

PROGRESS REPORT: TRACKMAN COMBINE

Since its birth in May, hundreds of golfers, ranging from the world's top tour professionals all the way to high handicappers, have tested their shot-making abilities with the TrackMan Combine.

We've received tremendous positive feedback not just on the benchmarking merit of Combine, but on the game improvement and practice value of the process itself. Before we go into details let's quickly remind you what the TrackMan combine is.

What is the TrackMan Combine?

1. Player hits shots at 10 targets/zones (60, 70, 80, 90, 100, 120, 140, 160, and 180 yds plus drives)
2. Player receives the following feedback:
 - >Average Distance from Pin at each target yardage
 - >Average Drive Distance
 - >Average Offline for Drives
 - >Score (0-100) for every shot category
 - >Percentile Rankings for every shot category
 - >Aggregate TrackMan Combine Score

This article highlights the top results so far and provides additional insight on TrackMan Combine scoring benchmarks by using PGA TOUR ShotLink data and more.

Top scores to date

While the maximum possible TrackMan Combine score is 100, such a score may prove impossible for any one player to achieve in a single session. To date, our best score is an 87 accomplished by LPGA Tour Professional and Rolex World Ranked #26 Sun Young Yoo.

Ms. Yoo's combine was completed during a training session with her coaches at David Leadbetter Golf Academy in ChampionsGate, FL, just prior to her winning the Sybase Match Play Championship in Gladstone, NJ. In reviewing Ms. Yoo's TrackMan Combine results below, you can see she is a model of consistency with no glaring weaknesses:

TrackMan Combine: Sun Young Yoo

Target	Points	Avg. Dist from pin (yds)
60 yds	81	3.0
70 yds	90	2.4
80 yds	90	3.0
90 yds	85	4.3
100 yds	88	3.9
120 yds	95	2.8
140 yds	90	4.4
160 yds	91	5.5
180 yds	90	5.9
Drives	74	Carry 231.7 Side 7.2
Total score: 87		

Luke Donald and James Morrison currently share the lead for best men's Combine score with 86. Days after making his Combine score of 86, Luke Donald finished in 2nd place at the European PGA Tour's BMW PGA Championship at Wentworth Club and was tournament champion the following week at the Madrid Masters. Earlier in the season, James Morrison was the European PGA Tour's champion at Madeira Islands Open BPI event. You can review Donald's and Morrison's TrackMan Combine results below:

TrackMan Combine: Luke Donald

Target	Points	Avg. Dist from pin (yds)
60 yds	83	3.4
70 yds	85	3.2
80 yds	88	3.3
90 yds	86	3.6
100 yds	89	3.5
120 yds	96	2.8
140 yds	83	7.4
160 yds	84	7.7
180 yds	86	6.5
Drives	79	Carry 255.8 Side 9.1
Total score: 86		

TrackMan Combine: James Morrison

Target	Points	Avg. Dist from pin (yds)
60 yds	86	2.6
70 yds	75	4.7
80 yds	90	3.0
90 yds	80	5.0
100 yds	89	3.8
120 yds	88	4.8
140 yds	85	6.1
160 yds	86	7.0
180 yds	89	6.6
Drives	79	Carry 252.1 Side 6.4
Total score: 86		

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Our best Combine score turned in by an amateur is from Casey Baker, co-owner of Miles of Golf in Ann Arbor, MI. Baker, a top Michigan amateur, scored 84 on his Combine and later in the golf season captured the championship at one of Michigan's most prestigious amateur events, the GAM Championship. Baker commented, "The TrackMan Combine is an awesome test and process. It helped me realize my best layup yardage was 80 yards and not 100 yards as I had been playing to, not to mention it gave me a clear understanding of my strengths and weaknesses. It allowed me under pressure to have total confidence in my yardages. Following the combine, I've played some of the best tournament golf of my life, including a final round 65 at Flint Golf Club which helped me win the GAM Championship."

TrackMan Combine: Casey Baker

Target	Points	Avg. Dist from pin (yds)
60 yds	76	4.0
70 yds	85	3.3
80 yds	94	2.2
90 yds	83	4.8
100 yds	84	4.6
120 yds	85	5.2
140 yds	85	6.2
160 yds	83	8.3
180 yds	90	6.7
Drives	75	Carry 246.8 Side 9.6
Total score: 84		

Average Golfer

When describing the "average golfer", most industry professionals refer to the 18-handicapper. Using the TrackMan Combine database, we took all the 18-handicap results and averaged them for each scoring zone and drives, as well assigned the corresponding Combine score. In Table 1, you can see the shot-making ability for the "average 18-handicapper" produced a TrackMan Combine score of 42, with 90 yards being the strongest scoring zone.

Table 1: TrackMan Combine: 18 HCP average

Target	Points	Avg. Dist from pin (yds)
60 yds	34	13.7
70 yds	47	10.6
80 yds	50	12.5
90 yds	51	14.1
100 yds	50	15.8
120 yds	49	19.2
140 yds	49	24.0
160 yds	36	31.7
180 yds	24	50.6
Drives	30	Carry 160 Side 16.6
Total score: 42		

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Combine versus Shotlink

Knowing that no golfing reference is complete without comparisons to PGA TOUR data, we took 2010 PGA TOUR ShotLink statistics and contrasted them to TrackMan Combine scoring using Combine's scoring system. We looked at the average distance from the pin on shots hit at various target yardages, as well as drive carry and side during PGA TOUR events, which had been gathered by ShotLink. We then calculated each "implied scoring result" using TrackMan Combine's scoring system. The two tables below are the results. Table 2 represents best performance at each target. To clarify, this is not the same person hitting through all scoring zones, but rather a composite of PGA player statistics and our choosing the #1 stat/result for each target. Table 3 shows PGA TOUR averages.

Table 2: Best PGA TOUR implied score
Best for each target

Target	Points*	Avg. Dist** from pin (yds)
60 yds	89	2.9
70 yds	90	3.2
80 yds	91	3.5
90 yds	91	3.9
100 yds	92	4.2
120 yds	91	5.1
140 yds	91	6.2
160 yds	90	7.4
180 yds	89	8.8
Drives	96	Carry 285 Side 7.4
Total score: 91		

* ShotLink data converted to Combine scoring
** ShotLink Data

implied TrackMan Combine Total Score is 82. A technical note: standard TrackMan Combine results are based on landing (carry), but the two tables above that use ShotLink data are based on the final resting result for each scoring zone (including roll) and driver side result. As with Combine, the PGA TOUR computes its driving distance based on carry. It should further be noted that TrackMan Combine scores may be slightly better relative to the above PGA TOUR scores, because in the TrackMan Combine, golfers take 4 consecutive shots at the same target (so the participant effectively gets to make adjustments based on feedback very quickly), while naturally the PGA TOUR scores are based on course performance, where players just get one shot at a time.

Importance of hitting it close

How do we know these TrackMan Combine Scores map to improved scoring performance on the course, besides the testimonials we have received? One thing we looked at is the relationship between distance from the pin on approach shots and percentage of one putts made. Take a look at Table 4 below, where we took the PGA TOUR ShotLink results from each TrackMan Combine Scoring Zone and compared those under the assumption of being an Average PGA TOUR putter trying to one putt from the shot result distance.

Unbelievably, From 60 to 100 yards, assuming an average putter on the PGA TOUR (based on percentage of one putts from each distance), the #1 player on the PGA TOUR at TrackMan Combine yardages (60, 70, 80, 90, and 100 yards) is twice as likely to get up and down as the average PGA TOUR player. In other words, improving and benchmarking your accuracy with target practice using Combine or the TrackMan Range directly translates into superior results on the golf course.

Table 3: Average PGA TOUR implied score

Target	Points*	Avg. Dist** from pin (yds)
60 yds	72	5.3
70 yds	76	5.5
80 yds	79	5.8
90 yds	81	6.1
100 yds	83	6.4
120 yds	85	7.1
140 yds	85	8.0
160 yds	85	9.1
180 yds	85	10.6
Drives	83	Carry 268 Side 8.5
Total score: 82		

* ShotLink data converted to Combine scoring
** ShotLink Data

Table 4: One putt made

Target	PGA TOUR Best for each target		PGA TOUR Average	
	Avg. Dist from pin (yds)	One Putt made	Avg. Dist from pin (yds)	One Putt made
60 yds	2.9	44.3%	5.3	20.7%
70 yds	3.2	40.1%	5.5	19.6%
80 yds	3.5	35.9%	5.8	18.6%
90 yds	3.9	31.8%	6.1	17.3%
100 yds	4.2	28.0%	6.4	16.1%
120 yds	5.1	21.6%	7.1	13.7%
140 yds	6.2	16.8%	8.0	11.0%
160 yds	7.4	12.7%	9.1	8.6%
180 yds	8.8	9.2%	10.6	6.2%

As you can see from the above, taking the #1 result at each target from all players on the PGA TOUR results in an implied TrackMan Combine Total Score of 91, while the PGA TOUR average

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How to get started

In summary, we look forward to sharing future results in TrackMan Combine scoring, as well telling more stories about players and coaches who are using TrackMan Combine to achieve game improvement and tournament success. For starters, see the case study about Stanford University below.

If you are a TrackMan customer who is current on your subscription and interested in implementing the TrackMan Combine in your lesson and coaching programs, please register at www.mytrackman.com/combine or call us.

CASE STUDY: STANFORD UNIVERSITY

Every year, for one week of junior camp season, Stanford coaches Conrad Ray and Caroline O'Connor host Players Camp at Stanford University and the Siebel Golf Complex.

New for this year was the integration of TrackMan Combine for all 50 participants aged 12 – 18. Stanford Men's Head Coach Conrad Ray said of the combine, "It was a great addition to our Players Camp to integrate TrackMan Combine. We not only helped all participants learn about the importance of focusing on specific targets while practicing, but also how difficult it is to hit a specific yardage upon command.

Further, we as coaches learned a lot about each player. For example, as the players were hitting drivers for distance and accuracy, as opposed to for a fitting, we realized that half of our camp participants were playing a driver that was not properly fit for their swing!" Coach Ray continued, "I really look forward to my team returning in the fall so we can fully integrate the TrackMan Combine into our focused golf training – hitting shots with a purpose and getting the immediate feedback, realizing strengths, knowing what to work on... I can't recall any more effective and efficient golf practice protocol."



TrackMan on the Stanford range during a practice session

“ I can't recall any more effective and efficient golf practice protocol ”

Conrad Ray
Head Coach Stanford University