

Casey Martin



A Champion of Resistance

Casey Martin was born on June 2, 1972 in Eugene Oregon. When he was a child he developed Klipper-Trenauny-Weber Syndrome. This is a rare circulatory disease where there is no known cure. It weakens the circulatory system and can cause your bones to erode.

Even though he did have this condition he developed a love for the game of golf. Casey began playing with his father when he was just seven years old. Between the ages of 10-14 he won seventeen Oregon Golf Association junior events. He continued to excel when he played in high school. He was named 1st team All American for three years in a row and he won the State Championship when he was a senior in high school. With these great skills, Casey was awarded a scholarship to Stanford for his golf game. He and Tiger Woods were teammates while he was at Stanford.

After he graduated from college he became a pro in 1995. He joined the Nike Tour. Just as he thought that his dreams were coming true, his condition started to weaken his right leg even more. His bones began to erode and he couldn't walk the 18-hole course without great pain. Casey decided to ask the PGA if he could use a cart while he played. He was quickly denied. Casey decided to take them to court. In 1998, the U.S. Magistrate ruled in Casey's favor, and it was upheld in the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in March of 2001. The PGA then appealed to the Supreme Court. On May 29, 2001 with a 7-2 vote the court ruled for Casey. They said that the Americans with Disabilities Act protected him and that the PGA was discriminating towards those with disabilities.

Although it was a long battle, Casey did succeed. He is still golfing today in the pro circuit, and he can use the cart. He has made a lasting impression on the golf world and those with disabilities. Casey Martin is a shining example of a champion of resistance.