



# Metro/Sports

## Woods eyes golf's triple crown

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Only four players had won the career Grand Slam until Tiger Woods completed the cycle with an unprecedented romp around the Old Course to win the British Open. Next up is a chance to join some really exclusive company.

Ben Hogan was the only player who won three major championships in one year, in 1953. That's what awaits Woods next month, when he makes his first visit to Valhalla Golf Club for the PGA Championship.

"I've always said you would like to have your game peak at four different times a year," Woods said. "That's something you always hope for and plan for. To actually have it happen is a different story. Hopefully, my game will be ready for the PGA."

Everyone else better hope he gets lost on his way to Kentucky.

Winning major championships is not an issue with Woods. Lately, the only drama is what kind of record will fall. In the U.S. Open at Pebble Beach, he became the first player to finish in double digits below par (12 under), broke a 138-year-old record with his 15-stroke victory and tied the U.S. Open scoring record at 282.

A month later, Woods arrived at the home of golf and made even more history.

He won the British Open with a 19-under 269, a record score at St. Andrews and the lowest score in relation to par ever in a major championship. His eight-stroke victory over Ernie Els and Thomas Bjorn was the widest in 87 years.

Two majors — one the toughest test in golf, the other the oldest. Woods won them by a combined 23 strokes,



Tiger Woods cradles the Claret Jug after winning the British Open Golf Championship on the Old Course at St. Andrews, Scotland, Sunday, July 23, 2000.

playing 31 strokes below par.

"In one way, it is incredible to watch a guy play so much better than the rest of the world," said Els, a runner-up in all three majors this year. "In another way, it's tough to sit down here and talk about him every time. "I might have to get used to it, but I guess that's the way it goes."

That's the way it's gone for just about everybody this year. Aside from two

bad holes in the first round of the Masters — a double bogey and triple bogey — Woods might very well be going for the Grand Slam in one year. He didn't have anything that remotely resembled trouble in the British Open. The Old Course has 112 pot bunkers, but the only time Woods even glimpsed any of them was when he watched chief challenger David Duval flail away four times to get out of the Road Hole bunker on No. 17 in the final round Sunday.

## NBA players to lose 10 percent of paychecks

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NBA players, from the highest-paid superstar to the lowest-paid rookie, will lose 10 percent of their paychecks in the 2001-02 season.

"I think players are going to be really upset when they learn about it," said Orlando's Pat Garrity, who was elected Tuesday as the union's secretary-treasurer. "Ten percent is a pretty big chunk."

The 10 percent giveback is known as the escrow tax, which the players agreed to during negotiations to end the 1998-99 lockout.

The tax would be triggered only if players received more than 55 percent of basketball-related income. But projections show the players will receive 64 percent of such income in the upcoming season.

Collectively, the players will be returning more than \$150 million to the owners in 2001-02. The tax will stay in effect for the 2002-03 and 2003-04 seasons under current basketball-income projections, meaning the players will fork over close to a half-billion dollars by the time the six-year collective bargaining agreement expires.

"It's not really something people are thinking about," Garrity said, "But the comfort is that the alternative was a hard salary cap, which wouldn't have been good for anyone."

Players received \$1.38 billion in salaries and benefits during the 1999-00 season, and the median salary rose 19 percent to \$2 million.

The median salary is up 40 percent in the two years since the lockout, and 76 percent of the players are earning \$1 million or more, union officials said.

Seven players, including Garrity, were elected to the union's executive committee Tuesday.

Alonzo Mourning of Miami, Sam Mitchell of Minnesota, Ray Allen of Milwaukee, Jerome Williams of Detroit, Theo Ratliff of Philadelphia and Antonio Davis of Toronto replace Tyrone Corbin of Sacramento, Juwan Howard of Washington, Dikembe Mutombo of Atlanta, Mitch Richmond of Washington, Mark West of Phoenix and retired Herb Williams.

"Great guys to work with," said union president Patrick Ewing, who has one year left of his term.

Garrity replaces New Jersey's Jim McIlvaine as secretary-treasurer, and first vice president Michael Curry of Detroit remains in his post.

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- An opening reception and dinner at the Benson Hotel, Portland, OR to celebrate our success. An exciting live auction of some great items will be part of the evening festivities and the announcement of tournament pairings will be held the on Thur., August 10, 2000. The adult tournament will be Fri., August 11, 2000 at Heron Lakes Golf Course.
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