PGA Tour Player Analysis

By: Garrett Johnson

Data

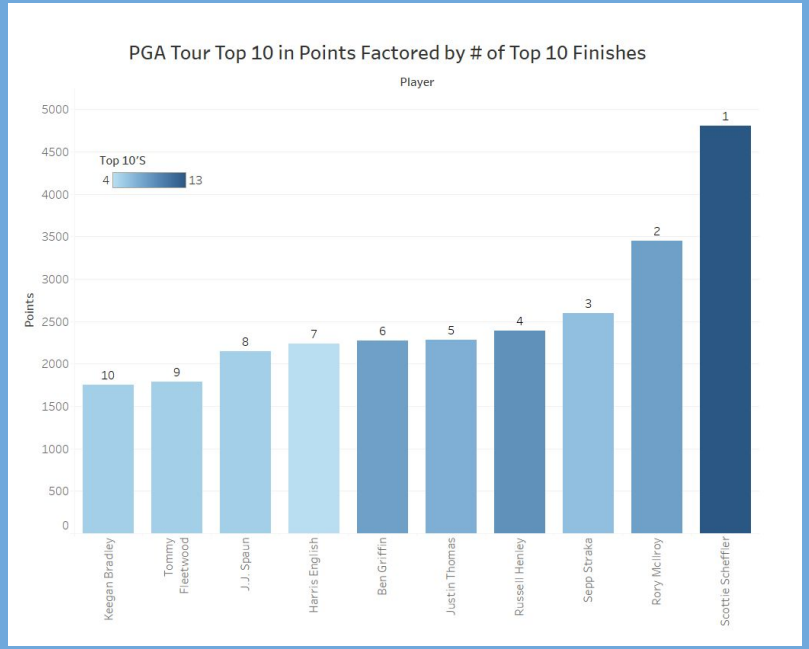
- Data was gathered from https://www.pgatour.com/stats with stats last updated after the Ryder Cup.
- Visuals were created using Tableau

Outline

Golf is an individual sport, which makes it easier to evaluate a player's performance. In this analysis, we'll examine key statistics from the 2025 PGA Tour and beyond.

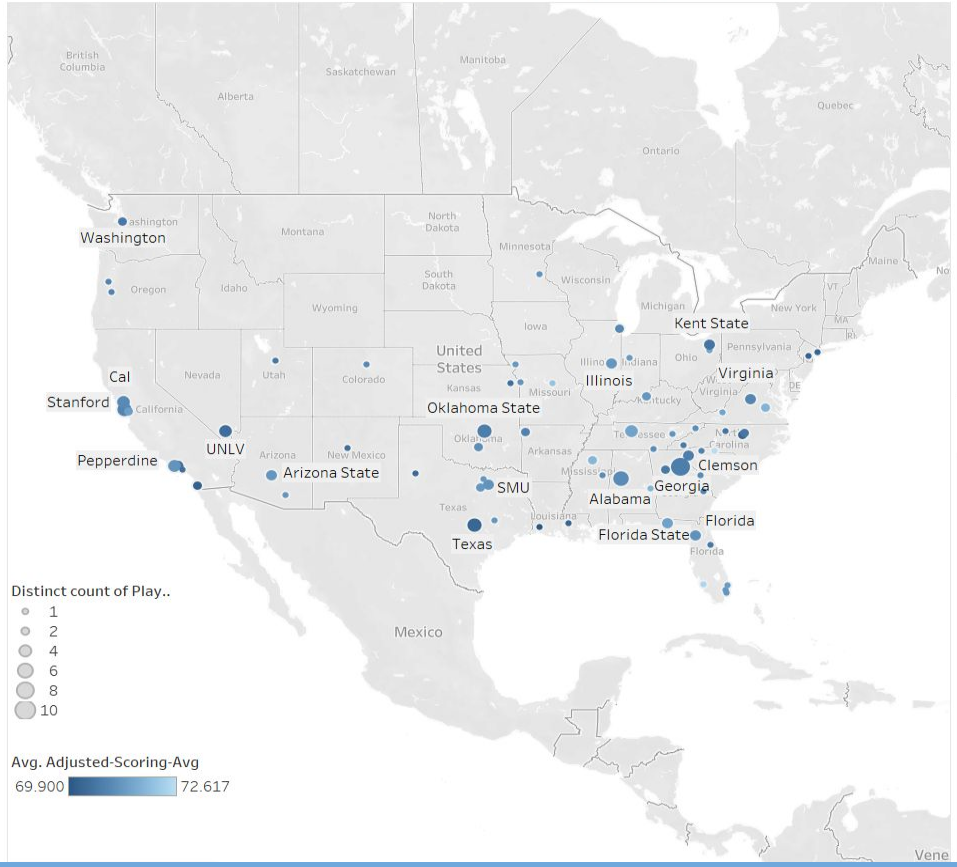
We'll explore:

- Geography of Talent Development
- Advanced Metrics
- Clutch Statistics

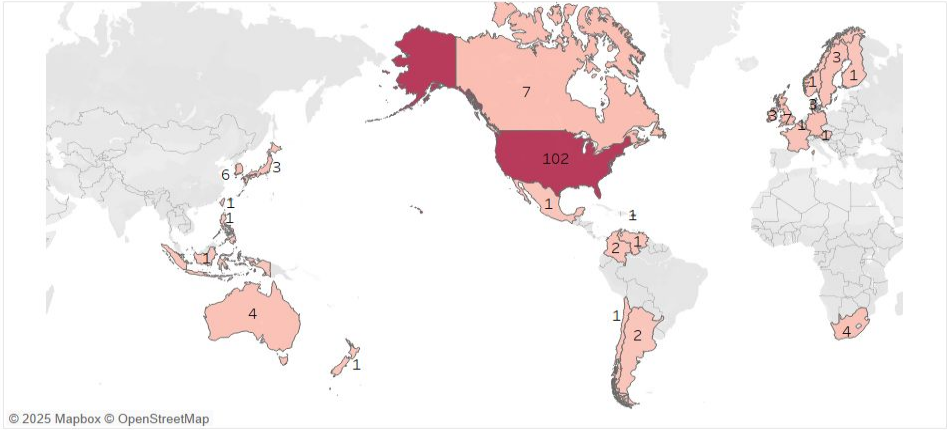


Geographical Analysis

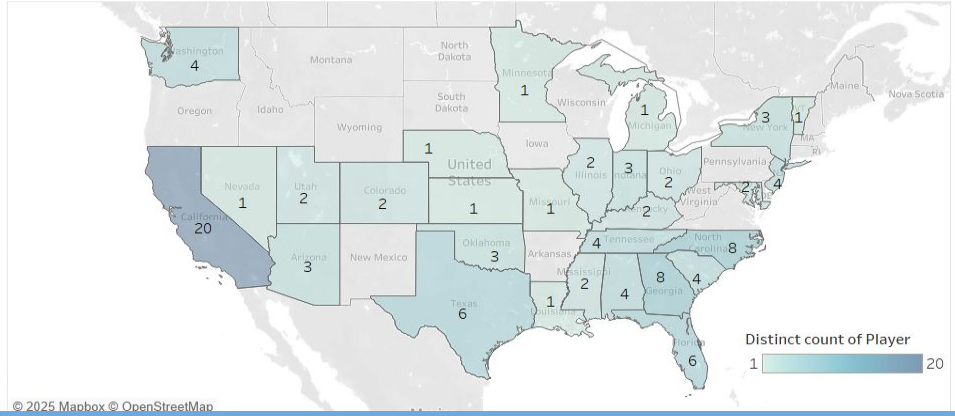
Colleges the PGA Tour Golfers' Played At Factored in Size by # of Golfers and in Color by Adjusted Scoring Avg



Map of PGA Tour Golfers' Country of Birth



Birth State of the American PGA Tour Golfers



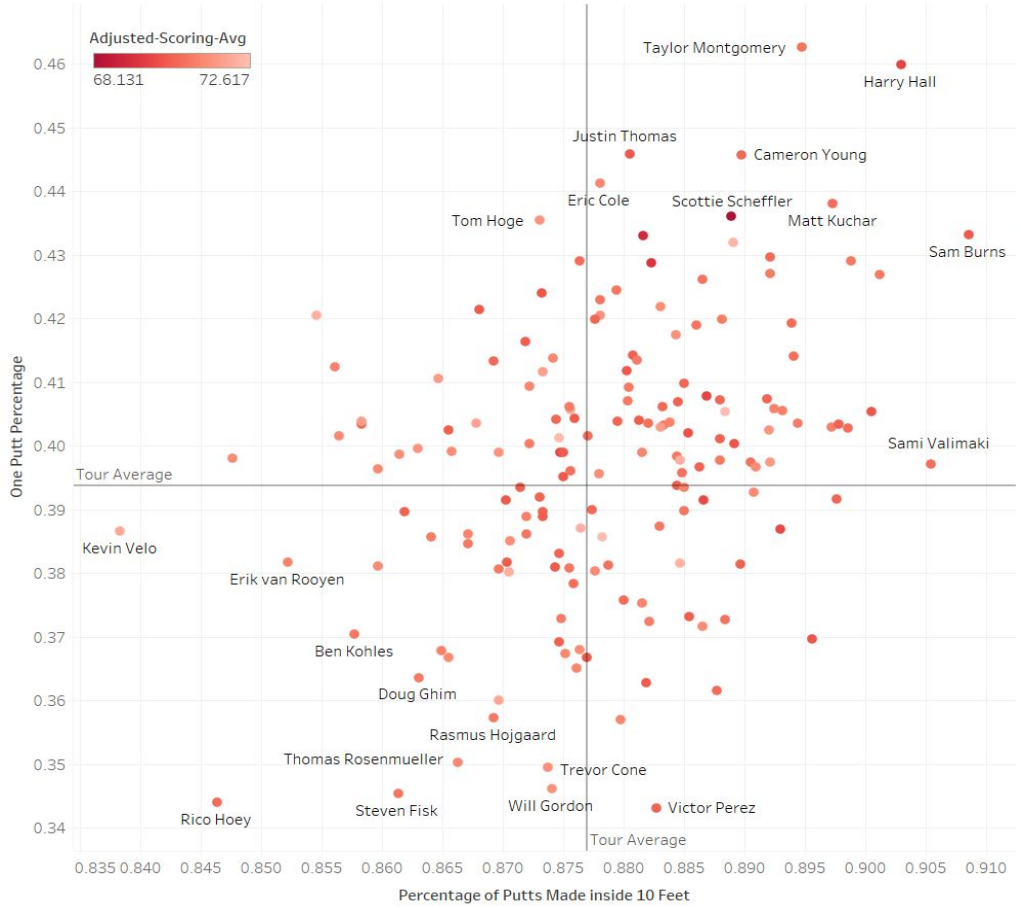
Map Analysis

Findings:

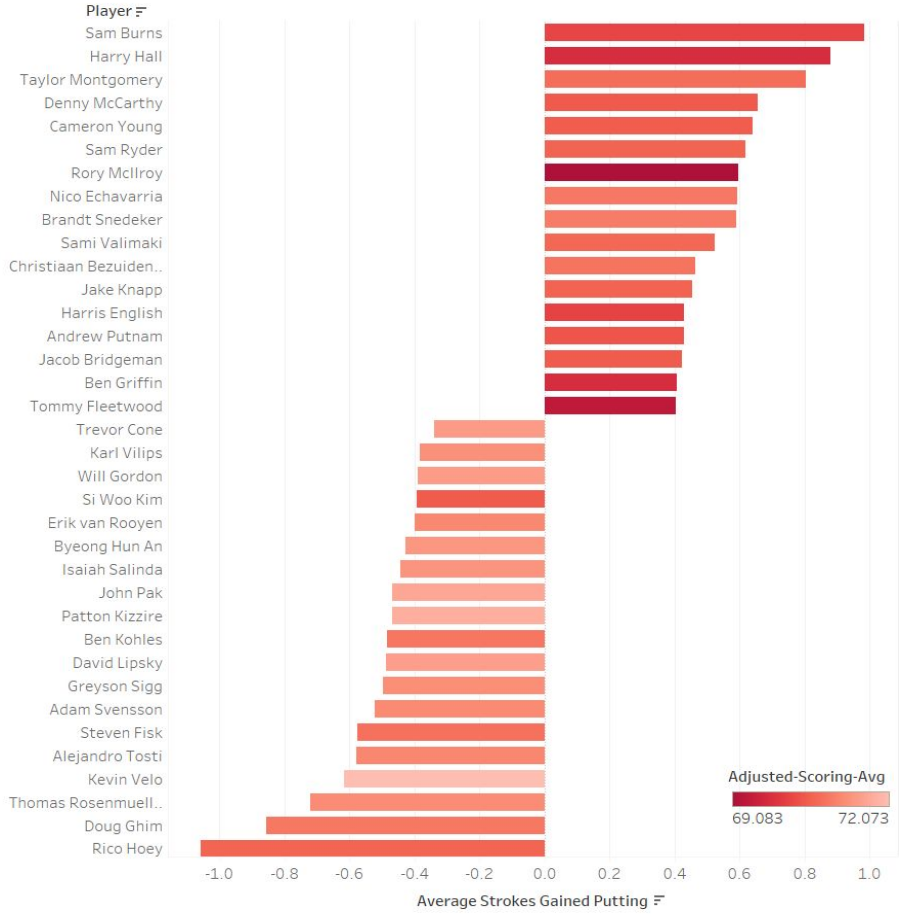
- While the majority of the pro golfers on tour are American, several other countries also produce a good amount of players, including South Korea, the United Kingdom, and Canada.
- Golfers from the states show strong representation from the west coast and southeast region, which we also see at the Collegiate level.
- The University of Georgia led the way with the most PGA tour golfers from their school with 9. Other notable programs were the University of Alabama with 6 and Texas and Oklahoma State each have 5.

Putting Analysis

One Putt Percentage vs Percentage of Putts Made Inside 10 Feet Factored by Total 3 Putts



Worst and Best Golfers for Average Strokes Gained While Putting



Putting Analysis

There's the famous saying: "Drive for Show, putt for Dough," let's see if that's true.

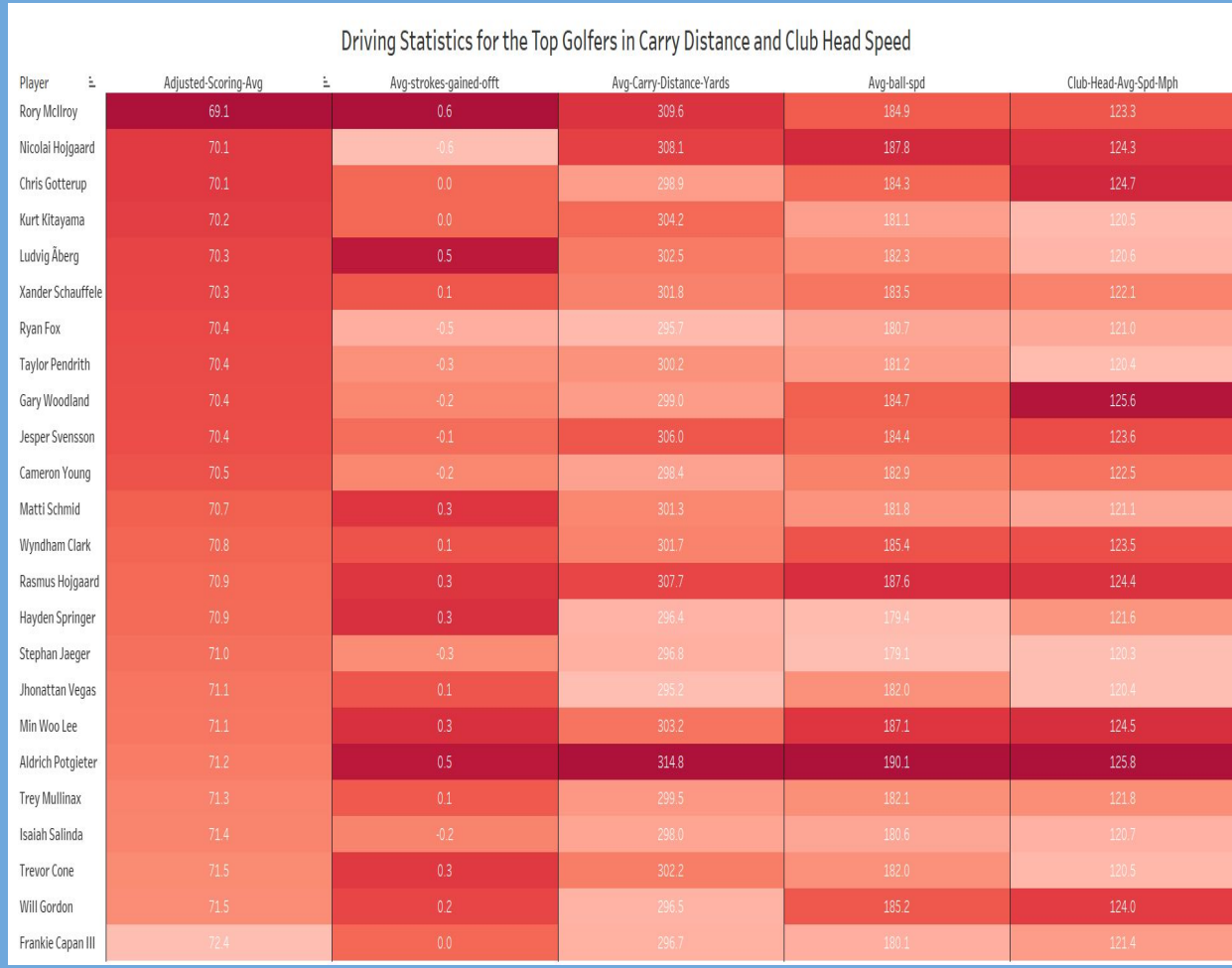
- In factoring both graphs by Adjusted Scoring Averages, we can see whether putting effects golfers' overall scores.
- In the first graph we see the darker circles (better adjusted score) mostly in the upper right quadrant meaning that they are above average putters. We also see the #1 ranked golfer in the world Scottie Scheffler in the upper right, so looks like putting has a lot to do with his success.
- In the second graph we took the best and worst golfers at strokes gained putting. After factoring by adjusted scoring average, it shows that most of the golfers with higher strokes gained on average have better adjusted scoring averages. We can see this with bar lines being darker up top than near the bottom.

Dynamic Driving Statistics

This visual takes a look at dynamic statistics that are key performance indicators for Driving.

We observe no strong correlation in these statistics with overall performance.

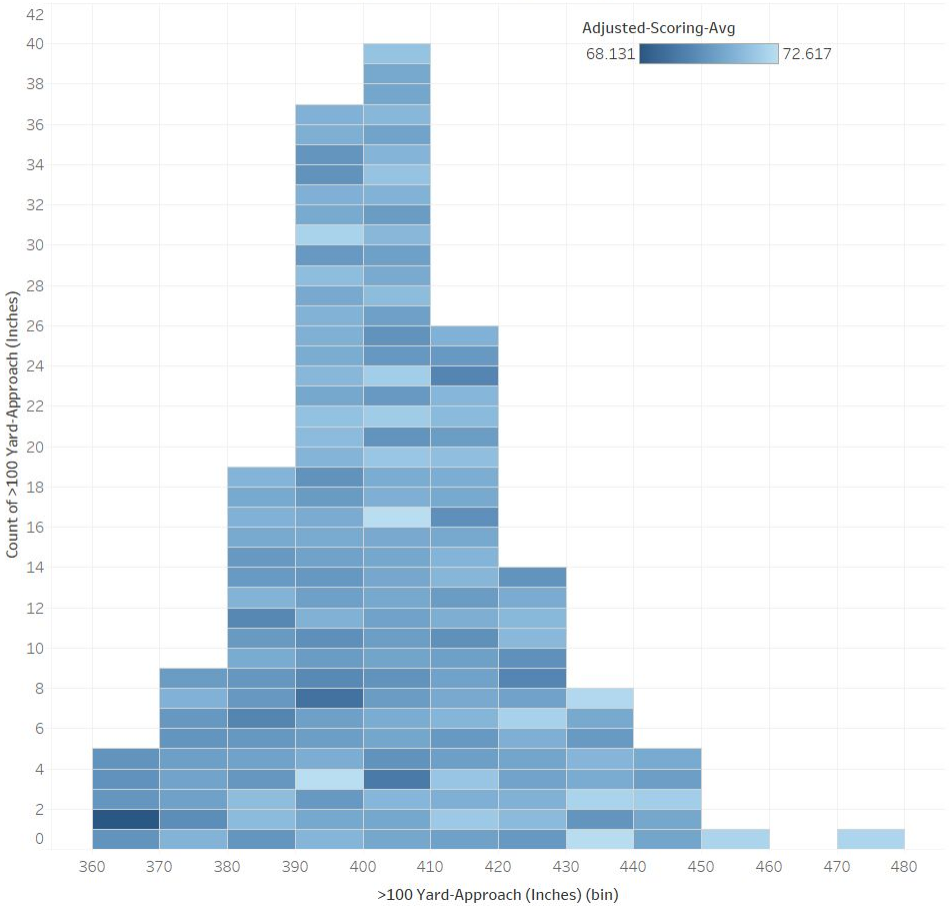
While metrics like club head speed and carry distance are important they do not reliably predict success very well, as many of the golfers on this list have an adjusted scoring average above the tour average of 71.072.



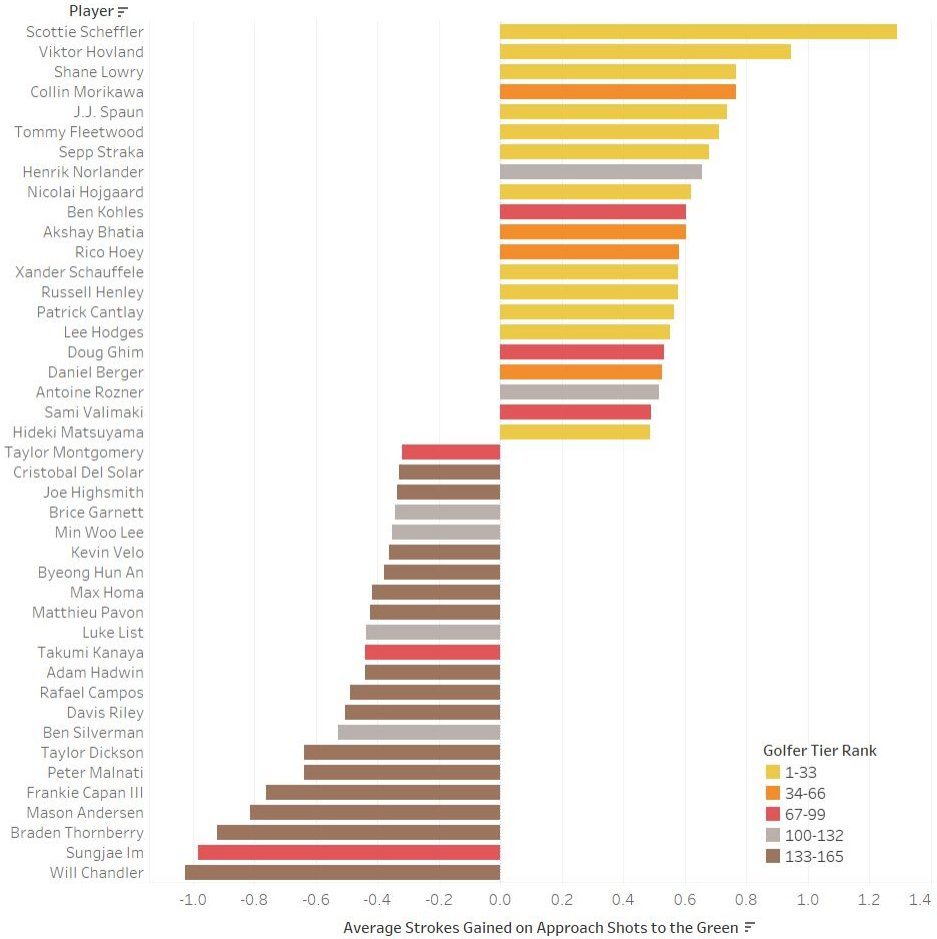
Player	Adjusted-Scoring-Avg	Avg-strokes-gained-offt	Avg-Carry-Distance-Yards	Avg-ball-spd	Club-Head-Avg-Spd-Mph
Rory McIlroy	69.1	0.6	309.6	184.9	123.3
Nicolai Hojgaard	70.1	-0.6	308.1	187.8	124.3
Chris Gotterup	70.1	0.0	298.9	184.3	124.7
Kurt Kitayama	70.2	0.0	304.2	181.1	120.5
Ludvig Åberg	70.3	0.5	302.5	182.3	120.6
Xander Schauffele	70.3	0.1	301.8	183.5	122.1
Ryan Fox	70.4	-0.5	295.7	180.7	121.0
Taylor Pendrith	70.4	-0.3	300.2	181.2	120.4
Gary Woodland	70.4	-0.2	299.0	184.7	125.6
Jesper Svensson	70.4	-0.1	306.0	184.4	123.6
Cameron Young	70.5	-0.2	298.4	182.9	122.5
Matti Schmid	70.7	0.3	301.3	181.8	121.1
Wyndham Clark	70.8	0.1	301.7	185.4	123.5
Rasmus Hojgaard	70.9	0.3	307.7	187.6	124.4
Hayden Springer	70.9	0.3	296.4	179.4	121.6
Stephan Jaeger	71.0	-0.3	296.8	179.1	120.3
Jhonattan Vegas	71.1	0.1	295.2	182.0	120.4
Min Woo Lee	71.1	0.3	303.2	187.1	124.5
Aldrich Potgieter	71.2	0.5	314.8	190.1	125.8
Trey Mullinax	71.3	0.1	299.5	182.1	121.8
Isaiah Salinda	71.4	-0.2	298.0	180.6	120.7
Trevor Cone	71.5	0.3	302.2	182.0	120.5
Will Gordon	71.5	0.2	296.5	185.2	124.0
Frankie Capan III	72.4	0.0	296.7	180.1	121.4

Approach Shot Analysis

Approach Shots on Average (inches) for Tour Golfers - Color Represents Adjusted Scoring Average



Worst and Best Golfers for Strokes Gained on Approach to the Green



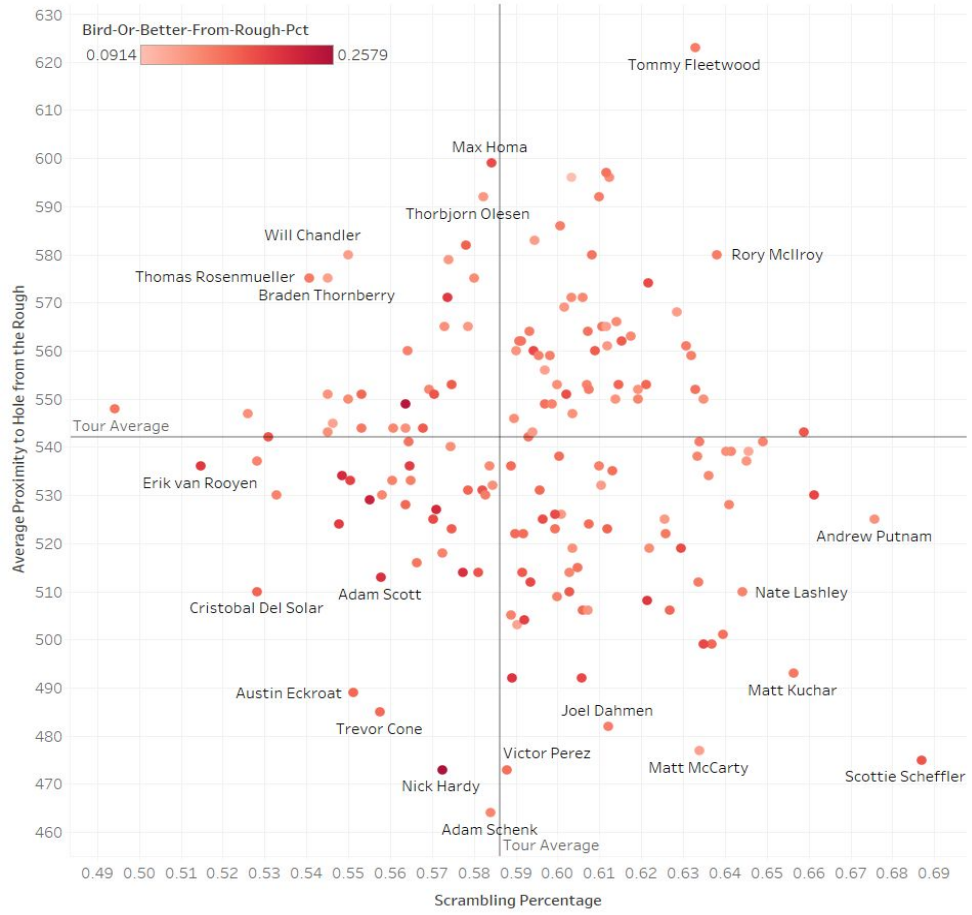
Approach Shot Analysis

A good approach shot is vital when looking at golfing success.

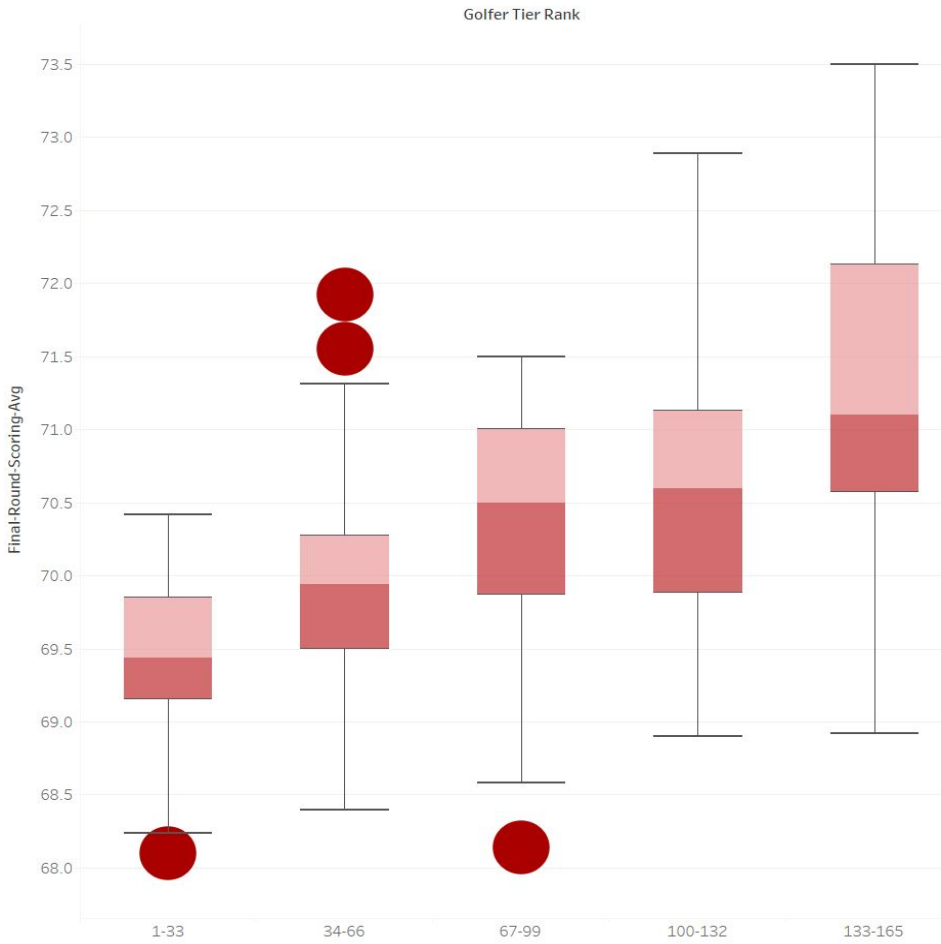
- In the histogram visual, most golfers are leaving their ball 390-410 inches from the hole when hitting from 100 yards or further. However the elite approach shot hitters leave it anywhere from 360-380 inches from the hole. When factoring by adjusted scoring average we can see the left side of the histogram tends to be a bit darker indicating the importance of approach shots.
- The bar chart showcases the strokes gained on approach shots for the best and worst golfers in that category. When factored by their tier rank, it is clear to see that better golfers gain strokes on approach shots to the green and the worse ones on tour typical struggle.

Clutch Analysis

Scrambling Percentage vs Proximity to Hole from the Rough



Final Round Scoring Average within the Golfer Tier Rank



Clutch Stats Analysis

By looking into how players perform under pressure and in final rounds, we can see who excels in the clutch.

- The scatter plot looks at scrambling percentage against proximity to the hole when in the rough. Scrambling measures the ability to save par or better after missing the green. Proximity from the hole when hitting from the rough similarly shows how players can recover in a challenging situation. Again, we can see the #1 Golfer in the world Scottie Scheffler is very good when he is in tough spots during his approach to the green.
- The box plot puts the golfers into tiers based on rank and the box plot shows how they perform in the final rounds of tournaments. Tier 1 golfers have the least variation in their scores, while tier 5 golfers have the most variation. Overall, better tier golfers tend to have lower and more consistent scores in final rounds, which can indicate stronger performance under pressure.

Summary

By examining key metrics from each part of the game, this study identifies important factors that lead to success for PGA golfers.

From map analysis of talent distribution, to detailed breakdowns of putting performance, driving success, and approach shots that can make or break a hole, the analysis provides a view of what separates the best golfers from the rest.

In examination, it looks like putting and approach shots are vital for a player's success and in determining scoring outcomes. However, to be the best in the world, a golfer needs to excel at every facet including clutchness, which is exactly what #1 in the world Scottie Scheffler does.