.com/sports/golf/confidence-boosted-rory-mcilroy-targets-fourth-win-wells-fargo-2024-05-08/> - Rory McIlroy, a three-time champion of the Wells Fargo Championship, is set to lead a field of 69 players at Quail Hollow Club in Charlotte, N.C. This $20 million event is the final preparation for many top golfers before the PGA Championship. McIlroy, ranked No. 2 in the world, recently won the Zurich Classic of New Orleans alongside Shane Lowry, which has bolstered his confidence. Despite some off-course controversies, McIlroy feels more liberated after the team victory. The tournament also features other high-ranked players, including defending champion Wyndham Clark, who set a course record last year and has since risen to No. 3 in the rankings. Max Homa, another former Wells Fargo winner, also looks forward to the event. First-round tee times will begin three hours later than planned due to forecasted thunderstorms.
* <https://apnews.com/article/990b0da4b429a883901cb157fbcd732e> - Scottie Scheffler struggled during the third round of the PGA Championship, shooting a 2-over 73 and falling from fourth to 24th place. The tough day comes after an unusual previous day that included an arrest and time in a holding cell, though he managed to shoot a 66 afterward. This round broke Scheffler's impressive streak of 42 rounds of par or better. Leading players Justin Rose and Shane Lowry posted impressive scores of 64 and 62, respectively. Despite battling through tough conditions and support from fans, Scheffler experienced several errors including poor tee shots and missed putts. He is now trailing leaders Collin Morikawa and Xander Schauffele by eight shots. His caddie Ted Scott is expected back for the final round after attending a family event.