

Golf

McIlroy feels at home on Chambers Bay

By DOUG FERGUSON
Associated Press

UNIVERSITY PLACE, Wash. — Rory McIlroy didn't fare so well the last time he played links golf. He shot an 80 at Royal County Down in the Irish Open, missed his second straight cut, returned to his home in Florida and spent four days of practice to get back to his style of golf.

Long. High. Powerful.
And that's what he thinks will help him the most at Chambers Bay, a course he describes as "pure links."

It's all a bit confusing, which is perfect for a U.S. Open that has rarely been such a mystery to so many players. McIlroy wasn't sure what to expect when he arrived on the weekend and was charmed by the look of the course off Puget Sound.

"I think it sets up well for my game," he said. "You've got to be aggressive off the tee. You've got to hit driver. I think it's a course where you're going to see a lot of guys hit fairways and hit greens."

"But when you hit greens, you can still be 50, 60 feet away from the pin. So if you can drive the ball well and your pace putting and long putting is sharp, I think they're going to be two really key things this week to be successful."

One aspect of McIlroy needs no explanation.



Rory McIlroy, of Northern Ireland, hits on the range during a practice for the U.S. Open golf tournament at Chambers Bay on Tuesday, June 16, 2015 in University Place, Wash.

AP Photo/Lenny Ignelzi

He might not have a green jacket from the Masters. He missed his first shot at the career Grand Slam two months ago. But there is little doubt who is the best player in golf, even though he is only a slight favorite at the U.S. Open ahead of Masters champion and world No. 2 Jordan Spieth.

Never mind that McIlroy is coming off back-to-back missed cuts on the European Tour. He writes that off on fatigue in the mind more than the body, especially because it ended five straight tournaments on both sides

of the Atlantic.

Besides, he won two of the other tournaments in that stretch, the Match Play Championship and the Wells Fargo Championship.

"I didn't obviously want to miss those two cuts in Europe," he said. "But I think that's just the way I'm going to be. I'd rather, in a six-tournament period, have three wins and three missed cuts than six top 10s. Volatility in golf is actually a good thing. If your good weeks are really good, it far outweighs the bad weeks."

U.S Open Cup

Timbers trump Seattle in wild U.S. Open tilt

Associated Press

TUKWILA, Wash. — Rodney Wallace scored in the 10th minute of extra time to help the Portland Timbers beat the Seattle Sounders 3-1 in a fourth round U.S. Open Cup game Tuesday night.

The defending Cup champion Sounders finished the game with just seven players. Defender Brad Evans was ejected in the 69th minute with his second yellow card. Forward Obafemi Martins, who tied the game 1-1 in the 79th minute, went down hard in the 85th. He eventually was wheeled away on a stretcher. By then, Seattle had used all three of its substitutions.

In the 111th minute, Seattle's Michael Aziri was shown a straight red card. Moments later, Clint Dempsey got one yellow and then a red.

A shot from the top of the penalty area restraining arc by George Fochive led to Wallace's game winner. Fochive's shot was blocked, but the ball rebounded out to Wallace in the right side of the 6-yard box. He ripped a shot past goalkeeper Troy Perkins into the far left corner.

WORLD CUP: Early goal wiped out by offsides

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Marta, who has 15.

Wambach came off the bench for the United States in the team's last match against Sweden. Tuesday, she started up top with Alex Morgan, who was making her first World Cup start in Canada after working her way back from a bone bruise in her left knee.

The United States, ranked second in the world behind Germany, has two World Cup titles, but hasn't won since 1999.

Four years ago in Germany, the U.S. advanced to the final but fell to Japan on penalty kicks.

The win sent the United States through as the leader of its group for the sixth time in seven Women's World Cups. The team heads to Edmonton, Alberta, for the first match of the knockout stage. The opponent has not been determined.

Nigeria, which has won seven of nine African championships, has been to every World Cup since it started for the women in 1991. The Super



United States' Abby Wambach celebrates her goal with her teammates during the first half of a FIFA Women's World Cup soccer match against Nigeria, Tuesday in Canada

Jonathan Hayward/The

Falcons were eliminated after the loss to the United States after playing to a 3-all draw with Sweden in the opener and falling 2-0 to Australia.

The U.S. opened Group D with a 3-1 victory over No. 10 Australia, before playing to a 0-0 draw with No. 5 Sweden.

Morgan hadn't started a match since April. The speedy 25-year-old played 12 minutes as a sub in the draw with Sweden.

Wambach also came in as a sub in the match against Sweden last

Friday. It was the first time she had played off the bench at a World Cup since her first in 2003.

Wambach, who didn't score in the first two U.S. group stage matches, had never gone without a goal in the opening round in four World Cup appearances.

Julie Johnston had the best chance for the United States early, but her strike in the eighth minute was ruled offside. Minutes later, U.S. goalkeeper Hope Solo dove to stop Nigeria forward Asisat Oshoala's attempt.

MACIAS: Juniors to be held in Eugene

Continued from 1B

is just shy of the top 10 on the Vikings' all-time list.

"Honestly it wasn't my plan to run any 10k's this season," Macias said. "But my coach saw some potential in me, so I thought I'd try it out."

He said the distance of the race (25 laps around the oval) was daunting at first, but something he's grown to enjoy.

"I think I just actually liked it for some reason, I don't know why. It's such a long race that anything can happen," he said. "First you've got to pace yourself, then you've got to race."

His first attempt at the distance in a meet came in March at the Erik Anderson Icebreaker where he finished 11th with a 32:44.68 — just outside the USAF junior qualifying standard of 32:30.

"After I ran the first one, it was for sure a goal (to reach Juniors) from the beginning of the track season for my coach

and I," Macias said.

His next race didn't go as planned, though, and Macias turned in a time of 32:50 at a meet in May.

"I wasn't sure if I should keep on going or not," he said. "I took the chance. I felt really confident so I thought, 'Why not try to hit the time?'"

He's taking the same positive outlook into the USAF Junior Championships, where the top two placers will advance to the Junior Pan American Games.

"It has to be for sure one of my biggest races ever so far," he said. "It's like surreal, because I still can't believe that I hit the mark."

"I'm going to try to just be in the race. I'm really the underdog going in, so I'm not really looking to have a lot of pressure on me, and I'm just looking to have fun."

The USAF Junior Championships will be held June 25-28 in Eugene.

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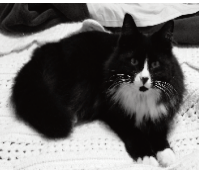
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