



# Jimmy Walker SkyRockets on PGA Tour

by Travis White

**T**here's no doubt that the local guy from New Braunfels is the hottest player right now. In fact, he's currently ranked #1 on the PGA Tour. Seemingly out of no where, Jimmy Walker has skyrocketed to the top of the money list with his 2014 earnings approaching \$4 million and is winning noteworthy competitions, including AT&T Pebble Beach National Pro-Am.

Walker became one of a select few when he won the AT&T Pebble Beach National Pro-Am on February 9, 2014, securing his third event in eight starts (he also won the Frys.com Open on Oct 13, 2013 and the Sony Open in Hawaii on January 12, 2014). It's an accomplishment reached only by David Duval, Phil Mickelson and Tiger Woods over the last two decades.

A 1997 graduate of Canyon High and a Baylor University alumni, Walker turned pro in 2001, but it wasn't until recently that he leaped to the top of the tour. Wining three events this season is certainly a nice change, after not winning a single PGA Tour in his first eleven years as a pro (187 tournaments). Many credit Walker's new swing coach, Butch Harmon, for some of the success this year. Harmon has worked with many notable golfers including Tiger Woods, Phil Mickelson, Greg Norman and many others, but only started working with Walker within the last couple of years.

Walker's success this season has certainly propelled him to a new level of recognition, getting mentions and valuable camera time on nearly every nationally televised golfing contest this year. His wins have guaranteed him a coveted spot at the Masters this April and secured his PGA card though 2016.

Many local fans are looking forward to seeing Walker at the 2014 Valero Texas Open, held on March 24th - 30th in San Antonio. Walker has never won the title at the event, but perhaps this year his luck will change. We'll be watching and many local friends will surely be rooting him on.

