

# Metro/Sports

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## Golfers' Endorsements Reach \$400 Million

(AP) - Fueled by Tiger Woods, endorsement spending for golf has reached \$400 million worldwide, according to a survey by Golf World magazine.



Tiger Woods will earn \$56 million dollars this year alone.

Woods, who has a five-year \$100 million contract with Nike, will earn \$56.4 million this year. But other golfers are also cashing in on the rush by companies to identify with the sport.

Endorsement income probably pushed the earnings for the top 75 players to \$1 million, although just 45 players reached that figure in tour winnings.

Golf World cites Glen Day, No. 75 on the list, who won \$617,242, but reached \$1 million with endorsement income.

Woods has helped raise TV ratings, attracting advertising and endorsement support from nongolf com-

panies. Endorsement spending by equipment companies is largely unchanged since 1996 but spending by companies outside golf increased by more than 200 percent.

Companies like golf, the magazine said, because the players can plaster logos on their shirts and caps unlike uniformed players in other sports. Also, \$2.8 billion was spent on golf equipment in 1999, eight times more than the amount spent on baseball and softball equipment.

"The reputation our players have developed is fundamental to everything we do," PGA Tour commissioner Tim Finchem said. "It gives us

an edge in the marketplace."  
 "Golf has a pretty ripe audience," said Tom Jump, director of advertising and promotion for Buick. "It's educated, affluent and in the 35- to 50-year-old range. Golf has helped us appeal to a wider audience."

Arnold Palmer still makes about \$18 million a year. Greg Norman earns about \$16 million, according to Golf World estimates.

The magazine says the next batch of golfers, in the range of \$5 million to \$7 million a year, includes Davis Love III, Mickelson, David Duval, Tom Watson, Colin Montgomerie, Jack Nicklaus and Jumbo Ozaki.

## Alternative Schools Hold Championship

The Urban League of Portland's Alternative School Basketball League Championship was held Jan 30 at Peninsula Park Community Center. The basketball league requires all students to maintain a 2.0 grade point average with an 80 percent average school attendance.

The two teams in the championship game were the Urban League's Portland Street Acad-

emy and Youth Employment Institute.

The winner was Youth Employment Institute by one point at the buzzer.

The league is a collaborative effort put forth by many participants, not least of which were the coaches, who volunteered their time.

Other schools that participated were POIC, YEI, McCoy Acad-

emy, Open Meadows, Youth Builders and The House of Umoja. The goal of the basketball league was to give the students incentives for keeping up their grades and attendance, and to create an outlet for the sports activities not available to alternative school students. Participation in the games proved to be a very powerful incentive for the students.

The coach for the Urban League's Street Academy team was Ciprian Panaitescu.

Serving as league commissioners were Michael Cruse and Phillip Christian. Aaron Bell of the Inside Out Mentorship Program; Fred Bogan of the Alternative Education Avenue Church; and Ron Lincoln of the Urban League served as championship game referees.

## Suns' Clifford Robinson Arrested for DUI



Clifford Robinson faces a day in court after a DUI arrest.

SCOTTSDALE, Ariz. (AP) - Clifford Robinson of the Phoenix Suns was arrested Monday on charges of driving under the influence and marijuana possession.

Robinson was driving 55 mph in a 40 mph zone and weaving in and out of lanes about 1:30 a.m., police spokesman Scott Reed said. "There was the odor of alcohol coming from his car and

his eyes were watery and bloodshot," Reed said. The player was released about three hours after he was picked up.

Robinson initially refused to get out of his car and twice refused a field sobriety test, Reed said. He later submitted to a blood test but his blood-alcohol level will not be known for several days.

Officers also found a small

foil packet of what they believed to be marijuana and a pipe, Reed said. The marijuana possession charge was pending, awaiting lab verification of the substance, he added. Robinson also was charged with possession of drug paraphernalia. A passenger who said he was an out-of-town friend was not charged. Police would not release his name.

## Blazer Wife Pleads Guilty to DUI

(AP) - The wife of Portland Trail Blazers center Arvydas Sabonis pleaded guilty Monday to two drunken-driving charges and was sentenced to 32 days in jail, although she will serve the time under house arrest.

Ingrida Sabonis, 30, was cited twice for drunken driving in Washington County — in May, when she was driving to pick up the couple's four children and again in December, when the sheriff's office received a cell phone call about an erratic driver.

In the latest arrest, her blood-alcohol level was measured at 0.26 percent, more than three times the legal limit of 0.08 percent. Her blood-alcohol level in the first arrest was measured at 0.23 percent.

Judge Nancy Campbell praised Sabonis for getting into treatment quickly but also warned her that her problem is a serious one.

"You have four young children and you need to get a grip on this," Campbell said. "I think you are starting to realize that you don't want to

lose yourself or your family over this, and you will if you don't stop drinking," she said.

Other than a few "yes" replies to the judge's questions, Sabonis did not speak. Her husband, a native of Lithuania who had years of success in Europe before joining the Trail Blazers, was not present in court.

Ingrida Sabonis is a former model and actress who was once named Miss Vilnius of Lithuania. Campbell ordered her to pay just under \$3,000 in fines and suspended her driver's

license for three years. Sabonis was also placed on three years probation and ordered not to leave Oregon.



Ingrida Sabonis

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