

Thomas Pieters: van leerling op de Topsportschool tot speler op de European Tour!

Voor Thomas Pieters begon het succesverhaal als golfer op de VVG-Topsportschool te Hasselt, waar hij op 13-jarige leeftijd startte. Deze instap vond plaats in 2006 en afstuderen deed hij in het schooljaar 2009-2010. Volgende spelers/speelsters waren generatiegenoten van Thomas: Valentine Gevers, Joëlle van Baarle, Nick Verelst, Frederic Dykmans, Laurence Herman en Kevin Hesbois. Daarnaast zaten ook Florian Van Bael, Lauren Van Gerven en Sara Vanzonhoven in die periode op de Topsportschool. Na zijn carrière op de school, combineerde Thomas studie met golf op de University of Illinois en sindsdien behaalde hij verschillende mooie titels. Hieronder vind je zijn volledige palmares van 2010 tot nu.

Palmares

... - 2010 (Age 18)

- Winner European Team Championships Boys
- Selection Jacques Léglise (GB & Ireland vs European Continent)
- Top 8 World Championships Men
- Top 10 European Championships
- Winner Philippe Chabeau (Best Belgian amateur golfer under 18y)
- Winner International Belgium Junior Championship (2009)
- Winner National Juniors U14 (2006)

2011 (Age 19)

- Top 5 European Amateur Championship
- Winner Jack Nicklaus Invitational (Ohio, USA)
- National Stroke Play Champion
- Best Amateur golfer, Flory van Donck Trophy (Alps Tour, Belgium), 4th place overall
- Winner Ranking Jack Du Vivier 2011 (Best Belgian amateur golfer)

2012 (Age 20)

- NCAA Champion (California)
- Winner Palmer Cup with Team Europe (EU vs USA)
- Winner Monroe Invitational Championship (New York)
- Runner-up NCAA Southwest Regional (Oklahoma)
- Last 32 U.S. Amateur (Colorado)
- Top 20 European Amateur Championship (Dublin, Ireland)
- First Team PING All-American (11 best players on US College circuit 2012)
- Winner Ranking Jack Du Vivier 2012 (best Belgian amateur golfer)
- Best handicap +6,1 on 15/06/2012 (best handicap ever by a Belgian golfer)

Amateur Career (prior to June 2013):

2013 (Age 21)

- Winner Big Ten Championship (Indiana, USA)
- Top 15 NCAA Championships (Match Play - Defeated the No. 2 & 5 of the World Amateur Ranking)
- 8x Top 10 in 11 Spring events

- First Team PING All-American (11 best players of US College circuit 2013)
- Best Amateur golfer of the US Midwest
- Big Ten Player of the Year

- 14th on the World Amateur Ranking prior to turning pro on 12/6/2013
 - o Best ranking: 7th (Spring & Summer 2012)
- 5th on the European Amateur Ranking prior to turning pro on 12/6/2013
 - o Best ranking: 3rd (Spring & Summer 2012)

2013 (Age 21)

- 2x Top 30 at the Alstom Open de France (T29) and KLM Dutch Open (T30)
- Earned one of the 27 Full European Tour Cards through the Qualifying School
 - o Only 5 out of 968 players earned their card by playing all three stages of Q-School. Thomas was one of them.

Professional Career (since June 2013):

2014 (Age 22)

- Runner-up Open de Espana
- 2x Top 10 at the Maybank Malaysian Open (8th) and Russian Open (6th)
- Top 15 Nordea Masters
- Secured his full European Tour Card 2015

