

## Golf

## A short return and a missed cut for Woods

By DOUG FERGUSON  
Associated Press

SAN DIEGO — Tiger Woods returned to the PGA Tour after 17 months and lasted only two days.

Woods never got anything going after starting with a birdie Friday in the Farmers Insurance Open and didn't come close to making the cut. He missed a 12-foot birdie putt on his final hole on the North Course for an even-par 72 and missed the cut at Torrey Pines for the first time in his career.

"I just didn't make enough birdies," Woods said.

He finished at 4-over 148, missing the cut by four shots. It was the third straight time that he failed to complete 72 holes at Torrey Pines, the course where he has won eight times in his PGA Tour career. Woods missed the 54-hole cut in 2014 and withdrew after 11 holes with tightness in his back in 2015.

Expectations were different this time, except for Woods.

"It's frustrating not being able to have a chance to win the tournament," Woods said. "I didn't make the cut."

Woods at least kept good company. Jason Day, the No. 1 player in the world, again struggled to make cuts and shot a 74 to miss the cut for the first time since the Farmers Insurance Open last year. Also in his group was U.S. Open champion Dustin Johnson, who shot 74 and missed the cut.

Woods was coming off the longest layoff of his career as he recovered from two back surgeries. Woods last played the PGA Tour



Tiger Woods reacts as he finishes the second round of the Farmers Insurance Open on Friday at Torrey Pines Golf Course in San Diego.

AP Photo/Gregory Bull

in August 2015 at the Wyndham Championship, where he tied for 10th. He played in the Bahamas the first week of December in an unofficial event with an 18-man field and no cut.

This was different.

More than dealing with the Pacific morning chill and the thick, wet rough on the South and North Course, Woods faced a full field under the pressure of making the cut. He would have needed a round of 68, and he never looked as though he would get there.

After an opening tee shot over the gallery's head on the right side of the 10th fairway, he managed to get up-and-down for birdie. Two holes later, he blasted too long out of a bunker and down the ridge, leading to a bogey. Just like

Thursday on the South Course, birdie chances didn't come along very often. He was rarely pin-high, and when he did have a chance, his birdie putts slid by the hole.

"I hit a lot of beautiful putts that didn't go in, but I hit it much better today, which was nice," he said.

His biggest concern? A 17-hour flight that awaits to Dubai, where he will play next week. Still to be determined was whether Woods was going home to Florida first instead of leaving from the West Coast to the Middle East.

He has not played in Dubai since 2014, two months before the first of his three back surgeries. Woods said his body held up fine for two days at Torrey Pines, where he had to wear extra layers to keep warm and slash out of the rough far too often.

Farmers Insurance  
Open Leaderboard

## Second Round

1) Justin Rose	-8
2) Adam Hadwin	-7
2) Brandt Snedeker	-7
4) Ollie Schniederjans	-6
4) Keegan Bradley	-6
6) Robert Streb	-5
6) Brian Harman	-5
6) Zac Blair	-5
6) Kevin Streelman	-5
6) Cheng Tsung Pan	-5

"Flying out here was something I hadn't done in a while," he said. "So now we've got a pretty good jaunt."

After Dubai, Woods has a week off before playing back-to-back weeks on both ends of the country, Los Angeles (Genesis Open) and Florida (Honda Classic).

This is the eighth straight season Woods has played that he has missed a cut, after having missed only four cuts in his first 13 years as a pro. Patience has never been one of his hallmarks, though Woods was taking a long view of what he wanted out of his game.

It's all about the Masters, the major he has won four times but not since 2005.

"Just like everybody, I'm trying to get ready for the first full week in April," Woods said. "That's where eventually I want to have everything come together. That's the plan. Unfortunately, I didn't get a chance to win this golf tournament on the weekend. But I have next week."

## Men's College Basketball

## The fabulous freshmen: Talented and prepared

By JOHN MARSHALL  
Associated Press

PHOENIX — From Lonzo Ball and Markelle Fultz out West to Dennis Smith Jr. and Kentucky's future NBAers back East, the players who will likely be one and done have dominated the college basketball spotlight.

So how do freshmen who are 18 and 19 years old play so well so quickly?

Talent, obviously. But preparation might also play a big role.

Many of the top incoming freshmen have been groomed for immediate success through years of high-level coaching and competition, being in the public eye from a young age and playing year-round schedules.

They often arrive on campus with a basketball age much higher than their actual age.

"The freshmen are no longer freshmen," North Carolina coach Roy Williams said. "I think they're more worldly and more competitive. They've had more opportunities."

There was a time — we're talking back to the Lew Alcindor days at UCLA — when freshmen were not even allowed to play on the varsity team.

Freshmen began to fill more prominent roles through the years. Carmelo Anthony led Syracuse to a national title and Pervis Ellison did the same at Louisville. Texas' Kevin Durant became the first freshman Naismith and Wooden Award winner. The Fab Five led Michigan to the 1992 national title game.

Freshmen have taken starring roles more often in recent years and



The 2016-17 college basketball season has been led by freshmen, from the cast of future NBA players such as UCLA's Lonzo Ball.

AP Photo/Mark J. Terrill

this season they have been among the headliners.

John Calipari annually produces recruiting classes filled with future NBA talent at Kentucky and this season has been no different with De'Aaron Fox, Bam Adebayo and Malik Monk, who scored 47 points against North Carolina in one of the year's best performances.

The do-everything Ball has put on a show just down the road from Hollywood while leading No. 8 UCLA. Washington has been mediocre this season, but Fultz has not; his 23.4 points per game puts him on pace to be the first freshman to lead the Pac-12 in scoring since California's Shareef Abdur-Rahim in 1995-96.

Arizona's Lauri Markkanen has been one of the country's best players. Josh Jackson has thrived at No. 2 Kansas. Smith has been unstoppable at times at N.C. State. Miles Bridges has been superb at Michigan State, Jonathan Isaac at Florida State, Justin Patton has made

a name for himself at Creighton — the list seemingly goes on and on.

"These guys are 17, 18 years old and we are putting them in positions that are extremely stressful and many are demonstrating an ability to deal with it at high levels," said Mark Hollis, chair of the NCAA's Division I men's basketball committee and Michigan State's athletic director.

In a way, it's as if these precocious freshmen have been preparing for this stage all their lives.

Basketball, as much as any sport, identifies young talent at a very early age.

Young players who show potential are tracked and graded from middle school on, in some cases. Once they've been identified, they are groomed by club-level coaches, invited to elite camps to hone their skills. The players at the highest end of the spectrum are then brought into the USA Basketball fold, receiving instruction from some of the best coaches in the country while facing the best competition in the world.

## Women's College Basketball

## Oregon State women beat Oregon for 12th straight time

Associated Press

EUGENE — Sydney Wiese scored 12 points, including a 3-pointer with 1:36 to play, Katie McWilliams had a steal in the final seconds and No. 11 Oregon State beat Oregon 43-40 on Friday night to win its 12th straight over the Ducks and fourth in a row overall.

Wiese made four of Oregon State's five 3-pointers. Kolbie Orum, Gabriella Hanson and Breanna Brown had nine points apiece.

Maite Cazorla scored four points during an 8-0 run that put Oregon (14-7, 4-5 Pac-12) up one with 2:47 to play. Marie Gulich made 1 of 2 free throws to end Oregon State's scoring drought of 4:19 and make it 37-27 27 seconds later. After the Beavers got a stop on the other end, Wiese hit a 3 from the corner and then made a steal before a layup by Brown made it 42-37 with 51 seconds left.

Lexie Bando answered with a 3-pointer eight seconds later but, after Brown missed a jumper, McWilliams stole it from Cazorla and then hit 1 of 2 free throws to cap the scoring.

Sabrina Ionescu had 11 points, Cazorla scored 12 and Ruthy Hebard grabbed 11 rebounds for the Ducks.

Oregon State (19-2, 7-1) shot just 18.5 percent (5 of 27) and scored 13 points before the break — its lowest scoring half this season. The Beavers have five points in the second quarter, the fewest points in a quarter in school history.

## BLAZERS: McCollum scores 18 for Portland

## Continued from 1B

Lillard gave Portland a 97-96 lead with a step-back jumper with 5:40 left, then added a 3-pointer to extend it. Randolph answered with a layup for the Grizzlies, but Lillard hit another 3 to push it to 103-98.

After Mike Conley made a 3-pointer for the Grizzlies, Lillard added his third straight 3 to give Portland a 106-103 edge with 3:45 to go.

Conley made a pair of free throws with 1:31 remaining to get the Grizzlies to 110-109 before CJ McCollum's floater provided the final margin. McCollum finished with 18 points.

Portland was without Ed Davis for the third straight game because of a left wrist injury. Maurice Harkless missed his second game with a calf injury.

The Grizzlies had starters JaMychal Green and Chandler Parsons back in the lineup after both missed a 101-99 victory at home over Toronto. Both had left knee issues.

Memphis was without rookie Deyonta Davis because of personal reasons.

Al-Farouq Aminu, in a new role coming off the bench,



Portland Trail Blazers guard C.J. McCollum, center, drives to the basket past Memphis Grizzlies guards Mike Conley, left, and Andrew Harrison, right, during the second half of an NBA basketball game Friday in Portland.

AP Photo/Craig Mitchell/lyer

hit a 3-pointer that gave the Blazers a 37-28 lead. Lillard added a long, step-back jumper. Evan Turner's reverse layup extended the lead to 53-37.

Vince Carter's 3-pointer pulled the Grizzlies to 59-50.

There was a scary moment when Lillard slipped on the floor late, but he continued playing and returned to start the second half.

Trailing 62-56 at the break, the Grizzlies closed to 64-60 on Conley's 3-pointer. Memphis narrowed it again to 76-74 on

Gasol's jumper, but Crabbe answered with consecutive 3-pointers for the Blazers.

Carter made the second of two free throws that finally gave Memphis the lead at 86-85 early in the fourth quarter.

Crabbe matched his career high with his sixth 3-pointer to put Portland up 90-88 with 10 minutes left. The Blazers held onto the lead until Randolph's layup put Memphis back in front 94-93.

Conley finished with 17 points and 10 assists.

## Hockey

NHL  
All-Stars  
converge  
on LABy GREG BEACHAM  
Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Sidney Crosby only took a few steps into the lobby of his downtown Los Angeles hotel Friday before he was besieged by a bevy of sprinting fans. The Pittsburgh Penguins captain signed what he could and slipped away.

From Crosby and Mario Lemieux to the sneakiest autograph hounds, every part of the hockey world has converged on Hollywood for a weekend of sun, fun and celebration.

"The game is in better shape today than it's ever been," said Wayne Gretzky, who called Crosby the best player in the current game. "These players, from Auston Matthews to Connor McDavid, they're just tremendous players. Everybody has a hand in it, and we all feel very privileged that we're a part of the National Hockey League."

One of the NHL's most fundamental recent changes will be front-and-center Sunday: The 3-on-3 format that has been adopted for regular-season overtimes is back for the All-Star Game, which became a four-division tournament of high-scoring hockey last year.

"It's a lot of fun, but it's a little tiring for a defenseman," said Drew Doughty, the Kings' All-Star defenseman and Norris Trophy winner. "That's the way it is in the regular season, too. I can't even imagine being a goalie in that."

The NHL is arriving just in time for a gorgeous weekend of beach weather and a welcome respite from the heavy rainstorms that have hit the California coast in recent weeks.

After a celebrity game on Saturday, the skills competition will include the usual festivities, such as events determining the hardest shot and the fastest skater. The NHL has added a Four Line Challenge in which the stars will take increasingly difficult shots from increasingly far away — similar to those fan promotions that turn hockey into a version of miniature golf for the chance to win a pickup truck.

The All-Stars haven't visited LA since 2002, and celebrities will be everywhere: The league recruited nearly anyone in Hollywood with a Canadian passport or any level of hockey fandom to turn out.

## NFL

Pro Bowl  
tickets  
sell out

Associated Press

ORLANDO, Fla. — The Pro Bowl will be played in front of a capacity crowd at Camping World Stadium on Sunday night.

The NFL announced Friday that the Pro Bowl will be played in front of a sold out crowd at the stadium.

Standing room-only tickets are available for \$20 each, which is an indication that interest in the NFL's all-star game is picking up in its year in Orlando.

The Pro Bowl is Sunday night at 8 p.m. and will be on ESPN.

Most of the recent Pro Bowls at Honolulu's 50,000-seat Aloha Stadium were announced as sellouts or close to capacity.

When the Pro Bowl was played at Miami's Sun Life Stadium in 2010 the crowd was announced at 70,697. And the attendance was 63,225 when the Pro Bowl was in Glendale, Arizona, in 2015.