

Sydney Morning Herald

Aussie golfers ready to rule: Appleby

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Stuart Appleby says Australian golfers are the talk of the United States and like 'Dr Evil' they are set to take over the world.

Back home to promote next month's Australian Open at Royal Sydney, Appleby said he thought the biggest topic on the American tour this year had been about the Australians' dominance of the tour ahead of other overseas invaders.

Appleby and new US Open champion Geoff Ogilvy have each won twice on the US tour this year, with compatriots Rodney Pampling, Aaron Baddeley and John Senden each winning one event.

He said he would have done around a dozen interviews, including three or four major spreads, in the US this year where he had been constantly asked why Australia produced so many good players.

Appleby attributed it to coaching, mental and physical attitude and the success Australians had on their travels.

"We do get little sly remarks now and then, 'you bloody Australians, you come over here, you marry our wives, you take our money' ... well I do anyway and I don't have a problem with that," Appleby joked.

"We do get little things and we do let them know too that they are playing against the new dominant force.

"We're like Dr Evil, we've come to take over the world."

Appleby felt Ogilvy's US Open victory which ended a long Australian drought in the majors would trigger more success for the nation's golfers in the year's four biggest events.

"I would like to think that Geoff has cleared the path a bit to follow him, 'he can do it, I can do it', sort of stuff.

"That degree of copycat, I think is a good way to look at that and if we just can grow and get better and better, imagine what it would do for Australian golf to keep having players win multiple times.

"But if we can get an Aussie to win a major every year or two, that would be awesome."

Appleby said there was "tight camaraderie" amongst the Australian players on tour.

Currently ranked 24th in the world, Appleby is one of 10 top 100 rated Australians who will contest the Australian Open.

He described his form this year as "really good" and was keen to finish off the season well after taking most of September off.

Appleby will play three tournaments in the US before returning to Australia.

"I want to get some real strong momentum and my coach and I have talked, we want to make summer something, we don't want to just cruise through," Appleby said.

He praised local administrators and believed communication paths were more open than previously.

Appleby said the players felt they were now more involved and were having greater notice taken of their opinions.

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