PROFESSIONAL GOLF ASSOCIATION

McIlroy says DeChambeau brings eyeballs to golf

It's still to be determined where he will be seen



DOUG FERGUSON

What came across as criticism in July sounded a lot more like a compliment Tuesday when Rory McIlroy contemplated the nebulous future of Bryson DeChambeau.

DeChambeau was theatrical as ever when he protested a two-shot penalty for improving the path of his swing while stomping around in waist-high grass at the British Open. There were questions whether he would withdraw and rumors he was planning to call President Donald Trump. It led to players having to wait until nearly midnight to get Saturday tee times.

"I think a lot of it is performative," McIlroy said at Royal Birkdale, making clear he was not a big fan of DeChambeau.

And now? DeChambeau is searching for a new home after the demise of LIV Golf, which on Tuesday in New Jersey filed a joint Chapter 11 bankruptcy plan.

The PGA Tour typically has a one-year ban of players dating to their most recent LIV Golf appearance, which could be longer if there are other disciplinary considerations (such as DeChambeau being part of the antitrust lawsuit against the tour).

He has the option of joining the European tour from winning a major in the last five years. That was the 2024 U.S. Open at Pinehurst No. 2 when he got up-and-down with a 55-yard bunker shot to win by one over McIlroy, who peeled out of the parking lot without a word.

DeChambeau already was planning to play the Nedbank Golf Challenge in South Africa, which the European tour co-sanctions, on Dec. 4-7. He has until Sunday to inform the European tour whether he wants to take up membership.

It's that "performative" nature that makes McIlroy believe DeChambeau would be a positive addition to the European tour.



Jon Super | Associated Press

Bryson DeChambeau of the United States poses with fans and signs autographs by the 9th hole during a practice round for the British Open Golf championships at Royal Birkdale golf club, in Southport, England, on July 14.

"I think a name like Bryson DeChambeau and everything he brings with him, good and bad, he brings eyeballs, which is a good thing for tournaments," McIlroy said at the season-ending DP World Tour Championship in Dubai.

"And honestly — look, I'm certainly not in his shoes, and nor would I ever want to be — but it doesn't seem like he's got many options," McIlroy said. "If he wants to play competitive golf, it doesn't seem like he's got many options."

There's always YouTube, which has given DeChambeau plenty of eyeballs. He has more than 3 million subscribers. DeChambeau has suggested he could devote time to YouTube and play the four majors, though it's always hard to tell if he's serious.

In his first public comments since the breakaway golf league announced it would shutter rather than launch a new version, DeChambeau in a social media post Sunday expressed no regrets for his last four years on LIV Golf and offered no clear details what was next for him.

He also invoked Arnold Palmer in saying the golf universe doesn't revolve around him.

"Arnold Palmer said no player is bigger than the game, and I want to acknowledge that along the way, I've said some things that didn't help," DeChambeau wrote in Sunday's post. "Whatever comes next, I'll approach it with humility and respect for the people who carried this game long before me."

It was Palmer who single-handedly put an end to Greg Norman's attempt to start a World Golf Tour in 1994, a separate league with big prize money for only the elite players. Palmer said at a players meeting that he didn't like the idea, and the plan lost support. That was one of many reasons Palmer was known as The King.

DeChambeau only said of his future, "I'll go about whatever is next the right way." He also said he thought there was still a place in golf for team golf, even if it doesn't include his Crushers.

DeChambeau was picked for the last Ryder Cup team at Bethpage Black in 2025, and he was performative and had eyeballs on him, just not many points. He won only one of the five matches he played, though he made a hellacious comeback to halve his singles match.

Are those eyeballs important for the U.S. team in Ireland next September? They might be considered more additive than valuable for a PGA Tour that already has the cream of golf minus a few players from LIV, DeChambeau and Rahm among them.

DeChambeau won five times on LIV Golf, one of those wins when he shot 58 in the final round at The Greenbrier. The limited schedule hasn't appeared to have any effect on his performance in the majors. Along with winning another U.S. Open, he finished one behind at the 2024 PGA Championship, played in the final group when McIlroy won the 2025 Masters and was runner-up to Scottie Scheffler in the PGA Championship at Quail Hollow.

Reed bet on himself and won by leaving LIV and getting back to the PGA Tour

BY DOUG FERGUSON
AP GOLF WRITER

Patrick Reed is back in Dubai this week for the season-ending DP World Tour Championship. It's the scene, but not the golf course, of perhaps the most consequential week of his career.

Reed won the Dubai Desert Classic in January at Emirates Golf Club and then decided not to renew his contract with LIV Golf, while the rival league was still getting full financial support from Saudi Arabia's sovereign wealth fund.

He wanted a return to traditional golf. Reed lost in a playoff the following week in Bahrain, and then won the Qatar Masters. Just over two months later, the Public Investment Fund of Saudi Arabia shifted its strategy and pulled the plug on LIV Golf.

That left dozens of players scrambling to find a tour. Reed, meanwhile, secured his return to the PGA Tour by being among the top 10 in the Race to Dubai who didn't already have tour cards. He is No. 3 in the European ranking going into the final week.

"The year has been very satisfying," Reed said Tuesday. "To kind of make that step and make the opportunity, to have to finish in the top 10 to earn my spot on the PGA Tour, and basically come out and believe in myself and put all my eggs in one basket and go get the job done, means a lot."

Where he doesn't get satisfaction is seeing the plight of so many others who stayed with LIV and now will likely have to rely on sponsor exemptions to run-of-the-mill European tour events, waiting a year before they try to qualify for the PGA Tour.

"You never want to see guys struggle or have to sit out, things like that," Reed said. "At the end of the day, a lot of those guys that are going through that are good friends of mine. You sit there, and you just hope that they are able to come out and do what I did — come out and play solid golf and come out on the PGA Tour."

THE SUN KEEPS RISING ON LPGA

Shuri Sakuma wasn't even sure she could play in the Toto Classic in Japan at the start of the year. She wound up winning, and it wasn't a big surprise. Sakuma already had won four times on the Japan LPGA, and her fifth one gives her LPGA Tour membership.

She plans to defer that to next year.

Sakuma is the fourth first-time winner from Japan on the LPGA this season, a list that includes Shiho Kuwaki at the Women's British Open. She also is the 10th different Japanese player to have won on the LPGA the last two years.

Meanwhile, Erika Hara finished in a career-best third place at the Toto Classic, all but assuring she will be the LPGA rookie of the year. She has a 131-point lead over Youmin Hwang of South Korea (150 points for winning, 80 points for second) with two tournaments remaining.

Russell and Talley top juniors

Miles Russell will go from his fifth PGA Tour start of the year this week in Austin, Texas, to San Antonio. He joins Asterisk Talley at an American Junior Golf Association banquet on Nov. 21 to be honored as the Rolex Junior Players of the Year.

Russell joined Phil Mickelson as the only players to win the award three times since 2023 (Blades Brown won in 2024 before turning pro).

The 18-year-old Russell, who has committed to Florida State, won back-to-back in the Junior Invitational at Sage Valley, was runner-up in the U.S. Junior Amateur, was a semifinalist at the Western Amateur and tied for 39th in the U.S. Open. He made the cut in two other PGA Tour events and is playing the Austin Golf Championship this week.

Talley, a 17-year-old Californian who plans to go to Stanford, won three national junior titles this year. She won the U.S. Women's Amateur and tied for 22nd in the U.S. Women's Open at Riviera. She tied for 49th in another LPGA major, The Chevron Championship, and made the cut in two other LPGA events.

CARNOUSTIE BACK IN THE BRITISH OPEN LINEUP

One difference in the two oldest golf championships is the U.S. Open has most sites selected all the way until Oakland Hills in 2051, when Blades Brown, a 19-year-old who just won the the World Wide Technology Championship, will be 44.

The R&A announced Monday that Carnoustie will host the British Open in 2029. That's as far out as the Open goes — St. Andrews in 2027, Royal Lytham & St. Annes in 2028, Carnoustie in 2029.

Carnoustie, reputed to be the toughest links on the rota, last hosted the British Open in 2018 when Francesco Molinari won his only major and Tiger Woods first began to show serious signs he was ready to win another major (he won the Masters the following year).

It will be ninth time for Carnoustie to host golf's oldest championship.

RYAN GERARD PLAYING HIS TUNE

Turns out there's more to Ryan Gerard than being an expert on travel deals and a player willing to travel halfway around the world to get to the Masters.

Part of his training in becoming a top-25 player in the world includes the violin.

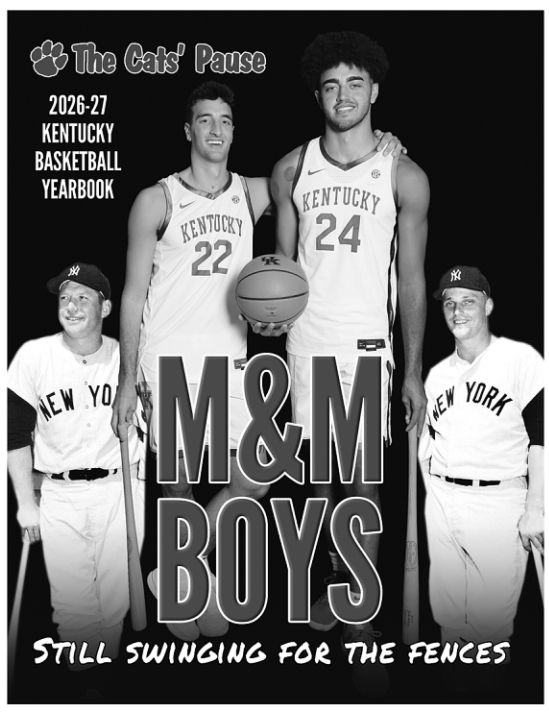
"I played violin for a while growing up, like 10, 15 years," Gerard said. "I think there's something to understanding the rhythm of a putting stroke, and my feel is pretty attributed to what I hear. Being able to have that music background and understanding different kind of tempos, rhythms, sounds, I feel like it's kind of made my feel as a golfer really sharp.



Altaf Qadri | Associated Press

Patrick Reed of the United States prepares to play a shot on the 16th green during the first round of the Abu Dhabi Golf Championship in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates on Thursday.

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LEGAL NOTICE

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that P & R Properties Plus, LLC of 6735 HWY 2830 Owensboro, KY 42303, has filed an application with the Energy and Environment Cabinet to construct a 2000 sq ft house, 50x40 living space w/ 7'x50' covered porch on front, w/ 12'x30' deck on rear of house. The property is located approximately at 37.825829° W, -87.029471° N.

Any comments or objections can be submitted via email to: DOWFloodplain @ky.gov Kentucky Division of Water, Floodplain Management Section, 300 Sower Blvd. Frankfort, KY 40601. Call 502-564-3410.

LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE OF SERVICE OF PROCESS BY PUBLICATION
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA, BEAUFORT COUNTY
IN THE GENERAL COURT OF
JUSTICE, DISTRICT COURT DIVISION
FILE NO. 26CV000733-060; MOORE V. GAILLARD
To: Paul Edward Gaillard Jr.

TAKE NOTICE that a pleading seeking relief against you has been filed in the above-entitled action. The nature of the relief being sought is as follows: Absolute Divorce based upon one year's separation.

You are required to make defense to such pleading not later than forty (40) days from the date of the first publication of this Notice and upon your failure to do so the party seeking service against you will apply to the court for the relief sought.

This, the 29th day of October, 2026.

Amelia Bryn Cooper, Attorney for the Plaintiff
Inner Banks Legal Services, Inc.
130A East 2nd Street
Washington, NC 27889

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