



Rory McIlroy's stunning form in the UAE continued during a second round 64 at the Omega Dubai Desert Classic. Stringer / EPA

Rory McIlroy in the pink at Dubai Desert Classic halfway stage

Paul Radley

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All of the chasing pack have their work cut out, even though it includes enviable pedigree in the form of former US Open winner Graeme McDowell at 12-under, and former world No 1 Lee Westwood a further shot back.

"This golf course really sets up well for long hitters, and Rory is one of those, but everybody is beatable," said Westwood, who reached 11-under with a second round 68.

McIlroy might not win the coffee pot trophy on Saturday evening. Stranger things have happened. Evidence: Martin Kaymer and the curious case of the disappearing 10-stroke lead in Abu Dhabi two weeks ago.

However, he did look intimidatingly strong in round two. Even in the hot lava shirt and cap combo, which he had opted for in observation of Pink Friday.

All 18 flags were pink, each of the players wore ribbons of that colour somewhere on their person, while most wore shirts of some hue or other of pink, in support of Breast Cancer Arabia.

"When they sent me this hat to wear, I was a little apprehensive about it, but I like it," McIlroy said. "Maybe I should wear it more often."

EXCERPT

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