



PREVIEW

THE PRESIDENTS CUP ALL SET UP FOR HIGH DRAMA

All eyes turn to South Korea for the bi-annual Presidents Cup.

By Kenneth Quillinan

The inaugural hosting of The Presidents Cup in Asia gets underway this week at the Jack Nicklaus Golf Course in Songdo, located one hour outside of Seoul.

On paper the US team, who are hoping for 4 wins in a row, once again look to be too strong for the international outfit. But as we all know there are no certainties in sport, and golf is no different.

It is fair to say that the The Presidents Cup remains very much the understudy to The Ryder Cup, however this year it certainly has the potential to go some way towards rectifying this.

With the total number of points available reduced from 34 to 30, after persistent appeals from International team



 **RIGHT:** Phil Mickelson with the trophy after winning the 2013 President's Cup
ABOVE RIGHT: Adam Scott; Jordan Spieth with Steve Stricker



captain Nick Price, there is a strong feeling that this will lead to Sunday afternoons singles matches being pivotal in deciding who comes out victorious. Still, on paper, the US team looks to have the edge, but match play comes down to the individual who wants it most and current form is all but thrown out the window.

Who will be more desperate for a point on Sunday afternoon? Look at the likes of Asian debutants Thongchai Jaidee and Anirban Lahiri. Will they be fired up to win on Sunday? Of course. And how about local Korean boy Sang Moon Bae, who is expected to begin his mandatory military service in the coming weeks? Does he need any more motivation? Korean born New Zealander Danny Lee played 36 events on tour this year, in a bid to make the team. He had one main goal this year and that was to be teeing up for the international team this week. He is ready to play. And these are regarded by most as the 'weaker' players on


the International team. The main draw of the week is the potential of World Number One and Player of the Year Jordan Spieth going head to head with his current biggest rival (McIlroy closely behind) Jason Day in the Sunday Singles. It could be the deciding factor to the overall outcome and just how memorable would that be?

We haven't even mentioned the likes of the ever entertaining Bubba. Will he rally up the crowd before he tees off? Will Phil prove the doubters of his selection wrong? Will Patrick Reed play the villain role once again? Will Adam Scott find his form after a disappointing 2015? How will Rickie Fowler handle the pressure on his Presidents Cup debut?


There are so many questions that will be answered in South Korea and even though the time difference is not favourable for viewing, once Sunday comes, we may all be setting our alarms to witness what could possibly be the most exciting golf of the year.

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 Louis Oosthuizen



 Bubba Watson



 Jason Day at the 2013 Presidents Cup

THE TEAMS

International team: 1 Jason Day, 2 Louis Oosthuizen, 3 Adam Scott, 4 Hideki Matsuyama, 5 Branden Grace, 6 Marc Leishman, 7 Anirban Lahiri, 8 Charl Schwartzel, 9 Thongchai Jaidee, 10 Danny Lee, Steven Bowditch, Bae Sang-moon.

United States team: 1 Jordan Spieth, 2 Bubba Watson, 3 Jimmy Walker, 4 Zach Johnson, 5 JB Holmes, 6 Rickie Fowler, 7 Dustin Johnson, 8 Patrick Reed, 9 Matt Kuchar, 10 Chris Kirk, Phil Mickelson, Bill Haas.