

British Open

Mickelson maintains lead on rainy day at Troon

By PAUL NEWBERRY
Associated Press

TROON, Scotland (AP) — On a rainy day at Royal Troon, Phil Mickelson finally ran into a bit of trouble.

He still managed to stay out front in the British Open.

After coming within a lipped-out putt of a major championship scoring record in the opening round, Mickelson had to scramble a bit to escape with a 2-under 69 on Friday.

He was at 10-under 132 midway through the tournament, heading to the weekend with a shot at becoming the oldest Open champion since Old Tom Morris in 1867.

Mickelson turned 46 last month. Morris was 46 years and 102 days old when he triumphed at nearby Prestwick 149 years ago.

Making the turn at the far



Phil Mickelson putts and birdies on the 14th green during the second round of the British Open at the Royal Troon Golf Club in Troon, Scotland, on Friday.

AP Photo/Peter Morrison

end of the course, Mickelson was 3 under for the round, five shots clear of the field and looked on the verge of blowing it open. He nearly made a hole-in-one at No. 8 — the famed “Postage Stamp” hole — his ball

rolling right up to the edge of the cup for a tap-in birdie, roughly the length of a postage stamp.

But, with the rain coming down harder, the inward nine was tougher on Mickelson. He narrowly missed a gorse

bush at No. 12 and took his first bogey of the tournament. He made another at the 15th after driving into the rough and coming up 40 yards short of the green with his approach. He could’ve had a third bogey at the par-3

17th after dumping his tee shot into a deep bunker, but a brilliant sand wedge to 2 feet allowed him to save par.

It was a far cry from Thursday, when Mickelson didn’t come close to making bogey on his way to a record-tying 63. He could’ve been the first player to shoot 62 in a major championship, but a 16-foot birdie putt at the final hole lipped out, sending Mickelson’s caddie tumbling to the ground and Lefty grabbing his head in disbelief.

As Mickelson headed to the clubhouse to dry off, Henrik Stenson was his closest challenger. The Swede, looking to give his country its first major championship by a male golfer, turned in the best round of the morning starters with a 65 to close within one shot of the lead.

It was Stenson’s best round ever at the Open in his

12th appearance.

Mickelson already has five major titles, the most recent coming at the 2013 British Open.

Having already won the claret jug, he is more relaxed going into the weekend.

“It’s a lot easier having already held it,” Mickelson said. “Winning the Open was the greatest challenge of my career, and I’ve already done it. I would love nothing more than to add another one. But knowing I’ve already done it takes the pressure off.”

Mickelson was the eighth player to open a major with a 63. He became only the third to break par in the next round.

Among the other early finishers, Soren Kjeldsen of Denmark was three shots off the lead after a 68, while defending Open champion Zach Johnson was in the mix again with a 70 that left him five shots behind.

BASEBALL:
Large, Pepsi avert Damage

Continued from 1B

Johnny Malcom (1 for 2).

Nick Lani pitched a hitless seventh inning to get the save.

Hodgen’s stellar pitching continued against City as Morris sat them down in order in each of the first four innings.

His offense gave him an early lead, too, and scored four runs in the bottom of the second inning.

Bower (2 for 3) tripled to lead off and Mathan Bliss followed with a walk. Then Bower scored as everybody was safe on Jared Beveridge’s grounder to shortstop, and Tyler Chichester made it 2-0 with an RBI single that scored Bliss.

A passed ball gave Beveridge the opening he needed, and Avery Deutz made it 4-0 with a single to bring in Chichseter.

City broke up Morris’s no-hitter with a hard grounder through the left side in the fifth, and Morris hit the next batter before giving up another single to load the bases with one out. His defense bailed him out when Bliss scooped a grounder at third and got the force at home for the second out, then Jerome caught a fly ball in left to end the threat.

Morris left after the fifth and finished with two hits allowed, two strikeouts and no walks. St. Pierre threw a scoreless top of the sixth, and then pushed Hodgen past the mercy threshold when he scored on Lani’s two-RBI double in the bottom of the inning.

Hodgen continues play in the 26-team bracket today.

Game 1				R	H	E
NW	000100	0	—	1	3	2
HOD	000400	X	—	4	5	1
W — D. Naughton. L — Moran. S — N. Lani.						
2B — R. Russell (HOD).						

Game 2				R	H	E
CTY	000000	—	0	2	1	
HOD	040112	—	8	8	1	
W — W. Morris. L — Highest.						
2B — N. Lani (HOD). 3B — N. Bower (HOD).						

PEPSI 7, DAMAGE 3 — At Seattle, Chris Large overcame a rocky start and settled in to give the Pepsi Diamondjaxx six solid innings on the mound, and Justin Duso and Cameron Sandford each drove in a pair of runs at the plate to lead the Pendleton ball-club in its opener in the 15U bracket at the Battle of the Bats.

Large walked the second batter he faced and gave up a two-out double to give Damage Baseball its first run, and Pepsi made two costly errors to allow another to make it 2-0 after the first inning.

Both teams were retired in order in the second, and Pepsi scored five runs in the third to take the lead for good.

Large led off the inning and was hit by a pitch, then Ryan Stahl (2 for 3) reached on an error and Sandford later doubled to bring them both in to tie the score.

Gabe Umbarger followed with a single that brought Sandford in, and he later scored on a single by Duso that made it 4-2. Pepsi added one more run in the frame on a Matthew Demianew ground-out that plated Quinn Doherty (1 for 2, two runs).

Damage had chances to trim the lead, but Large stranded runners in each inning and didn’t allow a runner past second the rest of the way. He finished with eight strikeouts, two walks and two runs allowed on eight hits. Demianew pitched the seventh and allowed one unearned run on two hits with no strikeouts or walks.

The Diamondjaxx continue play in the 22-team bracket today.

				R	H	E
PDJ	005020	0	—	7	8	6
DMG	200000	1	—	3	8	3
W — C. Large. L — Teets.						
2B — C. Sandford (PDJ); Wooley (DMG).						

NASCAR

Retired Gordon could race for Earnhardt next week

By DAN GELSTON
Associated Press

LOUDON, N.H. — Jeff Gordon is ready to pull his fire-suit out of storage and come off the bench for one more shot at winning one of NASCAR’s crown jewel races.

Gordon might not be done, but Junior just might be, at least for the immediate future.

Dale Earnhardt Jr. has been parked for this weekend’s NASCAR race and more absences could be ahead. Gordon, the four-time NASCAR champion, could make his retirement a brief one and go for his sixth win at the Brickyard next weekend in Indianapolis if Earnhardt is not cleared to return from concussion symptoms.

Earnhardt will sit out Sunday’s race at New Hampshire Motor Speedway and there is no timetable on when NASCAR’s most popular driver might return. While retirement talk for the 41-year-old Earnhardt might be premature, his history of concussions could accelerate the process on when he decides to hang up the helmet.



Gordon thought he was finished, walking away at the end of last season and one final championship run from one of NASCAR’s all-time great careers: 93 wins, four series championships and more than \$150 million in winnings.

But he is the obvious choice to pinch-drive in the No. 88 Chevrolet for Earnhardt, his former Hendrick Motorsports teammate, at one of his favorite tracks. Gordon won the last of his record five Brickyard 400 victories in 2014.

“He’s not a bad person to think

In this July 2, 2016 file photo, Dale Earnhardt Jr. waits by his car before the start of a race at Daytona International Speedway.

AP Photo/John Raoux

about to put in the car,” Hendrick general manager Doug Duchardt said Friday.

Gordon, who has called NASCAR races for Fox Sports this season and expressed interest in replacing the departed Michael Strahan as Kelly Ripa’s new “Live” co-host, tweeted he was in France this weekend, which ruled him out for a potential return at New Hampshire. Alex Bowman will drive the 88 on Sunday.

If Gordon races next weekend, his fellow drivers certainly don’t expect any rust from the former

SCOREBOARD

Baseball

MLB				
AMERICAN LEAGUE				
East Division	W	L	Pct	GB
Baltimore	52	36	.591	—
Boston	50	38	.568	2
Toronto	51	41	.554	3
New York	44	45	.494	8½
Tampa Bay	34	55	.382	18½
Central Division	W	L	Pct	GB
Cleveland	53	36	.596	—
Detroit	47	43	.522	6½
Kansas City	45	44	.506	8
Chicago	45	44	.506	8
Minnesota	32	57	.360	21
West Division	W	L	Pct	GB
Texas	54	37	.593	—
Houston	49	41	.544	4½
Seattle	45	45	.500	8½
Oakland	39	51	.433	14½
Los Angeles	38	52	.422	15½

Friday’s Games				
Chicago Cubs 6, Texas 0				
Boston 5, N.Y. Yankees 3				
Baltimore 4, Tampa Bay 3				
Detroit 4, Kansas City 2				
Cleveland 5, Minnesota 2				
L.A. Angels 7, Chicago White Sox 0				
Oakland 8, Toronto 7				
Houston 7, Seattle 3				
Saturday’s Games				
Texas (Darvish 2-0) at Chicago Cubs (Hammell 7-5), 11:20 a.m.				
Boston (Rodriguez 1-3) at N.Y. Yankees (Sabathia 5-6), 1:05 p.m.				
Toronto (Dickey 7-9) at Oakland (Gray 3-8), 1:05 p.m.				
Houston (McCullers 4-3) at Seattle (Iwakuma 9-6), 1:10 p.m.				
Baltimore (Tillman 12-2) at Tampa Bay (Moore 5-6), 3:10 p.m.				
Cleveland (Bauer 7-3) at Minnesota (Duffey 5-6), 4:10 p.m.				
Kansas City (Duffy 4-1) at Detroit (Pelfrey 2-8), 4:10 p.m.				
Chicago White Sox (Shields 4-10) at L.A. Angels (Shoemaker 4-9), 6:05 p.m.				

NATIONAL LEAGUE				
East Division	W	L	Pct	GB
Washington	55	36	.604	—
New York	48	41	.539	6
Miami	48	41	.539	6
Philadelphia	42	49	.462	13
Atlanta	31	59	.344	23½
Central Division	W	L	Pct	GB
Chicago	54	35	.607	—
St. Louis	46	43	.517	8
Pittsburgh	46	40	.531	8½
Milwaukee	38	50	.432	15½
Cincinnati	33	57	.367	21½
West Division	W	L	Pct	GB
San Francisco	57	34	.626	—
Los Angeles	52	40	.565	5½
Colorado	41	48	.461	15
San Diego	39	51	.433	17½
Arizona	38	53	.418	19

Friday’s Games				
Chicago Cubs 6, Texas 0				
N.Y. Mets 5, Philadelphia 3				
Washington 5, Pittsburgh 1				
Cincinnati 5, Milwaukee 4				
Colorado 11, Atlanta 2				
Miami 7, St. Louis 6				
L.A. Dodgers 13, Arizona 7				
San Diego 4, San Francisco 1				
Saturday’s Games				
Texas (Darvish 2-0) at Chicago Cubs (Hammell 7-5), 11:20 a.m.				
N.Y. Mets (Verrett 3-6) at Philadelphia (Eickhoff 6-10), 4:05 p.m.				
Pittsburgh (Cole 5-4) at Washington (Roark 8-5), 4:05 p.m.				
Colorado (Bettis 7-6) at Atlanta (Foltynewicz 3-3), 4:10 p.m.				
Milwaukee (Nelson 5-7) at Cincinnati (Lamb 1-6), 4:10 p.m.				
Miami (Koehler 6-7) at St. Louis (Wainwright 8-5), 4:15 p.m.				
L.A. Dodgers (McCarthy 2-0) at Arizona (Bradley 3-5), 5:10 p.m.				
San Francisco (Samardzija 9-5) at San Diego (Perdomo 3-4), 5:40 p.m.				

MiLB				
NORTHWEST LEAGUE				
North Division	W	L	Pct.	GB
Tri-City (Padres)	15	13	.536	—
Vancouver (Blue Jays)	14	14	.500	1
Everett (Mariners)	14	14	.500	1
Spokane (Rangers)	13	16	.448	2½
South Division	W	L	Pct.	GB
Eugene (Cubs)	19	9	.679	—

Hillsboro (Dbacks)	14	14	.500	5
Salem-Keizer (Giants)	13	16	.448	6½
Boise (Rockies)	11	17	.393	8

Friday’s Games				
Boise 7, Vancouver 6, 10 innings				
Hillsboro 9, Everett 7				
Eugene 9, Tri-City 7				
Spokane 4, Salem-Keizer 3				
Saturday’s Games				
Everett at Hillsboro, 5:03 p.m.				
Vancouver at Boise, 6:15 p.m.				
Salem-Keizer at Spokane, 6:30 p.m.				
Eugene at Tri-City, 7:15 p.m.				
Sunday’s Games				
Everett at Hillsboro, 1:05 p.m.				
Vancouver at Boise, 6:15 p.m.				
Eugene at Tri-City, 7:15 p.m.				

Golf

British Open Championship				
Friday				
At Royal Troon Golf Club				
Troon, Scotland				
Purse: \$7.74 million				
Yardage: 7,190 yards; Par: 71				
Second Round				
Phil Mickelson	63-69	—132	-10	
Henrik Stenson	68-65	—133	-9	
Soren Kjeldsen	67-68	—135	-7	
Keegan Bradley	67-68	—135	-7	
Zach Johnson	67-70	—137	-5	
Tony Finau	67-71	—138	-4	
Bill Haas	68-70	—138	-4	
Charl Schwartzel	72-66	—138	-4	
Andrew Johnston	69-69	—138	-4	
Sergio Garcia	68-70	—138	-4	
Kevin Na	70-69	—139	-3	
Matt Kuchar	69-72	—141	-1	
Martin Kaymer	66-73	—139	-3	
Rafa Cabrera-Bello	68-71	—139	-3	
Francesco Molinari	69-71	—140	-2	
Dustin Johnson	71-69	—140	-2	
J.B. Holmes	70-70	—140	-2	
Jim Herman	70-70	—140	-2	
Byeong Hun An	70-70	—140	-2	
Patrick Reed	66-74	—140	-2	
Rory McIlroy	69-71	—140	-2	
KT Kim	70-71	—141	-1	
Emiliano Grillo	69-72	—141	-1	
Anirban Lahiri	69-72	—141	-1	
Tyrell Hatton	70-71	—141	-1	
Rickie Fowler	69-72	—141	-1	

Cycling

Tour de France

Friday
At La Caverne du Pont-d'Arc, France

13th Stage
A 23.3-mile individual time trial from Bourg-Saint-And le to La Caverne du Pont-d'Arc

1. Tom Dumoulin, Netherlands, Giant-Alpecin, 50 minutes, 15 seconds.
2. Chris Froome, Britain, Sky, 1 minute, 3 seconds behind.
3. Nairo Quintana, Colombia, Movistar, 1:31.
4. Jerome Coppel, France, IAM Cycling, 1:35.
5. Rohan Dennis, Australia, BMC Racing, 1:41.
6. Bauke Mollema, Netherlands, Trek-Segafredo, 1:54.
7. Geraint Thomas, Britain, Sky, 2:00.
8. Jon Izaguirre, Spain, Movistar, 2:02.
9. Tony Martin, Germany, Etixx-QuickStep, 2:05.
10. Stephen Cummings, Britain, Dimension Data, 2:24.

Overall Standings
(After 13 stages)

1. Chris Froome, Britain, Sky, 58:02:51.
2. Bauke Mollema, Netherlands, Trek-Segafredo, 1:47.
3. Adam Yates, Britain, Orica-BikeExchange, 2:45.
4. Nairo Quintana, Colombia, Movistar, 2:59.
5. Alejandro Valverde, Spain, Movistar, 3:17.
6. Tejay Van Garderen, United States, BMC Racing, 3:19.
- 7.omain Bardet, France, AG2R La Mondiale, 4:04.
8. Richie Port, Australia, BMC Racing, 4:27.
9. Daniel Martin, Ireland, Etixx-QuickStep, 5:03.
10. Fabio Aru, Italy, Astana, 5:16.