

## COAT CHECK

By Scott Miller

Pull the string on Jim Nantz's back and they're the first words that come out: "The Masters does not begin until the back nine on Sunday." But exactly where on those final holes is the green jacket won and lost? We analyzed the Masters scorecards of this year's three favorites—Rory McIlroy, Tiger Woods and Phil Mickelson—and found the most crucial holes for each man lie back-to-back-to-back, right where the old cliché said they'd be. The Masters does begin on the back nine on Sunday—and as the following pages show, it often ends there too.



### RORY'S WATERLOO

10th HOLE  
PAR 4, 495 YARDS

Augusta National opened in 1932, but nobody can recall ever seeing a tee shot end up where Rory McIlroy's did last April—in front of two cabins in the woods. His drive had hooked and rattled off a tree just 125 yards from the tee, and six shots and one triple bogey later, McIlroy's one-shot lead was a two-shot deficit. He was on his way to a round of 80. When McIlroy, now the world's No. 1, steps to the 10th tee, will he think about how he's never birdied the hole? Or that he's played it 6-over in only 10 rounds? Or will he just think of not hitting it [again] where no one has before?

### SCORECARD

McILROY'S SCORES  
AT AUGUSTA'S  
10TH COULD HINT  
OF BOGEYS—AND  
WORSE—TO COME.

ROUNDS	2009	2010	2011
1	5	5	4
2	4	4	4
3	4	—	5
4	4	—	7
<b>RESULT</b>	<b>T20</b>	<b>CUT</b>	<b>T15</b>

■ Bogey ■ Triple Bogey

10TH HOLE  
FINAL ROUND  
2011  
McILROY'S  
TRIPLE-BOGEY  
MELTDOWN,  
SHOT BY SHOT

KEY  
○ Shot  
● Hole



**► THE WORLD ACCORDING TO US**  
In a pre-emptive move against the looming AFL player strike, the Pittsburgh Power owner fired all 24 of his players during their pregame meal at an Orlando Olive Garden just hours before kickoff.



## TIGER'S WOODS

11th HOLE  
PAR 4, 505 YARDS

Back when Woods was making a mockery of Augusta National—blasting tee shots into divotless portions of the fairway, hitting flip wedges into every other green, winning three of his first six Masters—the 11th hole looked different. The forest on the far right was but a small cluster of trees. Tiger took advantage, bombing high draws and apparently infuriating the powers that be. In 2004, Augusta planted 36 fully grown pines directly in the flight path of Woods' drives.

Since then, he's been forced to play the hole with a fade—and when that fade becomes a push, there's a forest full of consequences. So it should come as little surprise that since 2005 [the last year he won the Masters] Woods has birdied the hole only once in 24 rounds. It's also little surprise that almost all of his memorable final-round shots on 11 now come from those trees.

In 2007, he was stymied against a pine and sacrificed his 4-iron to hack the ball out of the woods; in 2010, his punch shot ricocheted off the base of a tree. How crucial has 11 been? In Woods' four wins, he's played the hole in 5-under par. The other 11 years? A pine-scented 12-over.

### 11TH HOLE FINAL ROUNDS 1997-2011 WOODS' TEE SHOTS SINCE TURNING PRO

KEY  
● Birdie  
○ Par  
● Bogey



## SCORECARD

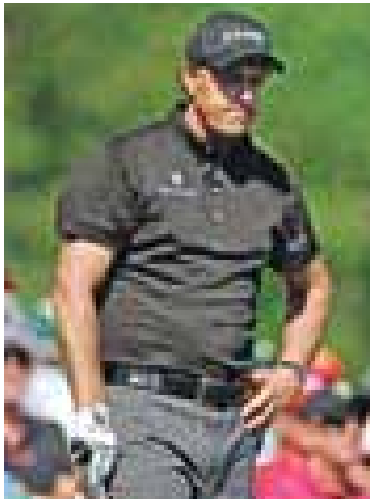
WOODS HAS SNIFFED VICTORY EVERY YEAR SINCE 2005, BUT THE TIGER-PROOFED 11TH HAS VEXED HIM.

ROUNDS	1997	1998*	1999*	2000	2001	2002	2003*	2004*	2005	2006	2007	2008*	2009	2010	2011
1	4	5	4	4	4	4	4	4	5	4	4	4	4	4	5
2	4	4	5	5	4	4	4	5	3	5	5	4	4	4	4
3	3	4	5	4	3	3	3	4	3	5	4	4	5	4	5
4	3	4	5	4	3	5	4	4	4	5	4	3	4	5	4
RESULT	WIN	T8	T18	5	WIN	WIN	T15	T22	WIN	T3	T2	2	T6	T4	T4

\* Shot locations not available from these years.

● Birdie ○ Par ● Bogey

**► THE WORLD ACCORDING TO US**  
Morlan "Mo" Isom, LSU soccer goalie and reigning homecoming queen, tried out to become the football team's first female kicker. "It was a goal God placed in my heart," she said, days before being cut.



## PHIL'S THRILL RIDE

12th HOLE  
PAR 3, 155 YARDS

Mickelson must have heard the roar on that April Sunday. It was 2004, and Ernie Els had just made eagle at the par-5 13th, leaving a majorless Phil three shots back and in desperate need of a birdie. The problem? Mickelson was on the tee at Augusta's 12th—and golfers don't make birdies at Augusta's 12th. Mickelson, ever the gambler, gunned for the pin and stuck it to 15 feet. The ensuing birdie began a back-nine charge that would lead to his first major victory. He did it again in 2010, when a birdie on 12 helped stave off the likes of Lee Westwood and Woods.

Still, for all the hard-drawing 9-irons Phil has peppered the green with on 12, he's had nearly as many fozzles there. He's 4-under par on the hole in his three wins and 15-over the other 15 years. His low point came in 2009 when a wet double bogey negated a front-nine 30 that had pulled him to within one of the lead. Regardless, Phil the Thrill remains consistent in his approach: He's firing at the 12th pin—swirling wind, Rae's Creek and back-nine double bogeys be damned.



**12TH HOLE  
FINAL ROUNDS  
1993-2011  
MICKELSON'S  
TEE SHOTS SINCE  
TURNING PRO**

- KEY**
- Birdie
  - Par
  - Bogey
  - Double Bogey
  - Hole

## SCORECARD

MICKELSON'S RISK-REWARD APPROACH TO 12 HAS OFTEN BEEN THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN W'S AND L'S.

ROUNDS	1993*	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999*	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007*	2008	2009	2010	2011*
1	3	3	3	3	4	2	3	2	4	3	3	2	3	4	3	3	3	3
2	4	3	3	5	3	3	3	5	4	4	2	3	3	3	3	2	3	3
3	4	3	3	—	3	3	3	3	3	3	2	2	4	4	4	3	3	3
4	2	3	4	—	5	4	2	3	3	3	2	5	3	3	4	5	2	3
RESULT	T34	T7	3	CUT	T12	T6	T7	3	3	3	WIN	10	WIN	T24	T5	5	WIN	T27

\* Shot locations not available from these years.

○ Birdie    □ Bogey    □ Double Bogey