



Metro/Sports

Woods a Winner Again After Dramatic Finish

ORLANDO, Fla.(AP) - Say goodbye to the slump.

Whatever questions anyone had about what was wrong with Tiger Woods were answered Sunday when he hit 5-iron from 195 yards off a dead patch of trampled grass, the ball piercing through the wind as it carried over the water and stopped 15 feet from the hole.

"If I blow it at all, it's in the water," Woods said. "I hit that shot so flush.

The putt broke gently to the right and dropped for birdie as



Tiger Woods scores his first victory of the year.

Woods let out a roar and punched his fist three times in the air.

Woods was a winner again Sunday in the Bay Hill Invitational, relying on fortunate bounce off a spectator's neck and a spectacular shot to the 18th green for a one-stroke victory over Phil Mickelson.

The putt wasn't easy, but Mickelson had no doubt that Woods would make it "just because he normally does that."

Indeed, the world of Tiger Woods was back to normal. Woods closed with a 3-under

69 and became only the second player to repeat as Bay Hill champion. More importantly, it was his first victory of the year in seven tournaments, the longest he ever has gone without winning to start a season.

The timing wasn't back either, with the Masters just three weeks away.

"It's always nice to win," Woods said. "It was not a pretty round of golf, but I got the ball in the hole. I was able to get some wonderful breaks down the stretch."

Spurs Knock Blazers Down a Notch

(AP) — SAN ANTONIO — Something has gone terribly wrong for the Portland Trail Blazers.

With a 98-85 loss to the San Antonio Spurs on Monday night, Portland dropped another notch in the Western Conference standings, to sixth place. Confidence among members of the NBA's highest-paid team has dropped, too. Just three weeks ago, they led the conference.

"We've always been able to get the big shot, get the big defensive stop, get everything that we need," said Damon Stoudamire, who had six points. "We're not getting that right now. We're not getting that stop when we need it. We're not getting that bucket when we need it. It's frustrating, but nobody is going to feel sorry for us at this point.

Whatever we got to do, we got to do." The Spurs, meanwhile, continued a late-season charge.

Led by Derek Anderson with 28 points and Tim Duncan, who scored 20 points and tied his career high with 23 rebounds, the conference-leading Spurs won for the 10th time in 11 games. It was their second victory over the Blazers in that span.

San Antonio scored 14 consecutive points to lead 24-10, including 3-pointers by Anderson and Terry Porter and a three-point play by Samaki Walker.

With Portland center Arvydas Sabonis out for most of the game after a fall and Scottie Pippen in foul trouble, the Blazers couldn't overcome what grew to a 17-point gap. They never cut the deficit to less than nine.

"We are playing very confi-

dently right now," Duncan said. "We know what to do and we're doing it." For the Blazers, it was the start of a three-game road trip that continues Tuesday night at Dallas and Thursday night at Utah. "We have to fight for our lives and keep our position," Stoudamire said. "We can't drop any lower. Things are snowballing right now.

"I know things can change throughout a season, but never in my wildest dreams would I have imagined that we would be in the position that we are in right now. We'll be in seventh by the end of the week the way we're playing right now." Some of the Blazers' problems have been pinned on Rasheed Wallace, who despite leading the team in scoring has picked up 37 technical fouls this season, one short of the NBA

record he set last year.

On Monday night, Wallace had 20 points. Reserve Steve Smith led Portland with 23 points, including four 3-pointers.

"It's pretty tough," said Pippen, who had six points, seven assists and seven rebounds. "We just have to continue to fight through it. I really don't have an answer for it. We just need to play harder—defend, just do the little things and stop teams from dominating. Right now, we're not doing that. The first half showed that."

Sabonis left the game early in the second quarter with ice on his left ankle after falling while trying to grab a rebound. The 7-foot-3 center, who earlier this month was hampered by a sore right foot, scored four points in seven minutes.

American-Indian Mascots Will Stay At Two Universities

By CANDICE CHOI
DIVERSITYINC.COM

The demand that American-Indian mascots be replaced because of their names has been drowned out by the decision of two universities to stick with tradition. One school, the University of North Dakota, made its decision after a known collector of Nazi memorabilia threatened to withdraw his \$85 million donation for a new stadium.

Meanwhile, the University of Illinois' board of trustees expressed overwhelming support for keeping its controversial mascot, Chief Illiniwek.

"I believe the value of this tradition far outweighs any objections that have been raised against the chief," said Susan Gravenhorst, trustee for UI.

Meanwhile, trustee Tom Lamont said the term "racism" was an inappropriate term to use in the dialogue. "This is a very ugly and mean-spirited term that in this con-



UND hockey coach Dean Blais (left) gives President Clinton a Fighting Sioux jersey during the team's visit to the White House Thursday, Nov. 30, 2000. The Fighting Sioux won last season's NCAA Division I championship.

(AP PHOTO)

text serves only to polarize those of differing opinions," Lamont said.

"Far from being racist, the representation of the chief reflects so positively on Native Americans that

I simply do not understand the basis for this term."

UI is not the only school troubled by its American-Indian mascot.

"This is an issue that has been debated for more than 70 years at the University of North Dakota," said William Isaacson, president of North Dakota's Board of Higher Education.

Determined to bring the issue to rest, UND President Charles Kupchella formed a commission last year and promised to have a decision by December.

As the report's recommendation grew imminent, the intensity of the debate rose exponentially, said Isaacson. Public figures, including the governor and state legislature, stepped forward to support the Fighting Sioux name.

Despite the fanfare, the commission's highly anticipated conclusion was stillborn; citing that both sides had valid arguments, Kupchella failed to make his expected recommendation opposing the Fighting Sioux name.

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