



2017 AT&T Pebble Beach Pro-Am Recap

On a weekend when brilliant blue skies rescued the AT&T Pebble Beach Pro-Am from being cursed by five days of rain delays, suspended rounds and unplayable weather conditions, 23-year-old Jordan Spieth shined as brightly as the much-welcomed sun that glimmered across Carmel Bay, as he became the second-youngest winner in the tournament's 77-year history.

The week began with legendary "Crosby Weather," a term that dates back to the first tournament hosted by Bing Crosby in 1937, when rain in the San Diego area limited the competition to only 18 holes at Rancho Santa Fe. "Crosby Weather" followed the tournament to the Monterey Peninsula, where the first year of play in 1947 was doused with rain on Sunday.

But not even Mother Nature could dampen Spieth's hot hand on the normally tricky, frustrating poa annua greens at Pebble Beach, Spyglass Hill and Monterey Peninsula Country Club's Shore Course – the three world-class courses that make up the AT&T Pro-Am rotation.

Needing only 23 putts for a Saturday 65 at Pebble Beach Golf Links, Spieth staked himself to a six-shot lead. And then Sunday he hit 17 of 18 greens in a systematic, if not spectacular, 2-under-par 70 to finish at 268, 19-under par, without anyone getting closer to Spieth than three shots all day.

"It's a bucket list type win," said Spieth, (23 years, 6 months), right behind 1981 champ John Cook (23 years, 4 months). "I have read a lot about the Bing Crosby. It's a special golf tournament and an extremely special place for a golfer. The greats of the game all have their names here."

Indeed, the names of Ben Hogan, Byron Nelson, Ben Crenshaw and Tom Kite – all Texans who won at Pebble Beach – hold special meaning to Spieth, whose name stayed atop the leaderboard all day Sunday. With 14 straight pars between his birdie at the par-5 second hole and par-3 17th, Spieth steadily kept his distance from runner-up Kelly Kraft, who closed with a 67 to finish at 272 (15-under), and never felt much heat from two-time AT&T Pro-Am winners Dustin Johnson (273) and Brant Snedeker (274), who finished third and fourth, respectively.

By Sunday the tournament was back on its original time schedule, but like the Super Bowl the Sunday before, it was a battle to catch up all the way.

- Thursday's first-round tee times were moved up an hour to try to finish ahead of a heavy storm, but play was suspended at 1:33 p.m. after only 73 teams finished the first round.
- Play resumed at 8:30 a.m. Friday and the first round was completed at 10:46 a.m., slightly overlapping the start of the second round at 10:30 a.m.
- The second round was halted at 4:21 p.m. because of fog, with only 33 of 154 players completing the round. The second round resumed at 7:30 a.m. Saturday and was completed at 10:14 a.m., again overlapping with the 10 a.m. start of round three.
- With sunshine helping Saturday, the full field completed the third round before darkness.

TV host Carson Daly, a 10-handicap who played junior golf in Southern California against Tiger Woods, won the pro-am with partner Ken Duke. Daly became only the sixth entertainment celebrity to win the pro-am at Pebble Beach, and the first since Bill Murray in 2011. Daly and Duke finished with a total of 254, 33-under-par, to win by two strokes. Daly also won the annual Jack Lemmon Award, which goes to the amateur who helps his team the most. Daly helped 27 strokes for the week.

The celebrity amateurs in the field – which included newcomer Kelly Rohrbach, a swimsuit model and former collegiate golfer – made as big a splash as the weather. Making the pro-am team cut for Sunday's final round were actors Josh Duhamel, Chris O'Donnell and Murray; singers Justin Timberlake and Jake Owen; and sports stars Larry Fitzgerald, Alex Smith, Wayne Gretzky, and Josh Donaldson. Rohrbach, playing with pro Gary Woodland, missed getting into the team tiebreaker by one shot.

For the second year, the \$1 Million Hole-In-One for Charity contest Wednesday on the 7th hole at Pebble Beach welcomed 32 celebrities. Nobody made a million-dollar ace, but country singer Colt Ford earned \$50,000 for being closest to the hole in the finals.

CUT: 77 pros made the cut at 215, even par, with 65 (low 60 and ties) advancing to Sunday's final round. The pro-am team cut was 200, 15-under par, with the limit of 25 teams advancing (eight of 11 teams at 200 eliminated through the tiebreaker).

COURSE AVERAGES: Pebble Beach 71.900; Spyglass Hill 68.641; Monterey Peninsula 67.276.

WEATHER: Monday through Wednesday mostly rainy, temperatures ranging from the 50s to high 60s. Thursday cloudy, with heavy rain in the afternoon, with wind gusts to 35 mph. Friday rain and fog, with a high of 60. Saturday mostly sunny with high of 59, wind 10-15 mph. Sunday sunny with high of 61, with wind 5-10 mph.