

British Open

On cusp of history, Mickelson opens with 63

By DOUG FERGUSON
Associated Press



AP Photo/Matt Dunham

Phil Mickelson of the United States acknowledges the crowd after putting on the 13th green during the first round of the British Open Golf Championship at the Royal Troon Golf Club in Troon, Scotland, Thursday.

TROON, Scotland — Phil Mickelson was 16 feet away from a place in history he wouldn't have to share with anyone.

Fans watched from a rooftop balcony. Royal Troon members strained to see out the window from the clubhouse behind the 18th green. Jack Nicklaus usually doesn't watch golf on TV, but he made an exception for this moment.

In 436 majors held over the last 156 years, no one had ever shot 62.

That's still the case. By a fraction of an inch.

"I want to cry," Mickelson said.

Mickelson pointed his putter toward the hole and was ready to step into history Thursday when his birdie putt turned sharply to the right at the mouth of the hole, just enough to ride the edge around the back of the cup and sit there, teasing him.

"You made a beautiful

read and putt on that last hole but got absolutely stone-cold robbed," Nicklaus said in a message on Facebook.

Mickelson flopped his hand on his forehead in disbelief. His caddie, Jim "Bones" Mackay, was so stunned that he fell over backward.

"It was one of the best rounds I've ever played ... and yet I want to shed a tear right now," Mickelson said. "That putt on 18 was an

opportunity to do something historical. I knew it, and with a foot to go I thought I had done it. I saw that ball rolling right in the center. I went to go get it. I had that surge of adrenaline that I had just shot 62, and then I had the heartbreak that I didn't."

No tears were necessary at Royal Troon, not after a round of 63 that was brilliant even by Lefty's standards, and certainly not after building a three-shot

lead over Patrick Reed and Martin Kaymer on an ideal day by the Irish Sea.

Mickelson seized the moment with a birdie on the par-5 16th from a bunker short of the green, and a 4-iron to 15 feet for birdie on the par-3 17th to reach 8-under par. He knew no one had ever shot 62 in a major. He also knew he most likely would never get a chance like this.

"That would have been really something special," he said. "So to have that putt lip out, that's going to sting for a while."

Even with such a close call, Mickelson is in good company.

Nicklaus missed a putt just inside 3 feet for a 62 in the 1980 U.S. Open at Baltusrol. Greg Norman had to only two-putt from 30 feet for a 62 at Turnberry in the 1986 British Open and took three putts. Tiger Woods watched his 15-foot putt for 62 spin 270 degrees around the cup in the 2007 PGA Championship at Southern Hills. Nick Price's birdie putt for a 62 in the 1986 Masters

dipped in and out of the cup. Asked why there had never been a 62 in the major, Mickelson pointed to his putt. "There's a curse," he said. "Because that ball should have been in."

It wasn't for a lack of effort. He went with a 6-iron to play a baby cut back toward the hole, and it worked out perfectly. He brought in his caddie and told him that "I need your best read." Ernie Els did his part, putting out of turn to turn the stage over to Mickelson.

The pace was perfect. The putt looked perfect — until it wasn't. By a fraction.

"I saw that ball going in and I just had a good, clear vision of what was going to happen," he said. "What I didn't see was what happened."

And now, he faces a return to reality.

Of the seven previous players to open with a 63 in a major, only Nicklaus at the 1980 U.S. Open and Raymond Floyd at the 1982 PGA Championship went on to win.

MILTON-FREEWATER

Blazers salvage split

East Oregonian

MILTON-FREEWATER — The Milton-Freewater Blazers rallied to salvage a split in their 16U baseball doubleheader against La Grande on Wednesday.

The Blazers scored eight runs in the final two innings for a 12-11 win and Taylor Turner drove in the winning runs with a home run in the bottom of the seventh.

La Grande scored 17 runs in the third inning to put an early seal on it's 18-8 victory in Game 1.

In Game 2, La Grande led 11-4 going into the bottom of the sixth but four straight walks gave the Blazers (5-9) their first run since the first inning and one-out singles by Jesse Jones and Rudy Esparza pulled them within 11-7.

The Blazers used opportunistic base running to score three more times without another hit in the frame, and held La Grande scoreless in its final at-bat by stranding two with solid defense.

Eric Rencken led the Blazers off in the bottom of the seventh with a walk, and Turner followed with a first-pitch home run over the right field wall.

Jesse Berry pitched the final two innings and got the win. He allowed one run on two hits, struck out one and walked two. Devon Cothey started and pitched the first four complete, surrendering seven runs on five hits, one strikeout and nine walks. Matthew Cunningham tossed one inning of relief as well, and allowed three runs on four hits, struck out none and walked one.

Devon Humbert was 2 for 2 with two runs to lead the Blazers at the plate. Jones was 1 for 1 with two runs one RBI, and Berry was 1 for 1 as well.

In Game 1, La Grande sent 22 batters to the plate during the third inning who produced seven singles, three doubles, six walks, four hit-by-pitch, a strikeout and a ground-out. The Blazers had a force at second for the other out.

No player had more than one hit for the Blazers' seven total, and Rencken and Turner led them with two RBI each.

Daeregan Stephens and Zach Crisman combined on the mound and gave up 13 hits and 17 earned runs. Stephens threw the first 2 1/3 and got the loss.

BRIEFLY

Spots available for Farm-City Open

UMATILLA — The annual Farm-City Open Golf Tournament hosted by Sherrell Chevrolet still has spots available for this event.

The tournament takes place on Aug. 6 at Big River Golf Course in Umatilla, and will feature an 8 a.m. shotgun start. The format is a four-person scramble, however teams will be put together by tournament organizers based on things such as handicaps and other factors.

There will be plenty of food available throughout the tournament with a barbeque dinner to end the day. A total of 31 hole prizes will be up for grabs along with many others, headlined by a 2016 Chevy Cruze for anyone that aces on hole No. 9. All proceeds from the event will go to the Sherrell rodeo scholarship fund.

The deadline to register for the tournament July 29. For more information, contact Kevin Fisher at 541-567-6487.

— East Oregonian

LITTLE LEAGUE: Davison, Starr hit doubles to lead offense

Continued from 1B

Brian Davison and JR Starr provided Hermiston's offensive highlights with doubles, and the team's other two hits came from Jones and Brian Davison.

After Jones was tagged out at third on Davison's double in the first inning, Lake Oswego came out hitting right away against Hermiston starter Austin Garberg.

The first hit ball resulted in a ground-out to first base, but five singles and a walk came next and Garberg left in a 3-0 hole with the bases loaded. Reliever Brad Hottman didn't find the going any easier and left in the second inning after allowing six earned runs on eight hits.

Hermiston's pitchers walked just two batters, and combined for a 58.1 strike percentage.

Lake Oswego's pitchers bested that with a 76.7, and struck out six while walking none.

Hermiston stranded runners on second and third in the second inning and was retired in order in the third and fourth.

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LO	5(10)	X	—	16	18	0

Tour de France

Storming fans cause chaos during 12th stage

By ANDREW DAMPF
Associated Press

MONT VENTOUX, France — On Bastille Day, fans created havoc at the Tour de France like never before.

Storming the road on France's national day, the crowd prompted a crash involving race leader Chris Froome and it wasn't until hours after the wacky 12th stage concluded that organizers decided the British rider could keep the yellow jersey.

"Mont Ventoux always throws up something different and today was no exception," Froome said. "You always have to expect the unexpected at the Tour."

In a complete embarrassment for cycling's biggest race, Richie Porte crashed headfirst into a motorbike carrying a TV camera, and Froome, who was right behind his former teammate, also hit the pavement in the final kilometer on the wind-shortened climb up legendary Mont

Ventoux.

"The crowd was just all on the road, and a motorbike stopped right in front of us and we had nowhere to go," Porte said. "The next minute, I went straight over the top of the motorbike. It was just a mess."

Last week, Froome punched the face of a spectator who got too close to the race.

The wind prevented organizers from erecting the usual barriers at the end of most stages, Tour

director Christian Prudhomme explained.

"We took an exceptional decision because of this exceptional situation, an incident that might have never happened before in 100 years," Prudhomme said.

After the crash, Froome threw his mangled bike aside and began running up the road. He eventually was given a small yellow race assistance bike before his team car was finally able to provide him with a suitable substitute.

PAC-12: Helfrich says QBs similar but different

Continued from 1B

more Josh Rosen might be the main reason. Washington also has sophomore Jake Browning back behind center, and the Huskies are expected to be Stanford's greatest challenge for the North division title.

Helton, the Trojans' former quarterbacks coach, will name a replacement for Kessler, his durable three-year starter, in time to prepare for the Trojans' brutal opener against Alabama.

Browne, a redshirt junior who has already graduated from USC, is widely expected to get the first shot, but Darnold is making things complicated.

"The separation between Max and Sam Darnold was not great," Helton said. "If we talk about competing at every position, it's got to be the quarterback position also."

Stanford is the preseason media poll's pick to win another league title, but the Cardinal didn't come out of spring ball with a clear successor to Hogan. Keller Chryst and Ryan Burns will continue their competition next month — even if their biggest responsibility might be handing off to star tailback Christian McCaffrey.

Across the Bay, California has the unenviable task of replacing Goff, the three-year starter and subsequent No. 1 pick.

Chase Forrest was the front-runner heading into spring ball, but coach Sonny Dykes said he ended up "neck-and-neck" with redshirt freshman Ross Bowers. Dykes is excited to add freshman Victor Viramontes to the competition next month, indicating nobody has an advantage.

Oregon must replace Adams after his up-and-down single season. Coach Mark Helfrich landed Montana State graduate Dakota Prukop as a transfer to compete alongside Travis Jonsen and Terry Wilson.

"We had three guys in spring ball that were very similar and completely different," Helfrich said. "(Prukop) has played a lot

of football, but you could see those wheels turning (in practice). Sometimes they were all trying to win the job with that next throw, and that's the worst thing."

Even at schools with returning experience, there will be competition. Rodriguez pointedly declined to guarantee the starting job to Solomon over Brandon Dawkins, even after Solomon passed for 6,460 yards and 48 touchdowns in his first two seasons.

"We have, in my opinion, two returning starters," Rodriguez said. "We'll see who wins the job. I hope both of them prove that we can win with them, and we'll play both of them throughout the year."

SCOREBOARD

Correction

Colby Lerten has won the City of Hermiston Junior Tournament four years in a row. Incorrect information appeared in the July 14 article "Lerten repeats at Hermiston Junior." To further clarify that article, Franco Gonzalez was second in the 6-9 age group with a score of 62. That information was not available at press time.

Baseball

AMERICAN LEAGUE				
East Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Baltimore	51	36	.586	—
Boston	49	38	.563	2
Toronto	51	40	.560	2
New York	44	44	.500	7½
Tampa Bay	34	54	.386	17½
Central Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Cleveland	52	36	.591	—
Detroit	46	43	.517	6½
Kansas City	45	43	.511	7
Chicago	45	43	.511	7
Minnesota	32	56	.364	20
West Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Texas	54	36	.600	—
Houston	48	41	.539	5½
Seattle	45	44	.506	8½
Oakland	38	51	.427	15½
Los Angeles	37	52	.416	16½

Today's Games
Texas (Perez 7-5) at Chicago Cubs (Hendricks 7-6), 11:20 a.m.
Boston (Rodriguez 1-3) at N.Y. Yankees (Pineda 3-8), 4:05 p.m.
Baltimore (Gallardo 3-1) at Tampa Bay (Archer 4-12), 4:10 p.m.
Kansas City (Kennedy 6-7) at Detroit (Verlander 8-6), 4:10 p.m.
Cleveland (Carrasco 5-3) at Minnesota (Santana 3-7), 5:10 p.m.
Chicago White Sox (Gonzalez 2-4) at L.A. Angels (Santiago 6-4), 7:05 p.m.
Toronto (Stroman 7-4) at Oakland (Hill 9-3), 7:05 p.m.
Houston (Fister 8-6) at Seattle (Paxton 2-3), 7:10 p.m.

NATIONAL LEAGUE				
East Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Washington	54	36	.600	—
New York	47	41	.534	6
Miami	47	41	.534	6
Philadelphia	42	48	.467	12
Atlanta	31	58	.344	22½
Central Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Chicago	53	35	.602	—
St. Louis	46	42	.523	7
Pittsburgh	46	43	.517	7½
Milwaukee	38	49	.437	14½
Cincinnati	32	57	.360	21½
West Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
San Francisco	57	33	.633	—
Los Angeles	51	40	.560	6½
Colorado	40	48	.455	16
San Diego	38	51	.427	18½

Arizona	38	52	.422	19
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Today's Games
Texas (Perez 7-5) at Chicago Cubs (Hendricks 7-6), 11:20 a.m.
N.Y. Mets (deGrom 5-4) at Philadelphia (Hendrickson 6-6), 4:05 p.m.
Pittsburgh (Liriano 5-8) at Washington (Strasburg 12-0), 4:05 p.m.
Milwaukee (Garza 1-2) at Cincinnati (DeSclafani 3-0), 4:10 p.m.
Colorado (De La Rosa 5-6) at Atlanta (Harrell 1-0), 4:35 p.m.
Miami at St. Louis (Garcia 6-6), 5:15 p.m.
L.A. Dodgers (Norris 4-7) at Arizona, 6:40 p.m.
San Francisco (Bumgarner 10-4) at San Diego (Cashner 3-7), 7:40 p.m.

MILB NORTHWEST LEAGUE				
North Division				
	W	L	Pct.	GB
Tri-City (Padres)	15	12	.556	—
Vancouver (Blue Jays)	14	13	.519	1
Everett (Mariners)	14	13	.519	1
Spokane (Rangers)	12	16	.429	3
South Division				
	W	L	Pct.	GB
Eugene (Cubs)	18	9	.667	—
Hillsboro (Dbacks)	13	14	.481	5
Salem-Keizer (Giants)	13	15	.464	5½
Boise (Rockies)	10	17	.370	8

Thursday's Games
Boise 7, Vancouver 1
Hillsboro 5, Everett 1
Salem-Keizer 12, Spokane 4
Eugene 4, Tri-City 2
Today's Games
Vancouver at Boise, 6:15 p.m.
Everett at Hillsboro, 7:05 p.m.
Eugene at Tri-City, 7:15 p.m.
Salem-Keizer at Spokane, 7:15 p.m.

Golf

British Open Championship
Thursday's Results
At Royal Troon Golf Club Troon, Scotland
Purse: \$7.74 million
Yardage: 7,190 yards; Par: 71 (36-35)
First Round
Phil Mickelson 63 -8
Patrick Reed 66 -5
Martin Kaymer 66 -5
Justin Thomas 67 -4
Steve Stricker 67 -4
Billy Horschel 67 -4
Tony Finau 67 -4
Soren Kjeldsen 67 -4
Andy Sullivan 67 -4
Zach Johnson 67 -4
Keegan Bradley 67 -4
Justin Rose 68 -3
Soomin Lee 68 -3
Shugo Imahira 68 -3
Richard Sterne 68 -3
Bill Haas 68 -3
Henrik Stenson 68 -3
Sergio Garcia 68 -3
Yuta Ikeda 68 -3
Thomas Pieters 68 -3
Rafa Cabrera-Bello 68 -3
Jamie Donaldson 69 -2

Vijay Singh	69	-2
Rickie Fowler	69	-2
Rory McIlroy	69	-2

Basketball

WNBA EASTERN CONFERENCE				
	W	L	Pct	GB
New York	16	6	.727	—
Atlanta	11	10	.524	4½
Washington	9	12	.429	6½
Indiana	9	12	.429	6½
Chicago	8	12	.400	7
Connecticut	6	14	.300	9
WESTERN CONFERENCE				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Los Angeles	19	1	.950	—
Minnesota	17	4	.810	2½
Dallas	9	12	.429	10½
Phoenix	9	13	.409	11
Seattle	7	13	.350	12
San Antonio	5	16	.238	14½

Today's Games
Los Angeles at Connecticut, 4 p.m.
Atlanta at Indiana 4 p.m.
New York at Minnesota, 5 p.m.
Dallas at Chicago, 5:30 p.m.
Washington at Seattle, 7 p.m.

Soccer

MLS EASTERN CONFERENCE					
	W	L	T	Pts	GF GA
NYC FC	8	6	6	30	31 34
Philadelphia	8	6	5	29	32 26
Montreal	6	4	8	26	29 26
New York	7	9	3	24	28 25
Toronto FC	6	6	6	24	20 20
New England	5	7	7	22	26 33
D.C. United	5	7	6	21	17 20
Orlando City	4	4	9	21	28 29
Columbus	3	7	8	17	23 29
Chicago	4	8	5	17	16 21
WESTERN CONFERENCE					
	W	L	T	Pts	GF GA
FC Dallas	11	6	4	37	31 29
Colorado	9	2	7	34	21 13
Real Salt Lake	8	6	5	29	30 29
Portland	6	3	8	29	31 18
Sporting KC	8	9	4	28	24 24
Vancouver	8	4	28	31	33 33
Portland	6	6	8	26	29 30
San Jose	5	6	7	22	19 21
Seattle	6	10	2	20	21 21
Houston	4	8	6	18	2