

Major #4 for The Big Easy

Written by



Ernie Els previously had finished 3rd and 2nd at the last two Open Championships at Royal Lytham & St. Annes . . . and it seemed that his 12 foot birdie putt at the last would once again give him a close call at Lytham. The birdie was vintage Ernie of yesteryear, and looked to be no more than a great highlight and perhaps a pressure point to Adam Scott's first victory. Trailing by six strokes entering Sunday's Final round, El's had four birdies and no bogeys on the back nine to shoot 32, enroute to a Sunday 68.

After being snubbed by the green jackets earlier this spring, and missing the short putt on the 72nd hole at Innisbrook (that would have gotten him into the Masters), it seemed that his time for big wins was over. As it turned out, Scott (75) stumbled home with four straight bogeys and suddenly his first major victory was gone. It was Ernie's time again . . . a year ago he admitted to being lost, and at 42 years old he is now a FOUND major champion. After an up and down 2012 season, he is once again the keeper of the best trophy in Golf, the Claret Jug.

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I'm still numb. It still hasn't sunk in," said the South African who was 50-1 with the bookmakers at the start of the Championship and still 25-1 with 18 holes left to go. "It's a crazy, crazy game. I can't really believe I have won. I have been on the other end more times than I have been on the winning end so I know what Adam is feeling like.

The 141st Open Championship will be remembered as much for the late collapse by Adam Scott as much as it will be for Ernie's win. Hopefully Adam Scott's time will come, his talent is worthy.

Tiger Woods and Brandt Snedeker finished tied for third at -3.

Final Leaderboard: <http://www.theopen.com/en/Leaderboard.aspx>

Ernie's Clubs:

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Callaway RAZR Fit Driver, 8.5°

Callaway X-TOUR FW (15.0)

Callaway RAZR X Muscleback Irons (5-9, PW)

Callaway X Utility Prototype (18°, 21°, 24°)

Callaway JAWS Wedges (52°, 60°)

Odyssey White Hot XG #1 Belly Putter (44.5", 3* loft, 70.5* lie angle)

Iron / Wedge Shafts:

KBS Tour X

Ball:

Callaway HEX Black Tour