

# SPORTS

## Woods is taking the Golf World by Storm

By DOUG FERGUSON  
c. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Tiger Woods used to keep a list taped to his bedroom wall detailing all of Jack Nicklaus' accomplishments, such as his U.S. Amateur victories, his NCAA title and above all the 18 professional majors that serve as a benchmark to the greatest career in golf.

Here's one Woods probably didn't include.

With his victory Sunday in the NEC Invitational on Sunday, Woods became the youngest player to win five times in one year since Nicklaus won his fifth tournament of 1963 in the Sahara Invitational at the same age — 23 years, 8 months, 30 days.

Only Woods isn't finished. He still has at least three tournaments left this year, maybe more. The way he has played since May, it is not unreasonable to think Woods can win again — maybe win them all.

The NEC Invitational was his fifth victory in his last eight tournaments. Not even David Duval was this hot when he won four times in the eight tournaments leading to the Masters, in what now seems like an eternity ago.

"I'm playing well, but I kept thinking this week that it's just a culmination of hard work," Woods said after his one-stroke victory over Phil Mickelson in the World Golf Championship event for Ryder Cup and Presidents Cup players. "I'm starting to reap dividends of a better game."

And all of a sudden, the comparisons to Nicklaus are starting to come into focus again. They first surfaced when Woods overwhelmed Augusta National more than Nicklaus ever did, winning with a record score of 270 by a record margin of 12 strokes.

Nicklaus even suggested that Woods might win 10 green jackets before he was done, which sounded like a stretch when Woods went 10 majors before winning another one. But while Woods has only

two majors to three for Nicklaus when he was 23, he has won 12 times on the PGA Tour, compared to eight times by Nicklaus at this stage.

The way Woods has dominated the deep and talented pool of worldwide players can make one only wonder what the future holds.

"It can still get better," Woods said. He has been saying all along he is building a swing that will make him more consistent, more controlled. No one believed him, especially since he won only one time on the PGA Tour last year.

Nick Price saw it with his own eyes.

"I played with him in the U.S. Open in '95 at Shinnecock Hills, and there was a lot of raw talent there," Price said. "Over the last two or three years, every time I've played with him it seems like he's just rounding off an edge here or there. I think he's going to continue to improve, too."

Price's only concern is that Woods doesn't lose his edge. The pressure on him isn't as great as when Tigermania peaked in mid-1997, but it is still greater

than what any other player faces.

Woods took home \$1 million from Firestone Country Club, making him the first player to surpass \$4 million in one season and giving him a more than \$8.9 million in three full years on the PGA Tour, already good enough for 12th in career earnings. He also is in the middle of renegotiating his contract with Nike, a five-year deal reported to be in the neighborhood of \$80 million to \$90 million. Woods said this week those figures were too high, but that was before he won yet again.

"By the time he gets to 25 or 26, he's going to have conquered a lot of mountains," Price said. "He'll have all the money in the world. He'll have probably won more majors in the next three years. It's just a question of can he keep going like Nicklaus did."

"The way he looks right now, he'll be

able to," Price added. "My hat's off to him."

Woods became the first player to win five tournaments in a season since Price in 1994. Price, who won the British Open and the PGA Championship that year, remembers what it was like to show up at every tournament feeling that if he played well, he would win — or at least have a really good chance.

"It's very hard to describe," Price said. "You feel like it's never going to come to an end."

Greg Norman, when asked about Duval's play before the Masters, recalls feeling so confident at times he would stand on the first tee, look around and wonder who was going to finish second that week. Woods doesn't quite see it that way, even if his play suggests otherwise.

"I never had that outlook," he said.



"I've always been very confident in my abilities, but not the point where I'm going to say something like that. There are 72 holes, and anything can happen. I need to go out there and take care of business."

No one is doing it better right now.

## Michael Johnson IS Track Magic

By BERT ROSENTHAL  
c. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

The magic of Michael Johnson's 400-meter world record was the defining moment of the World Championships. There could be more magic in his future.

While Johnson has accomplished more than any track and field athlete during the '90s, his career is far from over at 31.

He still has some big goals, including dropping the 400 record below 43 seconds and winning an unprecedented second 200-400 double at the Sydney Olympics.

"I never put limits on myself," said Johnson, who shattered Butch Reynolds' 11-year-old 400 record of 43.29 seconds with an electrifying time of 43.18.

Johnson ran the first 200 in 21.0 and the second 200 in 22.2, a pattern that other 400 runners cannot match. For the average quarter-miler, the difference between the first half of the race and the second is two seconds.

"Getting to 300, he was very relaxed," coach Clyde Hart said. "Patience was very important. He showed that 31.6 was like a walk in the park."

"He looks like he can do anything he wants," 1992 Olympic coach Mel Rosen said of Johnson.

As long as injuries don't interfere. When Johnson is healthy, there doesn't appear to be a 200 or 400 runner who can cope with his remarkable combination of speed and power.

When he set the 200 record of 19.32 at the 1996 Olympics, slicing an astonishing .34 seconds off his previous mark, second-place finisher Frankie Fredericks of Namibia was about five meters back, a huge margin in such a short race. And to think, Fredericks had come within .02 seconds of Johnson's previous record of 19.66, running 19.68.

When Johnson smashed the 400 record, runner-up Sanderlei Parrela of Brazil set a South American record of 44.29 and still was about 15 meters behind.

Johnson is aware no one can seriously push him, and to continue breaking records he'll have to do it running alone down the stretch. It's not the ideal situation, but one Johnson has learned to cope with.

"I realized long ago that I wouldn't be pushed," he said.

In the 200, Johnson's major opposition in recent years has come from Fredericks and 1997 world 200 champion Ato Boldon of Trinidad and Tobago.

Now, Maurice Greene, the 100 and 200 gold medalist at the championships that ended Sunday, poses another threat, but he is still learning the techniques of running the 200 and might need a couple of more years to catch Johnson.

In the 400, the only active runners to have broken 44 seconds are Reynolds and 1988 Olympic gold medalist Steve Lewis. And neither is very active, leaving Johnson the undisputed ruler of the event.

There has been some clamor for a 150-meter match race between Johnson and Greene to determine the "world's fastest

human." Johnson will have no part of it, not after his disastrous confrontation with Canada's Donovan Bailey in 1997, when he tore his right quadriceps.

A Johnson-Greene showdown over 200 meters probably will come next year at the U.S. Olympic trials at Sacramento, Calif.

Johnson capped the World Championships with another milestone, anchoring the U.S. 1,600-meter relay team to victory for his ninth career gold medal at the worlds, the most by any athlete, one more than Carl Lewis.

"It's an honor," Johnson said. "It's a testament to what I've tried to do in my career: to be consistent and go into every championships on the top of my game and go in to win."

He now has won four consecutive 400 world titles, three relay gold medals and two 200 championships.

Johnson also has three Olympic gold medals, ran on the U.S. team that set the world 1,600 relay record last year and owns the world indoor record for 400 meters. In addition, he won the 200-400 double at the 1995 U.S. Championships, the first man to accomplish that feat since 1899, and he repeated in 1996; he was unbeaten in the 400 from 1989 to 1997, a span of 58 finals; and he was the first to be ranked No. 1 in the world in both the 200 and 400, having achieved that five times since 1990.

"He's superhuman, he's phenomenal," U.S. long jumper Erick Walders said. Johnson has two more races this season, at Brussels, Belgium, Friday, and at Rieti, Italy, Sunday. Then, he will return to Dallas and rest before preparing for the 2000 Olympics.

"Michael comes back fast," Hart said. "He's never much out of shape."

**Na'im's**  
HAIR CONNECTION  
Full Service Salon

4603 N Williams Ave  
Portland, Oregon 97217  
503-288-3171

**McMurphy's**  
Appliance Center  
Sales • Service • Parts

4011 NE Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd. Ave. • Portland, OR 97212  
288-3233

**Sale! Sale! Sale!**

Malibu Gold Nail Polish & Lipstick **99¢**

**NEW** African Pride Hi Lites Highlighting Kits **\$7.95**

Braiding Hair **99¢**

"14 Slinky Hair" **\$10.95**

Oster Adjustable Clippers **Buy 1- Get 1 Free**

\*Offer Applies to Selected Products

**Mrs. C' Wig & Hair**  
Care Center

707 NE Fremont • Portland, OR 97212  
(503) 281-6525

## What is the Hood to Coast?

The Nationwide Insurance Hood To Coast Relay is the ultimate adventure run and the largest relay in North America. Its course stretches from Oregon's Mt. Hood 195 miles to the shore of the Pacific Ocean in Seaside, Oregon.

The course challenges 12-person teams to confront hills, urban areas, and the unique characteristics of both daytime and nighttime running.

Teams come from around

the world to participate in the HTC and PTC events. Men, Women, Mixed, Corporate, there is a category for any combination.

Sister relay events include the Nextel Portland To Coast High School Challenge and the Portland To Coast Walk. Both start in Portland, Oregon and follow the HTC course 125 miles to Seaside, on the Pacific Ocean.

The 1999 Nationwide Insurance Hood To Coast Relay set a new record for registering the maximum number of teams in

the shortest time, filling 1000 slots by January 5th

Runners and walkers enter the Hood To Coast, Portland To Coast Run, or Portland To Coast Walk by printing off the entry form and mailing it into the HTC office, or one can request an entry form by sending a self-addressed, stamped envelope to:

Nationwide Insurance  
Hood to Coast Relay  
5319 S.W. Westgate #262  
Portland, OR 97221  
(503) 292-4626  
[htcrelay@teleport.com](mailto:htcrelay@teleport.com)

## Who was Major Taylor?

Marshall "Major" Taylor was the most famous bicycle racer in the world in his time. He won the World Championship at Montreal Canada in 1899. He was worshiped in Europe, but was not allowed to compete in his own national championships in the USA.

**LA VIE AU GRAND AIR**

ABONNEMENTS: 10 MAPS 1901, N° 130  
Régistré en Administration: 311, rue Saint-Barthé, PARIS (1<sup>er</sup> Arr<sup>t</sup>)

Publité: France Courrier, 10 1999, 10 1999, 10 1999, 10 1999

Attend USA Cycling's  
**"Kids On Bikes '99"**

Support a Renaissance of the spirit of Major Taylor

Registration must be at least 1/2 hour before race time

**all Races \$2.00**  
Bicycles provided or bring your own

supported in part by:  
Albina Community Bank

**Kids On Bikes '99 CHAMPIONSHIP**  
at Renaissance Market  
Parking Lot, 909 N Killingsworth  
**Saturday, Sept. 4th 11:00am**

For Race Information or more about the Kids On Bikes, call John Benenate at 234-8454.

**MAJOR TAYLOR**  
La vie au grand air est un magazine de vélos et de bicyclettes, 100% français, 100% français, 100% français.

Renaissance Market, at 909 N Killingsworth, is supporting non-profits in their community with a 3% donation program. Support the vision of the kids of b.i.k.e. — Bicycles and Ideas for Kids Empowerment. Please do your shopping at Renaissance Market after the race, and recommend to your cashier a 3% donation of your grocery bill to the kids of b.i.k.e. — a 501(c)3 non-profit organization.