

SPORTS

Tiger Woods Tried For One Million Dollar Hole-In-One August 17

Golf superstar Tiger Woods attempted to make a one million dollar hole-in-one on Monday, August 17 at Portland's Heron Lakes Golf Course as part of a five-city tour of inner-city youth.

Golf clinics sponsored by leading golf operator American Golf in collaboration with the Tiger Woods Foundation.

Woods was to donate the \$1 million purse to local junior golf programs benefiting inner-city youths.

The contest was held during a golf clinic and exhibition hosted by Tiger and his father, Earl Woods on behalf of the Tiger Woods Foundation for three thousand youths from Portland-area community groups.

The event was not open to the public, although members of the media were present.

"We are thrilled to work in partnership with the Tiger Woods Foundation to make golf more accessible and affordable for youths who would not otherwise have the

opportunity to learn and play the game," said American Golf President & CEO David G. Price.

"In addition to being a healthy, fun alternative, golf teaches a number of invaluable life lessons such as integrity, honesty, discipline and commitment...ideals these kids can apply to every aspect of their lives."

To encourage participants to continue their interest in golf after the clinic, American Golf has purchased rounds of golf from four courses operated by the City of Portland and will provide each child with certificate enabling them to play a round for just one dollar.

American Golf is funding the contest as part of its nationwide Inner-City Youth Golf Program, established in 1985 to increase opportunities for at-risk children to learn and play golf at the more than 270 golf courses in the company operates from coast to coast.

Working with organizations including the PGA of America, Ladies Professional Golf Association

(LPGA), the Western States Golf Association (WSGA), the National Minority Golf Foundation (NMGF), United States Golf Association (USGA) and the Youth Golf Association of America (YGAA).

American Golf courses offer inner-city youths free golf instructional clinics; complimentary practice range balls; and the opportunity to play a round of golf for only one dollar during off-peak hours.

The Tiger Woods Foundation, founded by the Woods family in 1996, recognizes the family as the most important unit in society.

The Foundation works actively to encourage and promote parental responsibility and involvement in children's lives.

It pursues this objective through its philanthropic efforts and its family oriented golf events throughout the United States.

The Tiger Woods Foundation is a supporter of the National Minority Golf Foundation.



Tiger Woods enjoying time in the "Rose City"

Mike, Can You Please Pass Me The License?

LAS VEGAS — Mike Tyson, who sought to bypass Nevada in a bid to return to boxing, will have a hearing before the state's athletic commission Sept. 9.

It was not known immediately whether Tyson would appear at the hearing.

Tyson was banned by the Nevada Athletic Commission in July 1997 after biting Evander Holyfield's ears during their heavyweight championship fight.

He was eligible to reapply for a license in Nevada July 9, but by-passed the state and went through the licensing process in New Jersey.

Last Thursday, he surprisingly withdrew the application in New Jersey and said he would seek licensing in Nevada.

Marc Ratner, executive director of the Nevada Athletic Commission, expects Tyson to attend because commissioners will want to question him.

Tyson adviser Shellev Finkel

could not be reached immediately for comment on the fighter's plans.

Dr. Elias Ghanem, chairman of the Nevada Athletic Commission, said last Thursday a decision would come quickly.

"We vote on it on the spot, and we don't delay our decisions," Ghanem said.

Ghanem said Tyson would have to prove to the five-member Nevada commission that he is fit to return to the sport.

Ratner said the Nevada hearing "will be fair and impartial."

The Star-Ledger of Newark, N.J., citing unidentified sources, reported Friday that two of New Jersey's three board members might have opposed Tyson and the third member was not expected to vote.

Last month, New Jersey regulators listened as the former champion asked for his license back — but he also got angry and cursed in front of them.

Finkel didn't give a reason for the switch, other than to say there was concern over the perception that the boxer was trying to get around the Nevada ban by applying in New Jersey.

Finkel denied he feared Tyson's application would be rejected.

"I felt very positive," Finkel said, adding that he also was confident about Tyson's chances in Nevada. "We can always go back to New Jersey if it's bad in Nevada."

Nevada boxing regulators expected all along that Tyson would reapply for his license in Nevada after a mandatory one-year wait.

Asking New Jersey for the license was seen as a calculated gamble by Finkel.

Tyson's license was revoked and he was fined \$3 million for biting Holyfield's ears during the third round of their June 28, 1997, rematch for the heavyweight title.



Taking a bite out of boxing

PGA, It Is All Over When The Fat Lady Sings!

REDMOND, Wash. — The PGA Championship welcomed Vijay Singh into the fold on a drizzly Sunday at Sahalee Country Club, where the 35-year-old son of a Fijian airline technician propelled himself to his first major title.

A former club pro in Borneo who has won tournaments in such venues as Malaysia, Nigeria, Zimbabwe and Morocco, Singh cut a wide swath through the tree-lined course and beat Steve Stricker by two shots.

Singh produced a 2-under-par 68 to finish with a 9-under total of 271, accepted the winner's check of \$540,000 and continued the PGA's tradition of serving as the coming-out party for first-time major winners.

He is the 10th player in the last 11 years to make the PGA his first major title and the seventh in the last 11 years whose only major title is the PGA.

"It's amazing," Singh said. "I can't believe that I've won this tournament."

After sharing the 54-hole lead with Singh, Stricker closed with a 70, but he bogeyed two of the par-3 holes Sunday, including the not-so-dangerous 215-yard 17th when he was just one shot back.

Stricker, who drove into the water at the par-3 No. 9, wound up playing the par three holes in 3-over for the week.

"You're not going to win many golf tournaments doing that," Stricker said.

The turning point for both players was at the 17th. Stricker was one shot back and wanted to try to put some pressure on Singh, but he drove into the left bunker trying to stay away from the water on the right, which is where his ball landed on Friday when he double-bogeyed the hole.

This time, Singh joined Stricker in the same bunker but managed to save his par. Stricker didn't. He knocked his bunker shot to 12 feet, but missed the putt.

It was not an easy day for Stricker, who said he was having problems handling the pressure and wound up fighting his

swing. "I'm not going to lie," he said. "It was difficult...it's hard not to let things creep into your mind. They did."

As the year's fourth and final major ground to its conclusion, the line of players who stepped up to challenge Singh and Stricker was not a very long one. Steve Elkington answered with a closing 67, but he bogeyed the 18th and wound up third at 6-under 274, three shots behind Singh.

Nick Price shot a 65, but he began the day eight shots back and found that there was just too much ground to make up. Price finished tied for fourth with Mark O'Meara and Frank Lickliter.

Actually, O'Meara did make it interesting for awhile. He eagled the second hole and birdied the fifth to get within two shots of the leaders, then bogeyed the next three holes to drop out of it just as quickly as he had climbed in.

"I'm a little disappointed, but that's the way it goes," O'Meara said.

The Masters and British Open champion had a chance to join Ben Hogan as the only players to win three majors in one year.

"It would have been a tremendous honor to go alongside Ben Hogan's name, but it just wasn't meant to be," O'Meara said. "It's not easy winning out here, let alone another major championship."

Maybe, but Singh did with a relative ease that seemed surprising given his inexperience in such matters. It didn't hurt that he had a little luck on his side, either.

For instance, on his approach shot at No. 11, the hole with the two trees down the fairway that look like goal posts, he threaded his ball through the trees with a 3 wood, reached the front of the green and two-putted from 25 feet for a birdie that increased his lead to two shots.

Singh bogeyed No. 12 from the bunker but pulled off another shot involving

trees at No. 14. He hooked his ball 50 yards around some trees and onto the green, where he saved his par. When rolled in an eight-footer for birdie on No. 15, Singh was on his way.

If Stricker was having trouble keeping his emotions in check, Singh wasn't. He said caddy Dave Renwick, who worked with Elkington when he won the 1995 PGA and Jose Maria Olazabal when he won the 1994 Masters, helped calm him.

Singh was loose even when he was tight. Stricker said Singh admitted his hands were sweating so much he could barely hold the club.

But Singh wasn't quite so relaxed trying to sleep Saturday night when he woke up at 2 a.m., worrying about what would happen in the final round.

"My wife (Ardena) said 'Aren't you sleeping?' and I said 'Yeah, I'm asleep.' 'Winning, this is just something I never expected to happen. I'm a total loss for words trying to figure out how I did that today. It's a dream come true. It's been my dream, even though I've been quiet about it.'"

It was Singh's sixth PGA Tour victory but his 24th in international competition that includes seven on the European PGA Tour and 11 others mostly on the Asian Tour in a career that began in 1982.

Elkington said he appreciates Singh's accomplishment.

"He has had an enormously difficult road to pick up that trophy," Elkington said.

Now that Singh is a major champion, maybe he will feel comfortable enough to cut back on the time he spends practicing on the range, to curtail his putting in his hotel room, to stop changing his putter or his style.

Or maybe not. This year alone, Singh has gone through eight putters and even felt uncomfortable enough to switch to a cross-handed style in June.

Lockout, Can You Dig It?

NEW YORK — The NBA will issue refunds to season-ticket holders, along with 6 percent interest, if the league's lockout forces the cancellation of regular-season games.

That announcement came Monday from the league office on another day of developments in the six-week-old work stoppage.

In Atlanta, union director Billy Hunter held a briefing for some of the locked-out players, and attendees included Kevin Garnett and Stephen Marbury of the Minnesota Timberwolves.

No new bargaining talks are sched-

uled. The last formal session ended abruptly last Thursday when owners walked out of the room after hearing the players' latest proposal.

"Regrettably, after last week's negotiating session there seems to be a greater likelihood that the season may not start on time," deputy commissioner Russ Granik said in a news release announcing the refund policy.

Season ticket holders, most of whom already have paid for their seats for the 1998-99 season, will receive 6 percent interest on their money if regular-season games, which are due to begin Nov. 3, are canceled because of the lockout.

Refunds would be made at the end of each month.

"Season ticket holders make substantial financial commitments to our teams and we think they should be treated fairly in the unfortunate event that games are missed," Granik said. "A refund policy that includes interest is the right thing to do in this instance."

Holders of single-game tickets will be entitled to a refund or a rain check.

Refund policies for holders of luxury suites, club seats and other premium seats will be determined on a team-by-team basis, the NBA said.

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