

Metro / Sports

Woods Adjusts Swing, Ready for British Open

LYTHAM ST ANNES, England (Reuters) — Defending British Open champion Tiger Woods may have had a few problems hitting the ball in recent weeks but he ominously pronounced that his game was back on track.

"It was something very small with my swing, which led to other breakdowns," he told reporters at Royal Lytham and St Annes. "But I've fixed it and I'm now starting to hit the ball the way I know I can hit it."

Woods, the world's No. 1 player who won last year's British Open at St Andrews by eight shots on his way to a remarkable



Tiger Woods practices for the British Open at a course in Lytham, England.

four majors in a row, has not managed a finish higher than 12th in his past three events outings.

He tied for 12th at the U.S. Open at Southern Hills, 16th at the Buick Classic and shared 20th place in the Western Open.

But he believes his swing is now back, having started to come together during the third round at the Western Open.

If Woods remained a little cagey about how good his game was going into his British Open title defense, his coach Butch Harmon pulled no punches.

"People say Lytham is so tight that Tiger can't use his driver and therefore his length is not a factor. But he hits his irons further than anyone else so immediately that becomes an advantage."

Woods will forever be remembered for his astonishing play at St Andrews last year when he avoided going into a single bunker over the course of the four days.

He admitted that Lytham, however, — with its 196 bunkers — would be a very different test this week. "It's going to be a little more difficult to do it this year. The bunkers are more close to the landing areas and closer to the greens. But, if you do (miss the bunkers), you are probably going to have more chance of winning this week," Woods said.

Sports Briefs

West Beats East in WNBA All-Star Game

ORLANDO, Fla. — Lisa Leslie broke her own WNBA All-Star game record with 20 points and added nine rebounds to lead the Western Conference to an 80-72 victory over the Eastern Conference.

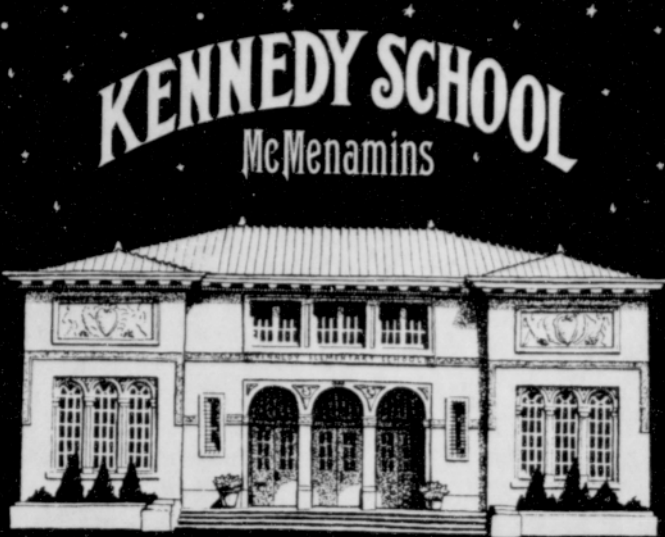
Leslie was selected the game's MVP for the second time in her career. Sacramento's Yolanda Griffith added 17 points and 7 rebounds for the West, which has won all three All-Star games with Houston coach Van Chancellor at the helm. Cleveland's Merlakia Jones led the Eastern Conference with 12 points, including 10 in the second half.

Camacho Defeats Duran by Unanimous Decision

DENVER — It wasn't so much a fight for the ages as of the ages. In a bout that seemed to feature as much clutching as punching Hector Camacho used a steady mix of right jabs to set up his left hook in a unanimous 12-round decision over 50-year-old Roberto Duran on Saturday night. The 39-year-old Camacho received winning scores of 114-112, 118-108 and 118-108 to improve to 75-4. He captured the fringe National Boxing Association title Duran carried into the ring.

Armstrong Attacks, Wins Stage on Tour

L'ALPED'HUEZ, France — Lance Armstrong won Tuesday's stage of the Tour de France, a grueling climb in the French Alps, surging ahead in the last mountain pass to leave his rivals stranded. Armstrong won the 129.79-mile stretch from Aix-les-Bains to this ski station after bluffing his main title challenger, Germany's Jan Ullrich. He trailed the Team Telekom rider in the first two mountain passes, then surged ahead at the foot of the final climb to L'Alpe d'Huez.



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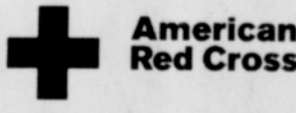
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