



METRO/SPORTS

Tiger Woods can't bear to watch his birdie putt miss the cup at the first hole during the final round.

SPORTS b r i e f s

Toms Topples Mickelson for First Major PGA Win

DULUTH, Ga. — David Toms made a 12-foot putt on the 18th hole, edging Phil Mickelson by one stroke to win the 83rd PGA Championship. Toms, the third-round leader, went ahead the final time as Mickelson made bogey on the 16th hole. Mickelson had a chance to force a play-off, but his birdie putt on the 18th hole came up inches short. Toms' sixth PGA Tour victory was his first in a major tournament and clinched a spot on the U.S. Ryder Cup team.

Tyson-Nielsen Bout Set for September

NEW YORK — Mike Tyson will fight outside the United States for the third time in four bouts when he takes on Denmark's Brian Nielsen at Copenhagen on Sept. 8. The 35-year-old former undisputed heavyweight champion's first match in almost 11 months was announced formally by Showtime, which will show the fight on same-day tape delay beginning at 9 p.m. EDT.

Jockey Dies Falling Off Horse During Race

SASKATOON, Saskatchewan — Jockey Isiah Sala died, hours after he and his mount went down during a race at Marquis Downs and he was trampled by another horse, authorities said. The 23-year-old native of New Jersey, the leading rider at the track, didn't regain consciousness and had been on life support since the 4:30 p.m. accident, according to officials at the Royal University Hospital. Sala was pronounced dead about six hours later.

Sol Force Game Three with Liberty

NEW YORK — Sheri Sam scored 15 of her 17 points in the second half as the Miami Sol rallied to beat the New York Liberty 53-50, forcing a third game in the first-round Eastern Conference playoff. New York the two-time defending conference champion, shot just 32% from the field and blew a 10-point second-half lead. Elena Baranova added 16 for the Sol, who return to Madison Square Garden. Crystal Robinson had 13 points and Tamika Whitmore 12 for the Liberty.

Cochran to Investigate Wheeler's Death

POMONA, Calif. — The family of the late Rashidi Wheeler has hired famed Los Angeles attorney Johnnie Cochran to investigate the circumstances of the Northwestern football player's death. "The Chicago Tribune" and "The Los Angeles Times" reported that the Rev. Jesse Jackson, who spoke at Wheeler's memorial service in Pomona, Calif., brought the family together with Cochran. In the 3 1/2-hour service at First Baptist Church, about 350 family members, friends and teammates paid tribute to Wheeler with songs, flowers, photographs, funny stories and poetry he wrote. Afterward, Wheeler was buried at Forest Lawn Covina Hills.

Tiger Woods Goes Out with a Whimper, Not a Roar

By USA TODAY

DULUTH, Ga. — After winning The Masters in April, concluding a historic string of four consecutive majors, Tiger Woods, 25, has gradually and mysteriously spiraled downhill in the golf world's grandest events. His results? Tied for 12th at the U.S. Open. Tied for 25th at the British Open. Tied for 29th place at the PGA Championship. Woods shot par 70 Sunday, finishing at 1-under 279. It's the first time he has finished out of the top 10 in three consecutive majors since 1997. In six tries, he has never won a major on a par-70 course.

Before he arrived at the Atlanta Athletic Club, after taking some time off at his Windermere, Fla., home for the first time in 2 1/2 months, the big question was, "What's wrong with Tiger?" The answers, it seems, were many: He has swing problems, may be overscheduled with business and sponsorship responsibilities and is emotionally drained from his Tiger Slam.

How does Woods go from dominating majors, winning the 2000 U.S. Open at Pebble Beach by 15 strokes, to struggling to make the cut and finishing 14 shots behind the leaders?

After his final round, Woods tried to put a positive spin on his mediocre PGA Championship.

On his play this week: "It has been disappointing that I wasn't able to play all week the way I wanted to. Today I really hit the ball well. I showed some signs of how I was hitting it earlier in the year. I mean, I really striped it good." On being in a slump: "I think it's part of playing sports. You can't

play well all the time. You can't have everything go your way, especially in individual sports, especially in this sport. ... I've been very blessed to play the way I have for the past few years." On not being in contention Sunday: "If you want to play this game for a long time, which, hopefully, health permitting, and if everything goes right, I may be playing this game as long as Arnold (Palmer) has been. If that's the case, you can't really beat yourself up over every single shot, every single round and every single tournament. You've got to learn from it."



Tiger Woods

Woods has now finished out of top 10 in five straight tournaments — a first for the game's all-time money leader.

Woods, who needed two long putts Friday over his final few holes just to make the cut, began the day at 1-under par and teed off three hours behind the final pairing of David Toms and Phil Mickelson.

Still, the crowds built to 10-deep along the first fairway, many hoping to see Woods make some kind of charge. A sign hung around one man's neck that said: "Woods

for President."

"I came out to see him shoot a 60 so everybody will know they're never safe no matter how far they are ahead," said Fred Alley of Greensboro, N.C. "If he shot a 60, it would scare the whole field."

No dice. After driving it in the rough on No. 1 and saving par, Woods bogeyed No. 2 and it was clear no low round was on the horizon.

He finished the front nine the same place he started — at 1-under. Woods then hit his tee shot in the sand on No. 11 and threw his club after his approach shot fell 30 yards shy of the green and he bogeyed.

Some in the stands surrounding the 18th green saluted Woods anyway with a standing ovation as he walked around the lake on his way to a 1-under 279 finish.

But this was no tournament for Woods to shout about, even though he says his game is not that far off.

Normally long and accurate off the tee, Woods had only one of those components the last four days. His average driving distance was 316 yards, but Woods managed to hit just 32 of 56 fairways, a 57% clip.

"I just didn't have the feel on the greens that I did the last two days," he said.

CORRECTION

An error was made on last week's issue with a headline entitled "Former NBA Star Hosts Free Basketball Clinic." The host of the event, Terrell Brandon, is not a former NBA player. He is currently playing for the Minnesota Timberwolves. Our apologies to Mr. Brandon for the mistake.

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