

Golf

Tiger posts 65 in 2nd round back

By DOUG FERGUSON
Associated Press

NASSAU, Bahamas (AP) — Tiger Woods saved par from the dunes with a shot so good that two spectators ran over and scooped up sand for a souvenir.

It also served as motivation Friday at the Hero World Challenge. The tee shot on the par-3 eighth that landed next to a bush was so bad that Woods said he told caddie Joe LaCava after his par putt, “I’m not dropping a shot.”

And he didn’t. Woods capped a bogey-free round with an even more unlikely par save on the 16th hole. What stood out on a balmy day at Albany was a seven-hole stretch in the middle of the round in which he never really missed a shot. It led to enough birdies for a 7-under 65, leaving him six shots behind and in a tie for ninth in the 17-man field.

His golf was as good as it was Thursday, his first competition in 15 months, only this time he eliminated the mistakes.

“I wanted to keep that card clean,” Woods said. “I don’t know what it is about playing and competing, but keeping cards clean, there’s something really special. And it feels pretty good about doing that.”

And he did it quickly, in just under three hours.

Justin Rose, who opened with a 74, withdrew with back problems. That left Woods as a single, and when he realized



AP Photo/Lynne Sladky

Tiger Woods reacts after saving par on the 16th hole during the second round at the Hero World Challenge golf tournament on Friday in Nassau, Bahamas.

there would not be much wind, he felt he could play just as well without a marker (typically the club pro) to get a feel for how various shots might be affected.

The par save on No. 8 and a wedge to tap-in range on the No. 9 allowed him to make the turn in 33, just like Thursday. The difference was how he finished.

After pounding a drive down with the wind at his back on the par-5 11th — he had to carry a bunker 290 yards away — he switch to a 5-iron to play away from a bunker to the right of the

green, making sure he would have the right angle to the pin. It was right where he was aiming, a yard off the green, setting up an easy two-putt birdie. He followed that with a 6-iron to a foot for birdie on the 12th, a 10-foot birdie putt on the 14th and a two-putt birdie on the par-5 15th.

He made seven birdies, but nothing brought out the emotion like a par.

His tee shot on the 16th, where he made double bogey Thursday, took a wild hop into a bush in the sandy area. Enough of the ball was showing that Woods tried to hit

6-iron to the front bunker, but it came out heavy into more of the waste area. The next shot was well beyond the hole.

The par putt dropped on its final turn, and Woods thrust his fist toward the cup and slapped the face of his putter.

Two more pars, and he was done and feeling much better about the next two days.

“I really had it dialed in both ways,” he said. “I was shaping it both ways and I really had nice control of my (trajectory). That was the key. I was able to keep the ball down when I needed to and send it at times.”

WNFR: Eldridge 4th in round

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performance and give them 8.9 on two, but would have to settle for a second-place standing in the aggregate after Dustin Bird and Russell Cardoza had a 4.2 to give them 8.8 on two.

Things were looking up for two other cowboys with local ties as a pair of former Blue Mountain Community College Timberwolves got into the go-round money.

Steer wrestler Dakota Eldridge placed fourth in Friday’s round with a 4.6 that gives him 13.2 on two. He’s still got some ground to make up in a lighting quick finals field, though, and Matt Reeves of Cross Plains, Texas took the aggregate lead at 7.7 on two after a 3.8 that was second on Friday. Jason Thomas of Benton, Arkansas won the round with a 3.5.

RC Landingham placed eighth in the second round of bareback with a 78 on C5 Rodeo’s Black Feathers after scoring a 49 on Thursday in his first ride at his first WNFR. Landingham also moved out of the 15th hole in the aggregate when Wyatt Denny earned the first no-score of the rodeo by slapping the horse with his free hand.

Clayton Biglow of Clements, California took round with an 85 on Rafter D Rodeo’s Ankle Biter, and leads the aggregate with 169 on two. World leader Tim O’Connell is second with 166 on two.

In saddle bronc, 18-year-old rookie Ryder Wright of Milford, Utah

remained in the lead by winning his second round at the WNFR with an 86 on Northcutt Macza’s Get Smart to give him the two-round lead with 173. His uncle Jake Wright was second again with an 85.5 on Calgary Stampede’s Tiger Warrior, and is second in the aggregate with 170.5.

World leader Marcos Costa of Childress, Texas won the round in tie-down roping with a 7.6 and is 18.0 on two. Round 1 winner Shane Hanchey of Sulphur, Louisiana is the aggregate leader with 15.5.

Kimmie Wall of Roosevelt, Utah took home the win in barrel racing with a time of 13.79 seconds and slid into the two-round lead with 27.69 total. Round 1 winner Pamela Capper is second with 27.77 on two.

Bull riding went to the bulls as 11 cowboys failed to record scores, including Round 1 winner Sage Kimzey. Those that did make it to the end of their ride were rewarded as Shane Proctor’s 85.5 on Summit Pro Rodeo’s Cross the Wyoming Line was the lowest score in the round.

Roscoe Jarboe of New Plymouth, Idaho, won with an 88.5 on Wayne Vold Rodeo’s Coopers Comet, and Joe Frost and Garrett Smith each scored 87.

Jarboe leads the aggregate with 171.5, Frost is second with 189.5 and Proctor is third with 189.

Action resumes with Round 3 tonight at 6:45 p.m.

PAC-12: Browning struggles but Washington still rumbles with 265 yards rushing

Continued from 1B

4 CFP) broke open a close game when Rapp intercepted Sefo Liufau’s passes on the first two drives of the second half for a touchdown and to set up a field goal that made it 24-7.

Washington rolled from there to its first conference title since 2000 with a performance likely to keep the Huskies in the top four when

the College Football Playoff bids are handed out Sunday.

“We didn’t play this game for the playoff committee,” receiver John Ross said. “We played this game because this is what we worked for.”

It was a rough day for Colorado (10-3, No. 8 CFP) and Liufau, who was knocked out of the game after twisting his right ankle on a sack on the Buffaloes’ first drive of the game. He returned to start

the second half and threw three interceptions, including one on the first play from scrimmage that Rapp returned 35 yards for a score.

Liufau threw another interception on the ensuing drive and Colorado could never recover. Even a circus kick return in the third quarter couldn’t help the Buffaloes. Anthony Julmisse returned a kick to near midfield and fumbled. Phillip Lindsay scooped up and ran down to

the 2 but Colorado was held to a field goal.

THE TAKEAWAY

Colorado: From the opening kickoff that went out of bounds, little went right for the Buffaloes, who were unable to cap an impressive turnaround season with a conference title. Liufau’s injury didn’t help the cause. Steven Montez went 5 for 12 for 60 yards in the first half and was unable to generate any consistent

offense and Liufau was even worse when he returned. He threw as many interceptions in the third quarter (3) as he had all season and was just 2 for 12 for 12 yards after coming back into the game.

Washington: The usually efficient Jake Browning struggled throwing the ball but it didn’t matter as the Huskies dominated the game with 265 yards on the ground behind Gaskin and

Lavon Coleman (101 yards). Browning went just 9 for 24 for 118 yards but did throw two TDs. His second touchdown was far from his prettiest throw of the season. With a defender draped all over him, Browning threw a ball up from grabs that John Ross caught in front of Chidobe Awuzie and ran in 19 yards for the score. Browning’s 42 TDs are one shy of Jared Goff’s Pac-12 record.

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