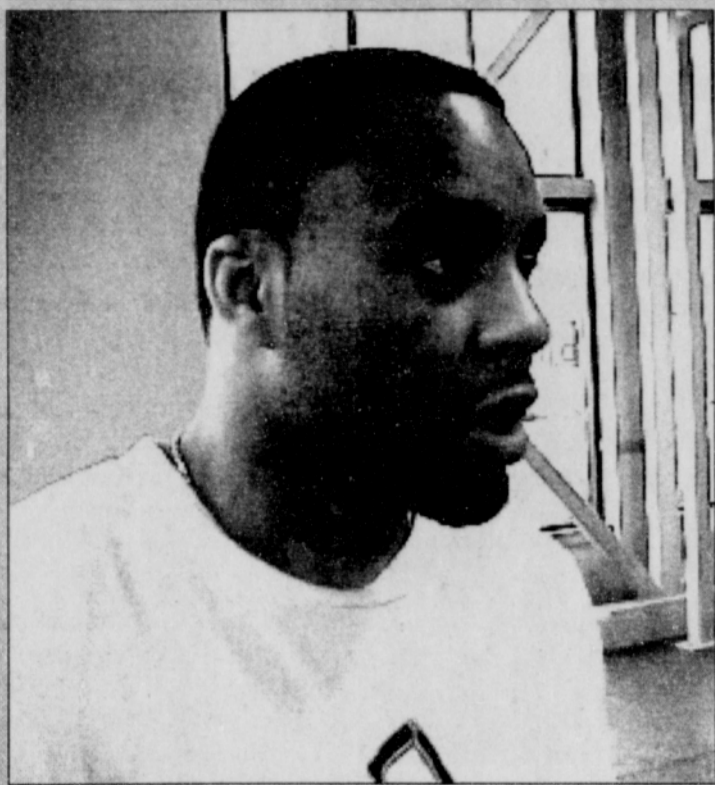


Metro / Sports



Reggie Davis from Northeast Portland will be making his pro-boxing debut at a match on March 30 at the Multnomah Greyhound Park.

And in this Corner, Reggie Davis

A Local Boxer Makes His Pro-Debut

**By JOY RAMOS
PORTLAND OBSERVER**
For Reggie Davis, turning professional as a boxer was a longtime decision in the making.

His fixed desire to become that started in 1996 when he lost all hope of ever joining the American Olympic team after losing in the trials. The six-time, Oregon Golden Gloves Champion is now ready to make his pro-debut.

At 5 feet 11 inches and 156 pounds, Davis will take on Christopher Lucero from

Phoenix, Arizona who has a record of 0 and 1.

The Davis vs. Lucero fight is scheduled for Friday, March 30 at 6 p.m. at the Multnomah Greyhound Park in a match being billed as "Ring Rage VIII."

Hosting the event is Oregon Trail Promotions, a company run entirely by women with a mission to provide a safe venue for local Golden Glove boxers to carry on in a professional venue. They are one of the state's first licensed boxing promoters in almost 10

years. This year, Oregon Trail Promotions plan to hold boxing matches every three months. Another Portland professional they hope to attract as a fighter is Stevie Forbes, a 23-year old IBF lightweight champion hailing from the Knott St. gym.

Reggie Davis got his start in amateur boxing at the Matt Dishman Community Center in Northeast Portland with Lee Jenkins as his first trainer. Davis prefers professional boxing because it suits his natural fighting style: taking the time to

make solid shots instead of rushing in with fast punches.

Currently training him are John Peters, Rudy Garza and Joe Cardello.

For Davis, turning pro doesn't make him nervous. "I am hungry and determined to display my skills," he said. He eagerly wants to show everyone the kind of high caliber, Northwest boxing talent we have here. Another goal of his is to be the first to "open the doors" for local boxers fighting in Portland and in casinos throughout the state.

Tiger Wins Players Championship

**By PETE JACOBELLI
AP SPORTS WRITER**

PONTEVEDRABEACH, Fla.—Forget the slump and bring on the Masters. Tiger Woods held off a late charge from Vijay Singh on Monday to capture The Players Championship, his second straight victory after early season doubts.

Woods lost a duel with Hal Sutton in



a similar Monday finish a year ago. This time, Woods didn't need much fight to finish two shots ahead of Masters winner Singh to take one of the few golf prizes he didn't already own.

The victory "means my slump's over," said Woods, the unquestioned favorite at Augusta National in two weeks. Woods had his second straight 66 and was at 15-under 273. Singh had a 68. Bernhard Langer was two shots back after a 67. Little known Jerry Kelly had a 73 and was four off of Woods.

There wasn't much magic in Woods' round, certainly none to match his twisting 60-footer for birdie on No. 17's island green Saturday or the 90-foot eagle chip on the second hole Sunday that first gave him the lead. It didn't matter as each challenge faltered.

Woods, who won the U.S. Amateur here at 18 years old in 1994, was pressed a bit when Singh recovered from a triple bogey on the 14th hole to go eagle-birdie on Nos. 16 and 17.

But moments after Singh hit his 10-foot birdie putt on the 17th, Woods tapped in for birdie on the 16th hole—he barely lipped out a 50-foot eagle putt—to restore his lead to two shots.

Woods scared the crowd and himself at the island hole, flying a 9-iron right of the flag that spun perilously close to the water. But like everything Monday, it settled into the rough and Woods left with par. "I executed the shot just the way I wanted to, it slid a bit more in the wind," Woods said.

On the 18th, where Woods was in the water Saturday, he drove into the rough, chipped out and got down in two putts for the victory and the \$1,080,000 first prize.

Singh, a Ponte Vedra Beach resident who regularly practices at the TPC at Sawgrass' Stadium Course, seemed to have the most motivation and the sharpest game to chase Woods down. Singh's Masters victory was almost lost as Woods fashioned one of golf's most amazing years with nine victories, including the U.S. Open, British Open and PGA Championship.

Singh tied things at 13-under with his 4-footer for birdie on the 13th hole. But Woods made his own birdie moments later on the 12th hole for a one-stroke lead. Singh's chances ended for good, like so many on Pete Dye's famous course, in the water.

His drive on the 14th hole was a wild swing that headed left into the water. It was probably the worst stroke all week for Singh.

Singh threw down his driver in dis-

gust, kicking it before hitting again. He left with a triple-bogey-7—his worst score of the week.

He got as close as two shots to Woods after an improbable eagle on the 16th hole. Singh turned his putter sideways and used the toe to pop the ball off the bulkhead and into the cup.

He followed with his birdie on No. 17 as Woods looked across to the patch of land that is the course's signature hole. Singh had a putt of about 35 feet for birdie on the final hole, but sent it 10 feet past and made par.

"I made one bad swing and that's all it takes," Singh said. Langer hasn't won in the United States since the 1993 Masters and looked unlikely to challenge, especially after missing a par putt on the 10th hole on his first stroke when play resumed. Rain delayed the start of Sunday's round and play was

suspended by darkness.

He made two straight birdies on the 11th and 12th holes and was only two back of Woods. But Langer truly couldn't find the consistency to keep up—he had five birdies and three bogeys. Kelly, paired with Woods, would've been the tournament's most amazing story. The 34-year-old never has won in 175 PGA Tour events and

suddenly was matched with Woods in the \$6 million tournament.

Kelly, a stroke behind when play stopped Sunday, opened by driving into a left-side bunker off the fairway and missed a birdie putt before Woods tapped in for a two-shot lead. Kelly's birdie on the 15th hole brought him to 12-under and that's all the charge he had left.

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