

It's A Beautiful Day

It only took five years for native Australia's Jason Day to become an overnight sensation.

In 2011, Day, 23, has finished second at both the Masters and the U.S. Open. In so doing, he has played like a young man who looks ready, willing, and able to help define a new generation of top-end competitive golfers. When people talk about the next wave of great young players, Day's name is always in the conversation.

In addition to his performance at this year's first two major championships, Day finished top 10 in five other tournaments this year, including the prestigious Players Championship, where he came in sixth.

2011 Masters & U.S. Open Runner-Up Jason Day Got His Start at the John Deere Classic

Like many others in golf, Day got his start at the John Deere Classic. At the age of 18, soon after leaving his home in Queensland, Day received a sponsor exemption courtesy of tournament director Clair Peterson and his executive committee to play in the 2006 tournament. Day made the cut, finished tied for 67th, and earned \$8,200. It was a nice beginning. By the end of the season, he had made five cuts, had two top 15 finishes, and earned nearly \$175,000.

In 2007, Day played the Nationwide Tour, where at the age of 19 years, seven months, and 26 days, he became the youngest player ever to win a PGA TOUR-sanctioned event. He finished fifth on the Nationwide Tour money list thereby earning his way onto the regular PGA TOUR for 2008. He has never looked back, but he has gotten better.

Day's game really began coming together in 2009, when he made 14 of 18 possible cuts, recorded 11 top 25 finishes – including five top 10s – earned nearly \$1.3 million, and, most importantly, finished 69th on the money list to retain full playing privileges for 2010.

In 2010, Day's incredible potential finally began to break out. He recorded his first PGA TOUR victory at the H-P Byron Nelson, finished tied for 10th at the PGA Championship (only his second major), and finished 21st on the money list. He performed well in the FedEx Cup playoffs, where he came tied for second at Deutsche Bank in Boston, tied for fifth at the Barclays in New York City, and tied for 17th at the Tour Championship in Atlanta.

Day has a solid record at the John Deere Classic. In 2009 and 2010, he finished tied for 15th after a T-41 in 2007. He has missed only one John Deere Classic, in 2008 when he was playing the Nationwide Tour.

Day will be back at the John Deere Classic this year. And no one would be surprised were he to take home the trophy.

