

DOMINIC FOOS

Young Gun Makes His Mark

DOMINIC Foos is a young man with a big future. The 16-year-old amateur was acclaimed throughout the golfing world last month when he finished tied 16th at the Commercial Bank Qatar Masters ahead of the likes of European No.1 Henrik Stenson, former World No.1 Luke Donald, four-time Major champion Ernie Els and current US PGA Champion Jason Dufner.

Displaying a composure that belied his youth Foos outplayed his esteemed colleagues with three rounds of 70 followed by a hugely impressive closing 68 to finish 10-under for the tournament.

A familiar face in Dubai, having visited the emirate for the past few years to practice during the winter months when the climate is considerably warmer than in his native Germany, Foos is currently the No.1 ranked under 16 player in the world. Coached by his father, Sam, he's already achieved great things in a sparkling amateur career, becoming the youngest winner of a string of titles, including the German International Boys, French International Boys, German Match Play Trophy and German Junior.

A former Jr Ryder Cup player, Dominic has been selected for the Europe v Asia and Pacific Michael Bonallack Trophy for 2014 as the youngest ever European Player. Foos considers the Commercial Bank Qatar Masters winner Sergio Garcia a friend and mentor and with many more performances like the one he produced at Doha Golf Club it surely won't be long before he's joining the Spaniard on The European Tour winners' podium. ➔

Sam Foos
Coach, mentor, manager
and, more importantly, Dad!

QuickFire

WWG: How old were you when you first broke par?

DF: Off the men's tees I was 11 years old.

WWG: How old were you when you first hit a golf ball?

DF: I believe it was in summer 2000 and I was 2 years and 10 months.

WWG: What Major would you most like to win first?

DF: The Masters

WWG: Which film most makes you laugh?

DF: The Other Guys with Mark Wahlberg

WWG: Caddyshack or Happy Gilmore?

DF: Happy Gilmore.



Interview



WWG: What did it mean to you to finish ahead of Stenson, Els, Donald and Dufner in Qatar?

DF : It was a great moment for me. Every player has good and bad weeks and the result in Qatar has shown me that I have the potential to compete on a high level on Tour.

WWG: What did you learn from your result and playing at Doha Golf Club?

DF : I learned a lot but I would say the most important thing I learned was that hard work pays off!

WWG: When will you look to turn professional and has the performance and result in Qatar influenced that?

DF : It will probably be in a year or two. It was a great week in Qatar and showed me that I am on the right track, but the plans have not changed!

WWG: Did the Doha Golf Club track suit your strengths or have you learnt to adjust to different courses?

DF : My game is actually in a good balance, so I feel comfortable enough to adjust my game to play all different types of courses.

WWG: How does your finish in Qatar compare to other great moments in your career?

DF : I've had some amazing moments but that was the best so far. It was a great feeling closing with an eagle on the last hole and I'm really proud to finish in such a strong tournament in 16th position.

WWG: While Sergio was waiting for the play-off to commence in Qatar the TV showed you chatting with him and having fun. You seemed quite close – how well do you know him?

DF : We've been friends for a while and Sergio helps me a lot with tips on and off the course. I look up to him and he's a role model for me. I also like his family and the people around him. We had dinner together several times during the tournament and it was a great spending time with him.

WWG: What kind of advice does Sergio give you?

DF : We speak about what tournaments I should play as an amateur and what is the right mix for me in terms of my schedule. He tells me about his experiences as a top amateur playing in all of the biggest events.



WWG: You've played and practiced all over the world but how has Dubai influenced your progress over the last few years?

DF : Dubai is a really fantastic place for a golfer. I love to come here during the winter to practice, especially at Jumeirah Golf Estates and also at The Els Club. It's amazing to wake up every morning and know the sun is shining. The practice during the winter time in Dubai has been such an essential factor in developing my game.

SERGIO

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WWG: What do you like most about Sergio?

DF : I like many things about him as a player and how he handles certain things, but I really like his infectious passion and love for the game.

WWG: When you practice, do you have a set routine and how long do you spend on the range, in the gym and playing during the course of the day?

DF : It depends on the time of the year. During the winter I hit more balls on the range than in the summer. But generally I spend more time on my short game. My dad makes the training plans and we work to them accordingly.

WWG: How has technology enabled you to improve your game?

DF : Technology is great! I'm working



Dominic Foos with the magnificent trophy after winning the German International Boys Championship.

with my dad a lot using the Trackman which helps me to understand my swing better.

WWG: What's the best tip or piece of advice you could give juniors who are working on their game in the hope of being able to turn professional?

DF : First of all they need to have a passion for the game. Then hard work and commitment are the key to success.

WWG: You've played in the Pro-Am and been a member of the winning Am-Am team at the DP World Tour Championship but do you now feel your game is in a place where you could confidently compete with the top 60 on The Race to Dubai at Jumeirah Golf Estates?

DF : I have practiced a lot during the last few years and especially the last

few months after finishing school. I feel really comfortable with my game, so it is getting more rounded. I believe I have the potential to compete at a high level but only time will tell what's possible. I still have the time before turning pro to improve my game.

WWG: There are bound to be comparisons between yourself and other young headline makers like Rory McIlroy and Matteo Manassero. But which professional golfer has inspired you the most and why?

DF : Rory and Matteo both turned pro at a pretty young age and won, so they've shown that it's possible to be young and compete on the Tour. I would say I was mostly inspired by Tiger, Sergio and Rory.

WWG: You are still so young, how do you manage to have fun away from the course and relax?

DF : I love golf, so every time I practice or play I'm always enjoying myself. To relax I like to chill out, listen to music or go the cinema and I love to play table tennis and billiards as well.

WWG: How crucial has your dad, Sam, been in nurturing your game, protecting you from the ruthless side of the industry and, most importantly, keeping the father and son relationship so strong?

DF : My dad has played the biggest role in nurturing my game since I was a little kid. Our relationship is something special. It's very strong and we really enjoy travelling around together.

www.dominicfoos.com



Dominic Foos in action at The European Tour Performance Institute at Jumeirah Golf Estates.