## Money Golf: 600 Years of Betting on Birdies



Golf and gambling have been intertwined for centuries. From the early days of the game in Scotland to the modern era of high-stakes tournaments, betting has always been a part of the sport. This article explores the history of money golf, from its humble beginnings to its current status as a multibillion dollar industry.

#### The Early Days of Money Golf

The earliest recorded instance of golf betting dates back to 1457, when two Scottish nobles, the Earl of Mar and the Earl of Angus, wagered a large sum of money on a match at the Musselburgh Links. This match is widely considered to be the first recorded instance of golf being played for money.

Over the next few centuries, golf betting became increasingly popular, especially in Scotland and England. In the 18th century, golf tournaments began to be held, and betting on these tournaments quickly became a major source of income for the organizers. The most famous of these early tournaments was the Calcutta Cup, which was first played in 1797 and is still contested today.

#### The Rise of Professional Golf

The rise of professional golf in the late 19th century led to a further increase in golf betting. The first professional golf tournament was held in 1860, and by the end of the century, there were a number of professional golf tours in operation. The most prestigious of these tours was the PGA Tour, which was founded in 1916.

The PGA Tour quickly became a major source of gambling revenue. In the early days of the tour, betting was mostly done on individual matches, but over time, a variety of other betting markets developed, including tournament winners, top-10 finishes, and even the number of birdies made by a player.

#### The Modern Era of Money Golf

The modern era of money golf began in the 1960s with the advent of television. Television coverage of golf tournaments made the sport much more popular, and this led to a surge in betting activity. The 1960s also saw the rise of the European Tour, which quickly became a rival to the PGA Tour.

In the 1970s and 1980s, golf betting continued to grow in popularity. The development of new betting markets, such as live betting and in-play betting, made golf betting even more exciting. The 1990s saw the rise of the internet, which made it even easier for people to bet on golf.

Today, money golf is a multi-billion dollar industry. The PGA Tour and European Tour are two of the most popular sports betting markets in the world, and there are a number of other golf tournaments that also attract a lot of betting activity. The rise of online gambling has made it even easier for people to bet on golf, and the sport is now more popular than ever before.

#### **Betting Markets**

There are a wide variety of betting markets available for golf tournaments. The most popular markets are:

- Tournament winner
- Top-10 finish
- Top-20 finish
- Number of birdies made
- Number of bogeys made
- Number of eagles made
- Number of double bogeys made
- Hole-in-one
- Albatross

In addition to these markets, there are also a number of other betting markets available, such as live betting and in-play betting. Live betting allows you to bet on the outcome of a tournament or match while it is in progress. In-play betting allows you to bet on the outcome of a specific hole or event during a tournament or match.

#### **Golf Betting Strategies**

There are a number of different golf betting strategies that you can use to improve your chances of winning. Some of the most popular strategies include:

- Bankroll management: This is one of the most important aspects of golf betting. You need to manage your bankroll carefully so that you don't lose more money than you can afford. One way to do this is to set a budget for yourself and stick to it.
- Value betting: This involves betting on outcomes that are undervalued by the oddsmakers. To do this, you need to have a good understanding of the game of golf and the players involved.
- Arbitrage betting: This involves taking advantage of differences in the odds between different bookmakers. To do this, you need to have accounts with multiple bookmakers.
- Hedging: This involves placing bets on both sides of an outcome to reduce your risk. To do this, you need to have a good understanding of the odds and the potential outcomes.

#### **Golf Betting Tips**

Here are a few golf betting tips to help you get started:

- Do your research. Before you place a bet, make sure you have a good understanding of the game of golf and the players involved.
- Shop around for the best odds. There are a number of different bookmakers out there, so make sure you compare the odds before you place a bet.

- Manage your bankroll carefully. Don't bet more money than you can afford to lose.
- Have fun. Golf betting should be enjoyable. Don't get too caught up in the money and remember to have fun.

Money golf is a popular and exciting way to bet on sports. There are a number of different betting markets available, and there are a number of different strategies that you can use to improve your chances of winning. If you're new to golf betting, be sure to do your research and start with small bets. With a little bit of practice, you can start to make money betting on golf.

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