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Singh masters his emotions

By Doug Ferguson
 The Associated Press

AUGUSTA, Ga. — Without clubs handed down by his father, Vijay Singh would never have learned to play golf in Fiji, a tiny South Pacific country with about 12 golf courses — and now, one Masters champion.

Without some putting advice from his wife, he might never have won a major.

Three years ago, while teaching his young son how to putt, Ardena Singh noticed a much smoother stroke from her husband when he used a crosshanded grip. He made the change, and a couple of months later won the PGA Championship at Sahalee in Redmond, Wash.

The key advice for the Masters had as much to do with his head as his stroke.

Singh required 124 putts over four days on the contoured, concrete-like greens of Augusta National, the highest number by a winner since officials began counting. He also had four three-putts, disrupting the trend of recent winners who had no more than one.

But he showed as much fear over his putts as when Tiger Woods, David Duval and Ernie Els all made their run at him during the weekend — none.

"I missed the cut here two years

and I was really disappointed," Singh said. "I talked to people about it, especially my wife. She said, 'You cannot come over here thinking you will putt bad. You've got to come here very positive with what you're going to do.'

"If you win here, you have to putt well," he said. "If I have a bad attitude on the greens, I might as well not come."

He came. He putted. He won.

With wind so strong it nearly blew him over during atrocious weather in the pivotal third round Saturday, Singh avoided a three-putt. When he returned Sunday morning to finish off the round, he holed putts of eight and 18 feet during the last four holes to protect his lead.

"That gave me a good boost," he said. "I was really confident with a three-stroke lead. As long as I played solid, as I did all week, they would have to catch me. That was my goal going into the afternoon — just hit good, solid shots. And don't three-putt."

The 17th in the morning was particularly crucial. Singh's approach spun into the bunker, and he blasted out 18 feet past the hole. Duval had 6 feet for birdie, a potential two-shot swing. Then came a familiar scene — Singh made, Duval missed.

"I obviously would have liked to have made that putt," Duval said. "But that's not the only one I missed. And that wasn't the only nice par putt he made. I don't think anyone should be surprised that Vijay Singh won this golf tournament."

It wasn't just his putting. Singh felt comfortable with a driver, hit beautiful chips at crucial moments and staved off the last threat to his lead with a dicey bunker shot on the par-3 12th that stopped 2 feet from the hole.

"He obviously showed us his metal," Els said. "He's done it before at the PGA, and now he's done it again. He's an awfully hard competitor, and this golf course has always been suited for his game."

Els was the last one with a chance, but missed medium-range putts on the final three holes that allowed Singh to walk up toward the 18th green in style, followed by an appropriate touch and then make an 18-foot birdie.

"Walking up the 18th hole, knowing that a two-putt was going to win the golf tournament, was probably the greatest feeling I've had for a long, long time," Singh said. "And wearing this green jacket tops it all. I can't describe the feeling."

Baseball

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lowed Maljai's two-run home run in the fourth with his second shot of the season, and right fielder Schaller's two-run shot came in the fifth to make it 13-6.

"I was angry about my defen-

sive performance, so I just took it out on the ball," Maljai said.

Oregon reliever Matthew Stofregen, who had an impressive outing yesterday, repeated his stellar performance by using his slider and fastball to keep the batters off balance. He threw four innings, giving up only two runs.

"I learned what the batters wanted to do in the first games, so I tried to trade that to today's game," Stofregen said.




The Ducks play Western Washington this weekend.

Washington "is a long way to go and not win," Fay said. "We expect to win all three games."

Do You Know Your LIMIT?

Approximate Blood Alcohol Percentage

Drinks in first hour	Body weight in pounds								
	100	120	140	160	180	200	220	240	
1	.04	.03	.03	.02	.02	.02	.02	.02	CAUTION
2	.08	.06	.05	.05	.04	.04	.03	.03	
3	.11	.09	.08	.07	.06	.06	.05	.05	
4	.15	.12	.11	.09	.08	.08	.07	.06	Driving Impaired
5	.19	.16	.13	.12	.11	.09	.09	.08	Legally Drunk

1 oz. 80 proof liquor  = 5 oz. wine  = 12 oz. beer (Not a "40." A "40" is over 3 beers.) 

The chart is only a guide. Each person's response to alcohol will vary, based on individual tolerance for alcohol, food intake, fatigue, and other factors. A person's driving can sometimes be impaired after only one drink.

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