

PLANNING NOTICES

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GOLF STAR POSTS SIZZLING 66

POWERFUL

SEAMUS Power returned to Dallas standing tall after turning his career around last year with a sizzling 66 on day one at the AT&T Byron Nelson.

The Waterford man yesterday grabbed seven birdies and dropped just one shot for a 66 in bright but windy conditions on the host TPC Craig Ranch course located in suburban McKinley.

Colombian-born, and now Texas-based, Sebastian Munoz set a new course record by signing for a blistering 12-under-par 60 to lead by four shots.

Munoz (29) matched his lowest score on the PGA Tour and capped his round with a four-hole stretch from the ninth to 12th hole with scores of eagle, birdie, birdie and eagle, before birdieing his closing three.

Power capped holding 60-feet of putts with just six putts outside of 10 feet, that proved the key to his round.

"I knew I holed a lot of footage today, and I putted very nicely here last year," he said.

"I love these greens here. The surfaces are perfect and they're the type of greens I seem to read pretty well.

"It was nothing too special tee to green but I really felt good on the greens. Even last week I didn't play well but I felt like I putted well. Once I get to bent greens I feel like it really suits me. I'm just much more used to that, so that helps and I just like the speed and I like the look of these ones".

Contributing to the toughness for those out in the opening half of the field was the wind, as the now World No.42 ranked Power explained in hitting half of the Texas fairways.

"The wind is definitely a factor, and I just didn't quite play my best tee-to-green more than anything," he said.

"I missed the first couple of fairways and I was just playing a little catch-up in the fairway stats after that but I also hit a couple of good tee shots in a couple of the important spots, which is nice and gave myself some chances.

"I'll go have some lunch and spend some time this afternoon working on the range but I will probably leave the putter alone (smiling)".

Kinsale's John Murphy, playing only his second PGA Tour, was out a few groups behind Power and sensationally kick-started his round by holing a 30-footer for a birdie three from behind the flag at the first.

However, the spark died as he posted three bogeys in succession to be two-over after just four holes, and then three-over in dropping a shot at the ninth.

Murphy then produced eight inward-half pars ahead of posting a closing-hole bogey in failing to get up-and-down from a greenside bunker at the last, in his four-over 76, for a then distant share of 138th place.

Seamus off to flyer in Texas

By Bernie McGuire

While Power hit just seven Craig Ranch fairways in the windy conditions, it was a hot Power putter.

Birdie

He holed out for birdie at 17, and at the last he laid-up shy of the water guarding the green and then drained a 21-footer for another birdie.

While Power hit just seven Craig Ranch fairways in the windy conditions, it was a hot Power putter.



'Once I get to bent greens I feel it suits me'

IN THE ZONE: Seamus Power plays his shot from the fifth tee during the first round of the AT&T Byron Nelson at TPC Craig Ranch in Texas yesterday



ROLE: World Rugby Chairman Bill Beaumont

World Cups in the US

From back page

American market. They opted off a major coup with the 2019 World Cup in Japan which helped boost the revenues that year to over \$480m and are hoping for more from the USA.

"It is a bit of a no-brainer," said Alan Gilpin, World Rugby chief executive. "We will for sure see a tournament that is bigger than a billion dollar World Cup but I'm hoping we get there maybe in one of the ones before 2031."

"There is a lot of work to be done in building the sport in the US but this is a country that gets big events."

Beaumont added: "To have the surety of two World Cups will help grow the game in the USA — it's a huge sporting market."

The Americans are aiming to extend the tournament to 24 teams instead of 20, and introduce a round of 16 in the knockout stages.

Plan

They also plan to start the competition in the western states of the country, using NFL stadia, before migrating across with the final being held in the east, with New York the favourite.

The English RFU have huge plans for the Women's World Cup in three years' time and believe they could sell out Twickenham for the final.

Last time they staged the tournament in 2010, the Stoop was used as the venue for the last game between New Zealand and England, which the Black Ferns won 13-10, in front of 13,253 fans. A sell-out Twickenham holds 82,000.

See Day, the RFU chief operating officer and former England international, said: "We want to take the pools around the country because we want the whole country to be part of this."