



Presidents Cup aftermath

How the 2011 players have fared in 2012

/// By Paul Prendergast

At the recent Memorial Tournament, PGA Tour Commissioner Tim Finchem announced the appointment of the captains - Fred Couples and Nick Price - for the 2013 Presidents Cup matches at Muirfield Village. Couples will be returning for his 3rd successive stint at the helm of the United States team, Price deeply honoured to be taking the reins at his first Cup after a distinguished record as a player in the event.

While there is a lot of water to pass under the bridge until late 2013, including what should be an absolutely outstanding Ryder Cup clash this September in Chicago, a glance at the 2012 form of the International and United States players that contested the Cup just over 6 months ago is a sobering reminder for Price of the size of the mountain the Internationals need to climb together.

The Internationals in 2012



Robert Allenby

Pilloried by most for his performance in the Cup, Allenby came close to ending a decade long winning drought on the PGA Tour in Mexico earlier this year, losing a playoff to John Huh, and recently tying for 7th behind Dustin Johnson in Memphis. Another lucrative but unspectacular year appears in store.



Jason Day

A close shave in Qatar and a couple of top 10s on the PGA Tour have been the highlights of year curtailed by injury thus far. His performances are well down on his heroics of 2011 and as such, he has fallen out of the World Top 10.



Ernie Els

After a disappointing 2011 season and Presidents Cup campaign, the veteran appears reinvigorated in 2012. He has flirted with victory on a number of occasions in the US and is showing great consistency with several top 10 finishes, including contending until the final holes of the US Open while outputting the whole field - which has been his Achilles heel of late.

Has well and truly exceeded his 2011 money haul already this year and lifted his World Ranking back inside the Top 50. Els has a return to the winner's circle in his sights for the remainder of the year.



Adam Scott

Scott has only played 9 events in 2012 for mixed results and has slipped out of the World Top 10. He would have hoped to have contended more often in the big events, a tie for 15th in the US Open was solid but he was never in



Aaron Baddeley

contention after a poor first round. May yet catch fire in the second half of the season, he's certainly fresh enough.



K.J. Choi

A Top 5 in the season opening event in Hawaii has been the highest finish of a disappointing season to date for the normally prolific Korean. However, the tie for 15th in the US Open was by far his strongest performance of the year and hopefully the portents of better things to come.



Ryo Ishikawa

Another who has failed to shine in the big World events he's played this year. His world ranking has declined since Royal Melbourne although a T2 in Puerto Rico and recent Top 10 at The Memorial are optimistic signs for the

talented Japanese tyro.



Y.E. Yang

One Top 25 in 12 events on the PGA Tour says it all for the former US PGA champion.



K.T. Kim

A promising debut at the Presidents Cup but beyond some solid performances on the Japanese Tour, has been unsighted in most of his forays to the PGA Tour in 2012.



Retief Goosen

A couple of close finishes very early in the season in his homeland are the highlights of a pedestrian 2012 to date. The Goose contended for 3 rounds before fading to a tie for 20th at the Transitions Championship in Florida

but completed a very solid US Open, tying for 10th despite walking away with a bad taste in the mouth after 3 putting the final hole.



Charl Schwartzel

A solid but unspectacular season for the sweet swinging South African who is always around the Top 20 wherever he plays. Schwartzel has certainly been overshadowed in 2012 by the form of countryman, close friend and 2011 Presidents Cup 'non-selection', Louis Oosthuizen.



Geoff Ogilvy

Has made 12 of 14 cuts in 2012 on Tour but has not threatened the Top 10 so far this year. One of the feature players to miss the cut at the US Open which was a surprise given his pedigree in the tournament. Seems to be injury free for once however so would be hopeful

of better things to come in '12.

Now compare if you will, their form with that of US team members over the same period:

The United States in 2012



Hunter Mahan

With 2 significant victories in the season, Mahan currently sits 2nd on the PGA Tour money list and comfortably inside the World Top 10. The Texan has bounced back from his 2010 Ryder Cup disappointment in the best possible way and will be a solid talisman for Davis Love III against the Europeans at Medinah.



Tiger Woods

Controversial Captain's pick for the Cup, won his own Chevron World Challenge event directly after the Cup and has had 2 dominant victories at Bay Hill





Charl Schwartzel misses a crucial putt in the team matches Credit - Mark Wilson

and The Memorial in 2012, climbing back to Number 4 in the World Rankings. Can't help but think there is much more yet to come for Woods in 2012 on current form.



Phil Mickelson

Victory at Pebble Beach and contended valiantly at The Masters once again. Was well off the pace at Olympic as he searched in vain for that elusive first US Open.



Dustin Johnson

Has had a year ravaged by injury but won at Memphis in his second tournament

back. DJ is a big chance to contend at the remaining big events this year, despite the disappointment of a missed cut at the US Open. Remember, he finished 2nd behind Darren Clarke at last year's Open Championship and the remaining majors of the year are at seaside courses (Lytham and Kiawah Island) which could be right up his alley.



Jim Furyk

A revelation at the Presidents Cup after an indifferent year, Furyk has taken the confidence of being unbeaten at Royal Melbourne to a solid 2012, with 9 Top 25s from 13 events played. Showed he was back to his grinding best at Olympic but just couldn't complete the job over the

closing stages after holding grimly to the lead all day. A heroic effort.



Matt Kuchar

With his win at The Players this past May, collected the most important and validating win of his career.



Bubba Watson

Masters Champion and new father, having the time of his life. A missed cut at the US Open may have burst the bubble somewhat but that could be the thing that sparks him to refocus for the rest of the year.



Webb Simpson

One of the hottest players in the world leading into last year's Cup, 2012 'had' been less spectacular up until the US Open - with 'only' \$1.3 million in earnings. However, how quickly times changes - all hail the new US Open champion and World Number 5!!!



Bill Haas

Winner earlier in the year in Los Angeles, a solid follow up from his Tour Championship and FedEx Cup winning year in 2011.



Steve Stricker

Victory at the Tournament of Champions in Hawaii and 3 more Top 10s in only 10 starts is what we've come to expect from the consistent Stricker, who despite the recent theatrics of countrymen Woods, Mahan, Watson

and Dufner who have overtaken him, still ranks Number 11 in the world.



David Toms

Had been plodding along with earnings of \$800,000 but then had the best US Open of his career to finish in a tie for 4th behind Webb Simpson. Up until then, Toms' season would be considered a disappointment in light of the exploits of most of his 2011 teammates - but a triumph for any of the Internationals!!



Nick Watney

A slower start to the year than in 2011 but with 2 Top 10s in 15 appearances for over \$820,000 on the season - ditto David Toms.

Price said he has some 'ideas' for how to make the International team more competitive come the Sunday Singles next year, but did not elaborate any further at the announcement of his captaincy at Muirfield Village. He said he will make it a point to involve his

players, especially the more experienced ones, in the decision-making processes - particularly as he will be a rookie captain and somewhat removed from the playing group.

'This is a new situation for me,' he said. 'Having played as a player and now having to be captain, I really want the players to contribute as much as they possibly can toward any decisions that I have to make.'

With the US players going from strength to strength since Melbourne, coupled with the rise of players like Jason Dufner, Rickie Fowler, Zach Johnson, Keegan Bradley and Kyle Stanley, they will field a potent lineup to go up against an equally potent European team at the Ryder Cup in September. At this time last year however, followers of the game will remember that the American stocks were on the wane after a tepid showing at The Masters and US Open from any of their players. How quickly they have bounced back, with 2 US winners of the first two Majors of the year.

For the sake of the Internationals and the President Cup as a contest itself, Price will be hoping for a similar resurrection of form and fortune from his International contingent over the next 12 months.



A familiar sight. Tiger embracing Fred Couples after clinching the Cup for the US Credit - Mark Wilson