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Storylines

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Latin America Amateur Championship

CASA DE CAMPO - DOMINICAN REPUBLIC
2016



LATIN AMERICA AMATEUR CHAMPIONSHIP 2016

FECHA: January 14th - 17th, 2016

LUGAR: Teeth of the Dog, Casa de Campo, Dominican Republic

For more information about the tournament, visit: www.laacgolf.com

Amateur Players to Watch at the 2016 LAAC

With just a few days away from the start of the second edition of the Latin America Amateur Championship (LAAC), which will take place January 14-17 at Casa de Campo's Teeth of the Dog course in the Dominican Republic. Expectations are growing for both championship competitors and area spectators.

Golf is unpredictable and often lower-ranked players can spring surprises in

championships. A case in point is Chilean Matias Dominguez, winner of the 2015 LAAC in Buenos Aires, Argentina, who started the event ranked 412th on the World Amateur Golf Ranking™ (WAGR™) and went on to win by one shot from Argentina's Alejandro Tosti, ranked 64th. Needless to say, both players are contenders to win the championship at Teeth of the Dog, but they will face a strong group of players who have trained hard to arrive at Casa de Campo in top shape.

Of the field's 108 players, the highest-ranked player in the WAGR is Uruguay's Juan Alvarez (No. 34), who will undoubtedly be one of the favorites, not only because of his top-20 finish at the 2015 LAAC but also because he had an outstanding performance at the VISA Open de Argentina (PGA Tour Latinoamérica), where he was runner-up and achieved low amateur honors. Next are Chileans Claudio Correa and Joaquin Niemann. Correa, a student at the University of South Florida, won a NCAA tournament in 2015, while Niemann won the 2014 Junior Orange Bowl, an elite event in American junior golf. Then there is Brazil's André Tourinho, who tied for third at the 2015 LAAC, Venezuela's Jorge Garcia and Colombian Santiago Gómez. Other players to keep an eye on are Mexicans Roberto Ruiz and Álvaro Ortiz, Argentina's Matias Simaski and Gaston Bertinotti, and Costa Rica's José Méndez. Additionally, one cannot dismiss the local players who are used to the playing conditions at Teeth of the Dog: Dominicans Juan José Guerra, Chad McCann and José Hernández.

All of them will be looking forward to becoming the next heroes of the region. There's no doubt that the prizes extended by The Masters Tournament, The R&A and the USGA are a huge incentive to the players. The championship grants the winner the opportunity to play in the 2016 Masters Tournament. In addition, the winner and the runner(s)-up will be exempt into The Open Qualifying Series for The 145th Open at Royal Troon and into sectional qualifying for the U.S. Open Championship at Oakmont Country Club next year. Finally, the champion will receive full exemptions into The Amateur Championship in 2016, the 2016 U.S. Amateur Championship and any other USGA amateur championship for which he is eligible.

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About the Masters Tournament

Inspired by its founders, Bobby Jones and Clifford Roberts, the Masters Tournament has embraced its obligation and seized opportunities to promote the game since the Tournament's inception in 1934. The efforts of the

Masters on behalf of the game of golf are aimed to preserve its integrity, celebrate sportsmanship, applaud champions, positively affect people in need through philanthropy, and give all that is possible back to the game. The Masters is focused on providing stewardship for the game, especially for amateur players and youth around the world.

For more information, visit www.masters.com.

About The R&A

Based in St Andrews, The R&A organizes The Open, major amateur events and international matches. Together with the United States Golf Association, The R&A governs the game worldwide, jointly administering the Rules of Golf, Rules of Amateur Status, Equipment Standards and World Amateur Golf Rankings. The R&A's working jurisdiction is global, excluding the United States and Mexico.

The R&A is committed to working for golf and supports the growth of the game internationally and the development and management of sustainable golf facilities. The R&A operates with the consent of 152 organizations from the amateur and professional game and on behalf of over thirty million golfers in 138 countries.

For more information, visit www.randa.org.

About the USGA

The USGA conducts the U.S. Open, U.S. Women's Open and U.S. Senior Open, as well as 10 national amateur championships, two state team championships and international matches, attracting players and fans from more than 160 countries. Together with The R&A, the USGA governs the game worldwide, jointly administering the Rules of Golf, Rules of Amateur Status, equipment standards and World Amateur Golf Rankings. The USGA's reach is global with a working jurisdiction in the United States, its territories and Mexico, serving more than 25 million golfers and actively engaging 150 golf associations.

The USGA is one of the world's foremost authorities on research, development and support of sustainable golf course management practices. It serves as a primary steward for the game's history and invests in the development of the game through the delivery of its services and its ongoing "For the Good of the Game" grants program. Additionally, the USGA's Course Rating and Handicap systems are used on six continents in more than 50 countries.

For more information about the USGA, visit www.usga.org.

Fotos del dia



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Amateur Players to Watch at the 2016 Latin America Amateur Championship

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