

Martin

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Stevens wrote in the opinion.

Granting an exception would "allow Martin the chance to qualify for and compete" in events also open to qualifying members of the public, he wrote.

Justice Antonin Scalia wrote the dissent, joined by fellow conservative Justice Clarence Thomas.

"In my view, today's opinion exercises a benevolent compassion that the law does not place it within our power to impose," he said.

Scalia wrote that for the majority, "there is one set of rules that is fair with respect to the able-bodied, but individualized rules ... for talented but disabled athletes." He said the law "mandates no such ridiculous thing."

Eugene Attorney William Wiswall represented Martin in his lawsuit throughout the Federal District, which included arguing the case in U.S. District Court in Eugene.

"The purpose of the ADA is to have people bend the rules to accommodate the disabled," Wiswall said in a 1998 court document.

Wiswall and Walsh legal assistant Phyllis Bishoff said Wiswall is currently out of the country, but was "thrilled" and "definitely very, very pleased" after hearing Tuesday's decision. Bishoff said that the appeals process was handled by a New York attorney.

The 1990 Americans with Disabilities Act bans discrimination against the disabled in public accommodations, including golf courses and entertainment sites. The law requires "reasonable modifications" for disabled people unless such changes would fundamentally alter the place or event.

That law applies to professional sports events when they are held at places of public accommodation, the justices said.

Mark Phelps, a senior instructor of international and sports law at

the University's business school, said that the decision sets a new precedent for the American Disabilities Act.

"ADA has applications to the public — what makes this so important is that now [the ADA] is inside the playing field," he said. "This establishes, for the first time, that Congress intended to get involved at that level."

Tuesday's decision upholds multiple lower court rulings that ordered the PGA Tour to allow Martin use of a cart during tournament play.

Martin's legal battle began in November 1997, when he filed a lawsuit in U.S. District Court in Oregon against the PGA Tour for the right to ride a cart in competition. Five days after Martin filed the lawsuit, U.S. Magistrate Thomas Coffin granted an injunction that allowed him to use a cart during tournament play.

Following a six-day trial in District Court in Eugene, Coffin ruled in favor of Martin. However, the Tour appealed the decision to the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals, which ultimately upheld the lower court ruling in March 2000.

In July 2000, the PGA toured appealed the 9th Circuit Court's decision, and in September the Supreme Court agreed to hear the appeal. Tuesday's decision denied that appeal.

An official statement released Tuesday by the PGA Tour reiterated its position that they believe the issues involved go beyond the considerations of an individual player.

"Through the lawsuit brought against the Tour three years ago, the courts were asked to examine the issue of whether the Tour should be forced to abandon its long-standing requirement that the rules of competition be applied equally to all competitors," the statement said.

The PGA Tour said in the statement it will continue to welcome Martin as a member and a competitor, and it wished him every success.

Martin's circulatory condition is

called Klippel-Trenaunay-Weber Syndrome. He sued the PGA Tour in 1997, saying the ADA — enacted in 1990 — gave him a right to use a cart during tour events.

Martin was a teammate of Tiger Woods at Stanford, and the two used to room together on road trips. Woods has said that Martin sometimes would be in so much pain that he couldn't get up to use the bathroom.

Although he has played some events on the PGA Tour, Martin has spent most of this season on the Buy.com Tour, a minor league linked to the main tour. His best finish this year was a tie for 34th at the Louisiana Open on April 1.

Jim Furyk, a tour golfer preparing for the Memorial, said he was happy for Martin.

"I understand where the Tour's coming from, and my heart goes out to Casey," he said. "He's a wonderful person, he's a great guy and a great competitor. I'm happy he gets to go ahead and fulfill his dream. I understood both sides of the story ... if I was Casey I would have done the exact same thing. I'm happy for him as a person."

Annika Sorenstam, the top money winner on the LPGA Tour, also said she was happy for Martin.

"He wants to play golf, he wants to compete and this gives him a chance to do it," she said during practice for the U.S. Women's Open at Southern Pines, N.C.

But not all golfers were glad to hear the news.

Jack Nicklaus and Arnold Palmer have spoken against allowing any player to use a cart in elite competition to accommodate a disability. They have said that using a cart would give Martin an advantage and take away a basic part of the game: the ability to walk an 18-hole course.

"I think we ought to take them all out and play golf," Nicklaus said of the justices. "I think they'd change their minds. I promise you, it's fundamental."

"Anytime you get to ride you gain

an advantage, don't you?" said Frank Nobile, a PGA Tour regular from New Zealand. "I think you do. It's the same reason they try to ban drugs in sports — because it gives an advantage."

One day after the San Francisco-based 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals ruled for Martin, a Chicago-based federal appeals court ruled against Indiana golfer Ford Olinger, who sued the U.S. Golf Association for the right to use a cart in U.S. Open qualifying rounds. The appeals court said a cart would change the nature of competition.

Among those supporting the PGA Tour in friend-of-the-court briefs were the Ladies Professional Golf Association and the men's pro tennis organization, the ATP Tour.

The Justice Department backed Martin, as did disability-rights groups including the National As-

sociation of Protection and Advocacy Systems and the Disability Rights Education and Defense Fund.

The PGA said in the upcoming months the Tour's Policy Board will review and evaluate the Court's decision and determine how that decision and the requirements of the ADA might affect the Tour's rules of competition.

Some believe that future actions will greatly affect the public's perception of the PGA Tour.

"I think that the PGA and how it responds will have a greater impact on its public image than what has transpired so far," Phelps said. "If they were to fight every request for accommodation — in the same degree as this case — I don't believe they will be viewed in a positive light."

The Associated Press contributed to this article.



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Graduates

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associate director of the Office of International Education and Exchange.

But he said there is still a strong international community at the University, with many resources available to international students. These resources include the International Student Association and other student unions, as well as the OIEE office, which has several international student advisors on staff. These advisors are available to answer any personal, cultural or immigration issues students may have. In many ways, Shirzadegan said, the concerns of graduating international students are no different than those of other students.

"International students are first, students — and then international students," he said.

But international students face some issues that other students do not. For example, those hoping to stay in the country and work on their student visa after graduation must find work that relates to their field of study. In addition, they can only work for a total of 12 months

on the visa while not attending school.

This can be difficult, Yoshida said.

"It definitely limits you to what is available," he said.

Some international graduates get around this by going on to graduate school rather than working after receiving their undergraduate degrees. Wan-tzu Lee, from Taiwan, plans on attending graduate school after she graduates this term with degrees in economics and Japanese.

Lee said the Chinese Student Association and the international student orientation program helped her to make initial connections. And after spending three years at the University, she said she likes nearly everything about the school — especially the friendly attitudes and school spirit of students.

She has applied to several graduate schools, but she said she hopes to be accepted into the graduate program at the University.

"I don't want to go," she said. "I really like it here — the people are so nice."

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