

# SPORTS



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Phil Mickelson's agonizing pursuit of a major tournament victory ended Sunday at the Masters when he made an 18-foot birdie putt on the final hole, a spectacular conclusion to a back-nine duel with Ernie Els. (AP photo)

## First Major Won in Dramatic Fashion

(AP)—Gone is that ugly streak of being 0-for-42 in golf's biggest events. Gone are questions about Mickelson's game and whether it could stand up to the scrutiny of a major championship.

He delivered a command performance to the very end, with two birdies on the final three holes for a 3-under 69 that gave him a one-stroke victory over Ernie Els at the Masters in Augusta, Ga.

The putt curled into the back of the hole, setting off an enormous cheer. Mickelson jumped and thrust his fists, then kissed his ball when he plucked it from the cup.

"Oh my God!" he said as he walked off the green and into the arms of his wife and three children.

Until Sunday, he was known as the best player to have never won a major.

Now, he's simply one of the best in the game.

His awesome skills were on full display along the back nine at Augusta National, and they had to be. Els was flawless, making two eagles in his round of 67 that

looked as though it would be enough to get the green jacket he covets, and the third leg of the Grand Slam.

But Mickelson was more determined than ever.

He rattled off three straight birdies to stay in range, caught Els with a 15-foot birdie putt on the 16th and then had the stage to himself on No. 18.

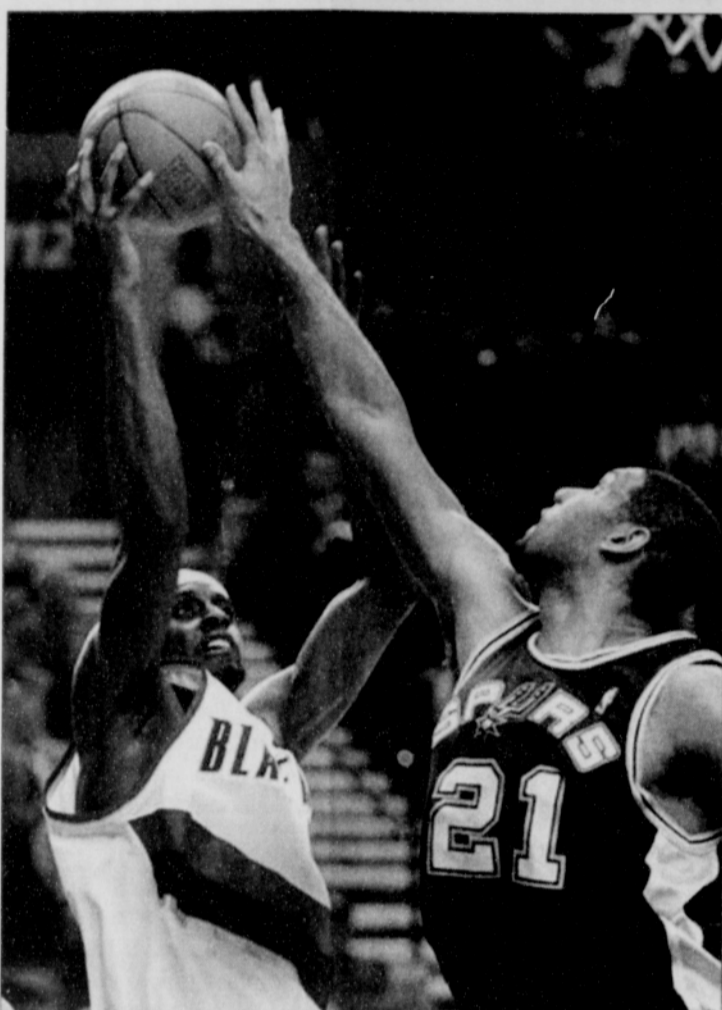
He smartly played 3-wood off the tee to avoid the bunkers and hit his approach behind the hole. Mickelson got a huge break with Chris DiMarco blasted out of a greenside bunker and just beyond Mickelson's ball marker, giving him the line on the biggest putt of his life.

"I just couldn't believe that ball fell in there," Mickelson said.

Tiger Woods was long gone before the fireworks started. He made a double bogey - this third of the tournament - on the 13th hole and shot 71, leaving him 11 shots out of the lead in a tie for 22nd, his worst finish ever at the Masters.

Woods now has gone seven majors without winning, and he has played his last five over par.

## POST SEASON SPOILED



San Antonio Spurs' Tim Duncan blocks the shot of Portland Trail Blazers' Darius Miles Monday at the Rose Garden. (AP photo)

(AP)—The Portland Trail Blazers were unceremoniously eliminated from the postseason Monday in a 78-66 rout by the San Antonio Spurs, the defending NBA champions.

However, the Blazers' fate was sealed before their game ended when the Denver Nuggets beat the Sacramento Kings 97-89 to earn the eighth and final playoff spot in the Western Conference.

The Blazers had been to the playoffs for the past 21 seasons, a mark that was the longest active streak in the NBA and one short of the league record.

"I know there's a lot of disappointed people out there since we didn't make the playoffs, but my message to them is that I think

we've got something special here to build on," Portland coach Maurice Cheeks said.

Portland shot a season-low 30.8 percent from the floor and trailed by as many as 21 points as team owner Paul Allen watched sternly from his courtside seat. Their 66 points was the fewest they've scored this season.

The Blazers' 25 first-half points also were their fewest this season. The franchise low for a first half is 24 points.

The Portland Observer

## World of Autos

REVIEWS ON EXCITING NEW VEHICLES BY THE WORLD'S LEADING MANUFACTURERS

### 2004 Volvo XC90 Special Purpose Vehicle

Tested Vehicle Information: Price: \$42,170, Engine: 2.5 liter Intercooled Light Pressure Turbo, and Transmission: 5-Speed Automatic

Volvo's introduced its first SUV into the market in 2003. A midsize luxury SUV built on the same P2 large car platform as its luxury S80 sedan, it was built on a proven P2 platform that provides a ride that feels more car like. The XC90 has elegant and refined styling.

The XC90 is loaded with features to keep the passengers alive and was built to take a hit. To assist in maintaining the car in case of an accident and prevent rollover from occurring, Volvo's exclusive design for the XC90 is the Roll Stability Control (RSC) to counter this.



RSC is an active stability system that determines the Terminal Angle which activates the standard Dynamic Stability Traction Control system reducing power and, or adjusting the level of braking on the necessary wheels until the driver can regain control.

The Volvo is one of the best vehicles for quality, style and safety. The engine performance is good but it lags a little when you step on the gas. I would suggest trying the 2.9 Turbo engine instead. I think that if they added more power then you have an all-around excellence vehicle. The ride is quiet, smooth and comfortable whether you're on the highway or the curving roads. If you're considering the other SUV's like the Acura MDX, BMW X5, Infiniti FX 35 or 45, or Lexus RX300, then put the Volvo XC90 on that list.



San Francisco Giants' Barry Bonds raises his arms after he hit a three run home run to tie Willie Mays for third on baseball's career list. (AP photo)

## Bonds Ties Mays in Home Runs

(AP) - Barry Bonds hit his 660th home run Monday in San Francisco to tie Willie Mays for third on baseball's career list.

Bonds connected in the fifth inning on a 3-1 pitch from Milwaukee's Matt Kinney and sent the ball over the right-field wall into McCovey Cove for his second homer of the season, a three-run shot.


The 39-year-old Bonds was greeted at home by several teammates and he stepped on

the plate and raised both hands in the air.

Bonds came back out of the dugout and waved to the fans in each direction as they cheered, "Barry! Barry!" and gave him a standing ovation.

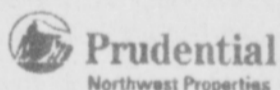
Children bowed repeatedly along the left field wall when he came out to play the field in the top of the sixth.

Hank Aaron leads with 755 home runs, followed by Babe Ruth with 714.



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