

# Location, Location, Location

By Lane Osborne

Golf often gets a bad rap for being boring. Maybe it's the hushed commentary of on-course reporters. Or the enhanced soundtracks of birds chirping. Or the polite applause from the gallery. Or perhaps the total silence when marshals hold up signs that read *Quiet Please*. Whatever the reason, it seems undeserved.

I love sports, nearly all sports, but the PGA Tour has as much (or more) entertainment value as other athletic offerings, because the courses tour pros play are different from week to week and conditions are always changing. By contrast, the NBA always features indoor basketball courts with ten-foot high rims and fifteen-foot free throw lines, and players like LeBron James never have to negotiate 30-mile-per-hour side winds when shooting a jump shot. Major League Baseball ballparks vary in length by a few feet from town to town, but the infield dimensions are always the same: sixty and a half feet from the pitcher's mound to home, and ninety feet between bases. If there's anything more than a sprinkle, a tarp covers the field and they wait for the sky to clear. The NFL is sometimes played in open stadiums that are susceptible to inclement weather, but it's always on flat fields that measure one hundred yards from end zone to end zone. And while the game may be played on artificial or real turf, no NFL player has ever had to take a sidehill snap, or watch out for bunkers when blitzing.

On the PGA Tour location is everything. The wide array of golf courses that the pros play each week provide unique challenges that the golfers have to adjust to whether it's the slick greens at Augusta, the thick rough at Merion, or the winds at Muirfield.

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