

EDDIE PLAYS A PEARLER

Worldwide Golf: This is your sixth season out on Tour, did you think it would take this long for someone of your talent to win?

Eddie Pepperell: I didn't really have any expectations of how long it might or might not take. Obviously I had some good opportunities to win in 2014 and 2015 and then 2016 was a bit more of a struggle. I've had some chances, I wouldn't say I had a lot of very great chances like I had here in Qatar, so to actually go out there and win, going into the final round with a lead as well, that's great.

In terms of your career journey, going back to 2016 which obviously wasn't a great end to the season, with you losing your card, could you even imagine that you would be in this situation so quickly off the back of that?

Eddie Pepperell: Yeah, I knew I was a talented golfer and you don't become a bad golfer overnight or in the space of three months. I know I have got some ability but for me it's about unlocking that and working with the right people and working on the right things. I've done that clearly in the last 18 months and been rewarded for it. There's every chance I could make another bad decision in six months time and fall off the face of the earth, that's just the nature of golf and how difficult it is. I said in an interview that I didn't think what happened in Portugal (losing my European Tour card) would define me and that's just the way I see life. I don't react much to the lows and I don't react too much to the highs either really – although sometimes I wish I did!

For somebody who had never won before it seemed like it was a perfect game plan executed perfectly, certainly for that front nine with eight consecutive pars and then a birdie?

Eddie Pepperell: I didn't feel totally comfortable with my swing, so that forced me to play a little bit more conservatively on certain holes with certain pin positions. My course management was very good, my caddie, Mick Doran was fantastic on that front and I had to just play to my strengths which I felt were my wedge play and my putting. The rest didn't feel quite in the same spot where I'd been the last few days. That was a bit of an ugly win and I'm quite proud of that.





Previously more renowned for his engaging Twitter feed and blogs than his achievements on Tour, Eddie Pepperell finally delivered on his huge potential after clinching his maiden title on Tour with a nervy one-stroke win over Oliver Fisher at the **Peter Harradine** Designed Doha Golf Club.

Pepperell lost his card after a poor season in 2016 but earned the right to tee it up last year after coming through Q-School. He had a solid campaign in 2017 with seven top tens en route to finishing

41st on the Race to Dubai – his best finish since he joined the Tour in 2013.

In Doha this year the 27-year-old was never outside the top 5 after opening with a 65 and he sealed the win on a difficult final day with a 2-under-par 70 for an 18-under-par total. He dug deep when he needed it most on the final hole, recovering from a poor lay-up to seal the win with a tap-in par before expressively launching his ball, followed by his cap, in a show of sheer relief.



“I HIT A LOT OF GOOD SHOTS COMING DOWN THE BACK NINE AND GAVE MYSELF A LOT OF GOOD CHANCES BUT THERE WERE JUST TOO MANY BOGEYS TODAY – FOUR IN TOTAL – SO YOU’RE NEVER GOING TO WIN A TOURNAMENT MAKING THAT MANY MISTAKES ON A SUNDAY. BUT AT LEAST I PRESSED EDDIE ALL THE WAY. IT’S NOT THE RESULT I WANTED BUT THERE WAS SOME GOOD STUFF THERE.” – OLIVER FISHER

HOLE FOCUS

37 Eagles were made during the week, with 15 of them occurring at the risk/reward 281-yard par-4 16th hole.

HARDEST

The 223-yard par-3 third hole turned out to play the toughest over the four days, with just 24

birdies and over 100 bogeys and eight double bogeys recorded.

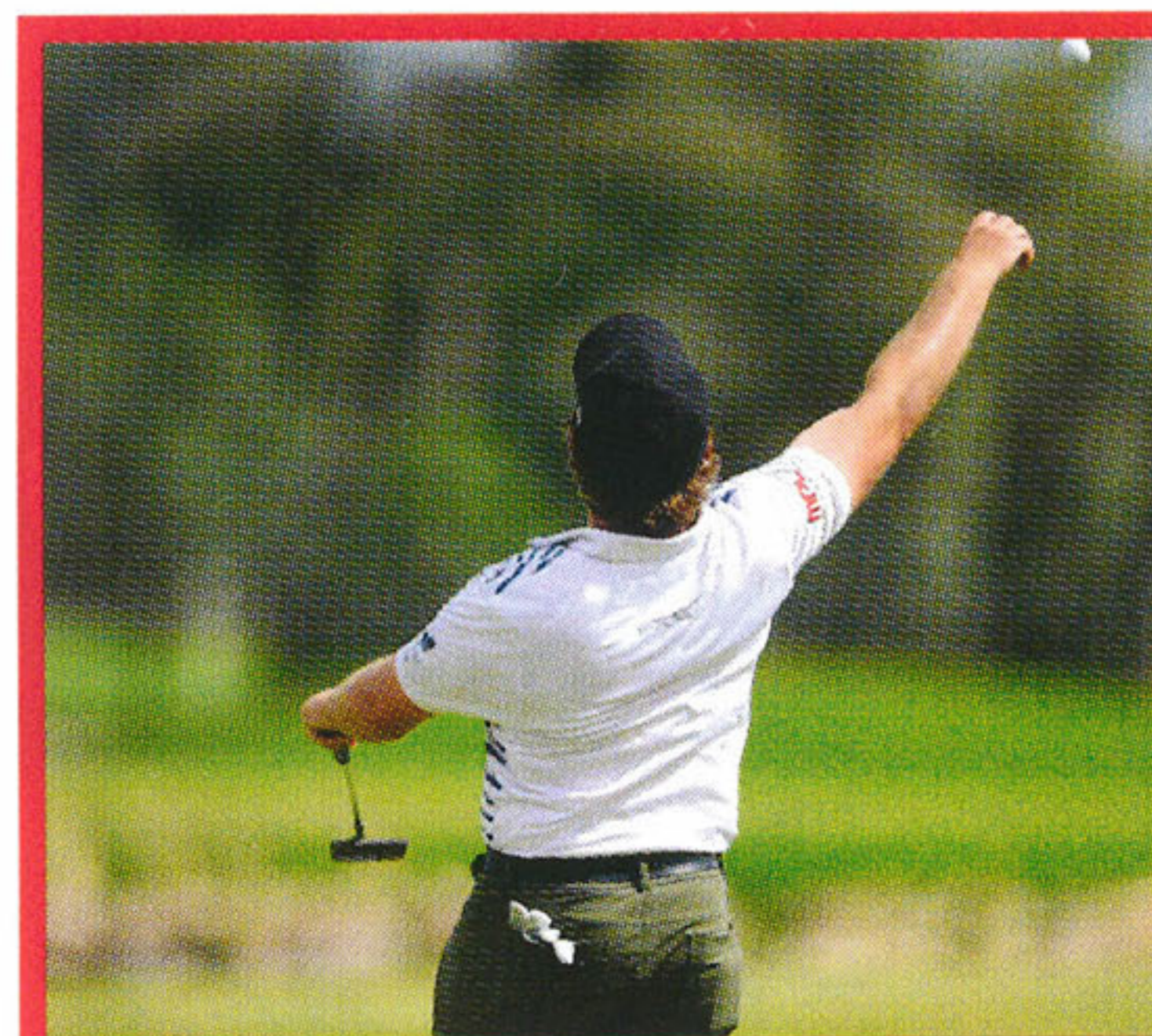
EASY FINISH

Holes 16, 17 and 18 averaged the 17th, 14th and 16th easiest holes respectively. On paper they sound simple – the drivable par-4 16th, a 155-yard par-3 and the 589-yard closing home – but

players still have to execute and the Tour players took full advantage, with 459 birdies and 21 eagles made over the week.

LOW TOTAL

Pepperell's 18-under-par total 270 is the third lowest in tournament history.



Pepperell's STATS

Stroke Average: **67.5 (1st)**

Driving Distance: **267.8 (75th)**

Driving Accuracy: **67.9% (2nd)**

Greens in Reg: **80.6% (11th)**

Putts per GIR: **1.662 (7th)**

Putts per Round: **28 (5th)**

Key Stats:

21 birdies or better (4th)
4 bogeys or worse (4th)

Pepperell played the par-5 10th in 5-under par, with birdies on rounds 1, 3 and 4 and an eagle during the second round. He birdied the 281-yard par-4 16th on all four days.