



# METRO/SPORTS

## SPORTS briefs

### Woods Ends Drought in Seven-Hole Playoff

AKRON, Ohio — On the seventh hole of a playoff with Jim Furyk, Tiger Woods birdied the 18<sup>th</sup> hole to win his third consecutive NEC Invitational at Firestone Country Club. The victory is Woods' first in three months on the PGA Tour. Woods shot a 1-under-par 69 to finish regulation at 12-under-par 268. Furyk shot a 1-over-par 71 to force a playoff that reached seven holes before rain suspended play briefly.

### Sosa Hits Nos. 50, 51 as Cubs Win

CHICAGO — Sammy Sosa joined Mark McGwire and Babe Ruth as the only major leaguers with four 50-homer seasons, hitting his 50<sup>th</sup> and 51<sup>st</sup> as the Chicago Cubs beat the St. Louis Cardinals 6-1. Sosa's ninth multihomer game of the season helped rookie Juan Cruz get his first major league win as the Cubs stayed three games behind first-place Houston in the NL Central.

### Haas Ousts Sampras for Hamlet Cup Crown

COMACK, N.Y. — Tommy Haas beat Pete Sampras 6-3, 2-6, 6-2 in the finals of the Hamlet Cup, extending Sampras' winless streak to 16 tournaments. The sixth-seeded Haas, who finished with 15 aces, beat Sampras for the first time in five matches on hardcourt. The victory was the second of the year and third in the career of the 23-year-old-German.

### Sting Stay Alive, Beat Liberty in Game 2

NEW YORK — Andrea Stinson took over the game in the second half, scoring 16 of her team's final 22 points as the Charlotte Sting, facing playoff elimination, defeated the New York Liberty 62-53. Evening their WNBA Eastern Conference finals series at one game apiece, the Sting forced a deciding Game 3 to be played at Madison Square Garden. Stinson finished with 18 points, eight assists and eight rebounds for the Sting.

### Leslie Named WNBA MVP

LOS ANGELES — Lisa Leslie of the Los Angeles Sparks was chosen as the WNBA's most valuable player, making her the first to capture All-Star and regular-season MVP honors in the same season.

## Williams Keeps Pilot Pen Title

NEW HAVEN, Conn. (AP) — Tuning up to defend her U.S. Open title, Venus Williams beat Lindsay Davenport 7-6 (8-6), 6-4 to win the Pilot Pen tournament for the third straight year.

She is the first woman with three consecutive titles at this 34-year-old tournament, formerly known as the U.S. Hardcourt Championships.

Williams also beat Davenport in straight sets in the 1999 Pilot Pen final.

They traded breaks to open the match then held serve into the tiebreaker.

Williams, seeded third, battled back from 1-3 in the tiebreaker, closing it by hitting back-to-back winners.

Davenport had her chances in the second set, leading 4-3 and holding two break points. But Williams won the next four points, including a 102 mph ace, to tie the set 4-4.

Williams broke Davenport in the next game, winning it at the net with a backhand off a Davenport drop shot.

Williams served out for the match and ran down what ap-



Venus Williams holds up her Pilot Pen championship trophy. The experience, she explained, helped her prepare for the U.S. Open in New York that's being held this week.



peared to be passing shot from Davenport, hitting a forehand winner to close out the 85-minute match.

Williams was coming off a marathon day of tennis, playing a total of 52 games in the quarterfinals and semifinals.

## Beavers Break Into Top 10

CORVALLIS, Ore. (AP) — For the first time since 1968, the Oregon State football team will begin the season ranked in the Top 10.

The Beavers moved up one spot to No. 10 in the Associated Press rankings released Monday. They swapped spots with Georgia Tech, which fell from 10th to 11th after struggling past Syracuse 13-7 Sunday.

Oregon State, which opens at Fresno State this Sunday, hasn't started the season in the Top 10 since it was ranked No. 8 in the preseason poll 33 years ago. The Beavers promptly lost at Iowa 21-20, and they didn't climb that high in the polls again until reaching No. 8 on Nov. 13, 2000.

After defeating No. 5 Oregon in the Civil

War and No. 10 Notre Dame in the Fiesta Bowl to complete a remarkable 11-1 season, the Beavers were No. 4 in the final AP poll, the highest ranking in school history.

Oregon, which begins its season at home against No. 22 Wisconsin on Saturday, remained No. 7 in the media poll. The Ducks did move up a spot to

No. 7 in the USA Today/ESPNCOACHES' rankings. Oregon State remained No. 12 in the COACHES' poll.

### Japan Wins Big in Little League



Brandon Brewer, of Apopka, Fla., is tagged out in a rundown by Tokyo, Japan, catcher Tatsuya Suzuki in the fifth inning of the Little League World Series Championship Game.

Japan scored twice in the bottom of the last inning to beat Apopka, Fla., 2-1 and win the Little League World Series before a crowd of 44,800, including President Bush. Japan's Nobuhisa Baba singled to drive in Yuusuke Nomura with the winning run. Japan, which also won the international championship over the Netherlands Antilles 2-1 with a last-inning two-run homer, had not won a game all year in the sixth inning. It was Japan's fifth World Series title.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Audrey Washington



from The Portland Observer

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