

When a Bunker is not a Bunker

By Lane Osborne

The United States Golf Association defines a bunker as “a hazard consisting of a prepared area of ground, often a hollow, from which turf or soil has been removed and replaced with sand or the like.” In addition they offer that “grass-covered ground bordering or within a bunker, including a stacked turf face (whether grass-covered or earthen), is not part of the bunker. A wall or lip of the bunker not covered with grass is part of the bunker. The margin of a bunker extends vertically downwards, but not upwards. A ball is in a bunker when it lies in or any part of it touches the bunker.”

Clear enough.

In June, Dustin Johnson led the U.S. Open at Pebble Beach going into the final round. He had a bad day...a really bad day...and shot 82. Graeme McDowell went on to win the U.S. Open. It was heartbreaking for Dustin, his family and friends, and his fans. However, it was a self inflicted wound.

In August, Dustin Johnson had the opportunity to wash away that bad memory when he posted a final round 71 in the PGA Championship to get into a three-way playoff with Bubba Watson and Martin Kaymer...or so we all thought. Within seconds of holing out, a rules official approached Dustin to tell him he had incurred a two shot penalty for grounding his club in a bunker. “What bunker?” asked Dustin Johnson, on-course commentator David Feherty, and the rest of us. Video replay clearly showed that Dustin had grounded his club in a sandy patch of soil otherwise obscured by dozens of spectators. Perhaps, if no gallery was present it would have been obvious to Dustin (and us) that he was in one of the 976 bunkers Pete Dye dug at Whistling Straits. But is a bunker still a bunker when you’ve had 60,000 people trample through it for a week? Is a bunker still a bunker when so many people are standing in it that you can scarcely tell what it is? Unfortunately, that’s golf (and that’s life) and Dustin Johnson saw his second opportunity to win a major slip away. This time, the wound seemed less self-inflicted. However, Dustin handled the situation with dignity and grace.

In September, Dustin Johnson finally found redemption at Cog Hill in Lemont, Illinois and won the BMW Championship. The Myrtle Beach resident and Coastal Carolina University alum handled defeat and accepted victory like a true champion and proved that patience is a virtue.

JUSTIN BOUNDZ™ BY LANE OSBORNE

© 2005 Lane Osborne
watercreek.com



“I want patience...and I want it right now!!!”

To learn more about Lane and his artwork
visit JustinBoundz.com

JustinBoundz™
The Leader in the Clubhouse with Humorous Golf Greeting Cards!

No golf gift is complete without a JustinBoundz™ Golf Greeting Card!

WaterCreek, LLC • P.O. Box 50143 • Myrtle Beach, SC 29579
Ph: (843) 365-1363 • justinboundz.com