

Appleby predicts good future

Sportal



While Australian golf is at the top of its game with 13 Aussies ranked inside the top 100 players worldwide, one of the country's leading lights Stuart Appleby has predicted it will get even better.

Appleby is currently in Sydney to help launch the Australian Open which will be held at Royal Sydney from November 16 and said the crop of young Aussie players coming through will translate into great things for Australian golf.

"We really have a bunch of growing players that have the potential to win majors," he said on *ABC Sport*.

Appleby pointed to the likes of up-and-comers Matthew Goggin, Richard Green, Nathan Green, as well as seasoned players Peter Lonard, Nick O'Hern, Rod Pampling, John Senden and Stephen Leaney as players to take the golfing world by storm in the next decade.

He indicated that consistent top performances by Australians on the US PGA Tour had given Australian golf a high profile in the toughest market in the world.

The world No.24, who has two US PGA Tour wins this year, pointed to the fact that five Aussies have won on the US Tour this year, capped with Geoff Ogilvy's victory in the US Open in June.

"We are taken seriously in the States and you've seen by the number of wins over the last few years," he said.

"Now with Geoff winning the major, that could now open the gates in the next five or 10 years for a bunch more."

Appleby confirmed his participation at this year's Australian Open, joining Ogilvy, defending champion Robert Allenby, world No.4 Adam Scott, PGA Tour winner Aaron Baddeley and Australian golfing legend Greg Norman at the tournament.

"The Australian Open is an important focus of all Australian players come the end of the year," said Appleby. "I'm proud to be a part of what promises to be a great event."

- Stars sign on for Open
- \$200 in Free Bets when you join IASbet.com

Photograph Copyright Getty Images

Monday, 9 October 2006 8:54:02 PM AEDT