



Gary Hester Wins Inaugural World Putting League Championship

Hester Defeats Matt McCaslin by Two Strokes in Final Round for First Place

MYRTLE BEACH, S.C. – March 1, 2023 – US National Mini Golf Team member Gary Hester (+550 field) won the inaugural World Putting League Championship at Hawaiian Rumble Minigolf in Myrtle Beach, S.C. after shooting a final round 31 for 5 under par to defeat Matt McCaslin (33, 3 under par; +190 pre-tournament to win) and take home the \$5,000 championship purse.

Hester finished the Day 1 qualifying rounds by shooting 32 (-4) and 31 (-5), respectively, to combine for 9 under par and the No. 2 seed heading into the Day 2 match play bracket. After Day 1, Hester's odds to win moved to +420.

One of the most experienced putters in the field, Hester has competed for more than 50 years. He's won multiple senior divisions at the Masters and has registered 11 Top 10 finishes and two second places in the main draw. He recently registered a Top 5 finish at the Pop Stroke Classic.

Hester defeated Rick Alessi with a 35 (-1) in the quarterfinals before squeaking by Joey Graybeal in the semifinals by one stroke, 32 (-4) to 33 (-3). Graybeal entered the Day 2 quarterfinals as the top seed (-350 to win after Day 1) after pacing the field with a combined -9 in the two qualifying rounds.

Pre-tournament favorite Olivia Prokopova (+150 to win) advanced to the quarterfinals as the No. 6 seed after qualifying where she fell to Greg Newport (+500 pre-tournament to win) by one stroke, 33 (-3) to 32 (-4). The lone upset in the quarterfinals, Newport was +100 to win head to head in his matchup against Prokopova (-130 to win head to head).

Other notable wagers that hit include:

- Over 25.5 holes in one for Hole No. 1 (27)
- Joey Graybeal over 10.5 holes in one in qualifying rounds 1 & 2 (12)
- Under 1.5 holes in one for Hole #4 (1)
- Jeremy Inabinet with the longest odds in the field at +250 to finish Top 8 in qualifying

The World Putting League Championship was produced by **Pro League Network** (www.ProLeagueNetwork.com), the leading source of fun and inherently bettable live sports for sportsbook operators, in conjunction with the U.S. Pro MiniGolf Association. The Championship was live streamed at TheWorldPuttingLeague.com and authorized for wagering in multiple U.S. jurisdictions, marking the first live broadcast of professional mini golf and the first legal bet on minigolf in the US. The broadcast featured Emmy award winning PGA Tour Radio Host Brian Katrek on the play-by-play, with sideline reporting by PLN Picks host and professional volleyball player Kaz Brown and golf influencers The Bogey Bois.

The PLN-produced stream was in-turn re-streamed by Rob Pizzola's The Hammer (sponsored by BetFred, a PLN Wagering Partner). Pizzola live streamed over 5 hours of the two-day competition, adding his own unique and engaging betting commentary over the PLN produced stream.

The WPL Championship welcomed 26 of the world's best mini golfers to compete in two qualifying rounds with the top eight golfers advancing to the second day of competition. The top eight golfers competed in a match strokeplay bracket for the Championship, with golfers reseeded based on their round performance after the quarterfinals.

Fans could wager on bet types including golfers' over/under in each round, top 8 finishes, outright winner, over/under total holes in one for both individual golfers and the field at large on individual holes, among other bets.

The World Putting League Championship will be highlighted on an upcoming episode of PLN Picks, the recently-launched newsmagazine-style studio show airing on sports networks, including NBC Sports California, AT&T Sportsnets, beIN Sport, MASN, Stadium Sports and more, across the country. PLN Picks, hosted by Brown, offer sports fans around the country a weekly look at the latest games, matches and meets in PLN sports, including the virally popular CarJitsu, SlapFIGHT Championship, World Strongman, Major League Paintball's NXL ProSeries, Pillow Fight Championship, and U.S. Pro Mini Golf, among others.

PLN launched in early Dec. 2022 to bring fun and inherently bettable live sports to sportsbook operators. The company's first sport, SlapFIGHT Championship, was offered for wagering on Draftkings in multiple jurisdictions in the U.S. and Canada on Dec. 3 and was streamed on FiteTV and re-broadcast on Amazon Prime and internationally on Sport1.

The company works with its portfolio of sports through exclusive, multi-year relationships allowing commercialization of sponsorship, data and streaming opportunities relating to wagering. This "watch'n'wager" content allows sportsbooks to better monetize their peaks and valleys of schedule with compliant and regulated professional sports data and video that is optimized for wagering. PLN also directs marketing and promotional activities, specifically to increase the wagering opportunities for each sport.

To ensure gaming integrity, PLN readies and monitors each sport for wagering by setting athlete policies and data standards, before securing State approvals. The company is working with a number of industry providers including US Integrity for integrity monitoring, Sports Info Solutions for data distribution, affiliate partners like Dimers.com.

For more information, please visit www.ProLeagueNetwork.com.

About Pro League Network

Pro League Network (www.ProLeagueNetwork.com) is a sports wagering company focused on bringing exclusive, fun and inherently bettable sports to sportsbook operators, helping them fill under-optimized dayparts on the sports betting calendar. PLN readies and monitors each sport for wagering, as well as produces, distributes and monetizes each sport through wagering, sponsorship and affiliate. PLN has obtained the exclusive rights to multiple professional sports with a current reach into more than 100 countries and tens of millions of impressions per week.

