

Golf

Stephen Curry heats up after slow start in pro golf debut

By JANIE MCCAULEY
Associated Press

HAYWARD, Calif. — Stephen Curry pumped his right fist, raised his arms in the air with club in hand and gave a firm shoulder bump to caddie Jonnie West, his golf partner on road trips with the Golden State Warriors.

After three bogeys in five holes of his professional golf debut, a birdie was worthy of celebration.

There was the animated, confident Steph that NBA fans know so well, the two-time league MVP finally feeling it and making the tough shots on the challenging course at TPC Stonebrae while competing in a tournament one step below the PGA Tour.

With a bogey on the last hole, he had a respectable 4-over 74.

“It was an amazing experience, I’ve been looking forward to this since I found out and to finally hit my first shot in tournament play was a really, really nervous moment but it was everything I hoped for,” Curry said. “If you told me I was going to shoot 74 going into the first round I’d take that all day, every day. I’m pretty happy with it.”

Curry drew 300-plus fans to the Web.com Tour’s Ellie Mae Classic, where Hall of Fame wide receiver Jerry Rice has played a few times



AP Photo/Eric Risberg

NBA basketball star Stephen Curry follows his drive from the 17th tee during the Web.com Tour’s Ellie Mae Classic golf tournament Thursday, Aug. 3, 2017, in Hayward, Calif.

in the past.

The star point guard of the champion Warriors high-fived fans between holes on the picturesque course providing panoramic views overlooking San Francisco Bay, and he chatted with the other two in his threesome, Sam Ryder and defending champion Stephan Jaeger. Both will be on the PGA Tour next season.

Curry, who munched on a breakfast sandwich at the green of his first hole, missed badly on his

opening tee shot. The drive landed off a hill and bounced perfectly into the cup holder of a golf cart.

Not quite as spot-on as those signature pregame tunnel shots at Oracle Arena or the jaw-dropping, buzzer-beating 3-pointers from way, way back.

“That’s probably a first on the tour. There was a golf cart just left of my target on hole No. 1 and it went right in the cup holder,” Curry said. “Not an ideal way to start with calling a rules official over after

your first tee shot. I kind of settled in after that.”

On the 15th fairway, Curry leaned on West, a member of Golden State’s front office and son of Hall of Famer Jerry West. Jonnie West also is a member at this course.

Then Curry finished the par-5 15th by sinking a 5-foot, downhill birdie putt. He made par on No. 16 then survived a tee shot to the bunker and a near stumble climbing out of the sand on the par-4 18th and made about an 8-footer to save par.

That prompted a triumphant club tap to his shoe and Curry then held up the ball sporting a big grin.

“It was awesome,” West said. “He handled the nerves of this being his first time in this type of atmosphere pretty well.”

Curry began his round on the back nine and when his name was announced on the tee, “I could barely feel my hands, I had to try to take a deep breath,” he said.

He made the turn in 2 over.

The top 65 and ties from the 156-player field will make the cut. Curry, playing on a sponsor exemption and one of three amateurs in the field, was outside the top 140 and five shots below the cut line as the first round was headed for a conclusion.

“I want to play better tomorrow. Now that I kind of got the jitters out

hopefully that will happen and hit a couple more good shots and make a couple more putts,” he said.

With so many cameras clicking, cheers and whistles moments after he struck the ball and hundreds of supporters in No. 30 shirts and Warriors gear, this was no doubt a “Strength In Numbers” kind of day.

There would be no balls lost, either. Wherever his shots landed, a big crowd quickly gathered to get an up-close glimpse of one of basketball’s best. One of the biggest bargains in the NBA before, Curry was rewarded last month with a \$201 million, five-year contract.

Playing his other sporting passion, Curry got plenty of help along the 7,024-yard, par-70 course. Those with homes along the course gathered in groups on decks to catch a hole.

On this day, it was Jaeger making a key assist down the stretch. Waiting at the tee box on their final hole, he took a basketball belonging to 14-year-old Erik Oswald from Southern California for Curry to sign and delivered it back to the giddy teen dressed in a chef’s hat who had followed his hoops hero all day.

“Unbelievable gallery out here,” Curry said, “hopefully that continues through the week.”

BRIEFLY

Pendleton holding annual youth football camp

PENDLETON — The Pendleton High School football program is holding its annual youth football camp next week.

From August 7-10, kids in grades 3-8 can have the opportunity to be coached on the fundamentals of the game by Buckaroo coaches and current high school players. The camp will run from 5:30-7 p.m. each night on the freshman football field located at the southwest corner of the school near the Pendleton Aquatic Center.

The cost of the camp is \$50 and registration forms can be picked up at Dean’s Pendleton Athletic on Main Street. Campers can also be registered at the door at the start of the camp.

Dale Earnhardt Jr car to be on display in Pendleton, Hermiston

PENDLETON — Want to see what a NASCAR car looks like up close?

ISU Insurance - The Stratton Agency in Pendleton is hosting a two-day NASCAR car show where one of Dale Earnhardt Jr’s No. 88 Nationwide race cars from the 2016 season will be on display. Along with the display, there will also be a few vendors and activities for kids all with a free admission. It will run from Aug. 7-8 from Noon to 6 p.m. near the Stratton Agency offices at 435 S.W. Dorion Avenue in Pendleton.

The car will then make its way to Hermiston for another two-day showing at the Stratton Agency location at 1565 N. 1st Street in Hermiston.

GOLF: Coston takes home \$5,150

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comfortably after hitting 10 total birdies, including a stretch of three straight on three long holes — a 497-yard par-5 on No. 5, a 395-yard par 4 on No. 6, and a 391-yard par 4 on No. 7. He took home \$5,150 in total earnings for the win.

He ended the day with an eight-stroke cushion on second place, which was a two-way tie between amateur Pat O’Donnell (4-under, 68) and Scott Krieger (5-under, 67), a PGA pro from Broadmoor Golf Course in Portland, who finished at 8-under for the tournament. Krieger’s finish earned himself a \$3,065 payout.

Wildhorse PGA pro Mike Hegarty finished off his tournament with an even par 72 for the third round, placing him in an eight-way tie for 35th at 5-over. Aldarra Golf Club PGA pro Joe Carranza had the second-best score of the day, turning in a 8-under 64 after hitting eight birdies including three straight on the back nine.

NFL

Cowboys beat Cardinals in star-less Hall of Fame Game

By BARRY WILNER
Associated Press

CANTON, Ohio — The NFL is back, sort of.

With no stars and few starters on the field Thursday night, the Dallas Cowboys edged the Arizona Cardinals 20-18 in the Hall of Fame game.

At least the turf held up — unlike a year ago, when the game was canceled for safety reasons. The new field passed NFL operations directors’ approval, and the footing was steady.

Rookie Sam Irwin-Hill, unlikely to beat out Dallas veteran Dan Bailey for the placekicking job, made field goals of 23 and 43 yards, the latter providing the winning points in the fourth quarter.

The opening half featured a handful of big plays, with Arizona’s third-string quarterback, Blaine Gabbert, consistently finding open receivers down the middle.



Dallas running back Rod Smith (45) holds off Arizona line-backer Xavier Gooden (52) during Thursday’s preseason game in Canton, Ohio.

AP Photo/Ron Schwane

“There were a couple specific plays by the defense on those first couple of drives,” Cowboys coach Jason Garrett said. “Blown assignments on a big third-down conversion, and it wasn’t physical enough. It wasn’t aggressive enough.”

Dallas’ Kellen Moore, who missed last season with an ankle injury, had some success passing down the sidelines, but his second-quarter interception by Brandon Williams in the end zone ruined a drive.

With the likes of Carson Palmer, Larry Fitzgerald, David Johnson, Patrick Peterson and Tyrann Mathieu sitting it out, Arizona could be pleased with the work of backup running backs Kerwynn

Williams and Andre Ellington, who both scored on short runs.

“It was great to see the offense move the ball and get touchdowns on those first two drives,” Fitzgerald said. “O-line, running game, passing the ball, that was impressive and I’m happy for every one of those guys.”

And with Dak Prescott, Ezekiel Elliott, Jason Witten, Sean Lee and their strong offensive line pretty much inactive, the Cowboys could point to veteran RB Alfred Morris and receivers Brice Butler and Rico Gathers.

Morris showed off a spin move worthy of Elliott on a 25-yard run, Butler had 78 yards on two catches in the first half , and Gathers, a hoops starter at Baylor, made a

MARINERS: Dyson returns to Kansas City for first time since trade

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home runs for the Mariners. Guillermo Heredia’s sixth-inning single scored Valencia, who led off the inning with a double.

Trevor Cahill, who the Royals picked up in a July 24 deal with the San Diego Padres, allowed two runs and six hits over 4 2/3 innings in a no-decision.

DYSON RETURNS

Jarrod Dyson, who was the Royals’ 2006 50th-round draft pick and played a key role on their 2014-15 World Series teams, was

back at Kauffman Stadium for the first time as a visitor. The Royals traded him to the Mariners in January. “It’s kind of weird being on the other side, in the visitor’s locker room, but coming back is home for me, you know,” Dyson said. “The only team I’ve ever been with. And I had some good memories here, some fun times.”

Dyson tipped his batting helmet to a standing ovation before singling in the second inning.

YOST TOSSED AGAIN

Royals manager Ned Yost was ejected for the second straight

game. Yost protested when after a crew chief review failed to overturn Valencia’s fourth-inning home run and was run by plate umpire Larry Vanover. Yost was ejected in the ninth inning Wednesday in Baltimore. Yost has 42 career ejections, but this was the first time they were back-to-back.

TRAINER’S ROOM

Mariners: OF Mitch Haniger remains on the disabled list with a concussion and facial lacerations after being hit by a pitch. “The swelling is almost all down,”

Mariners manager Scott Servais said. “He needs to get clearance from the doctor to start lifting and working out a little bit, which he’s hoping to get today or tomorrow.”

Royals: Cain was back in the lineup after he was out Wednesday because of a sore hamstring.

UP NEXT

Mariners: LHP James Paxton, who went 6-0 with a 1.37 ERA in July, will start the second game of this series.

Royals: RHP Jason Hammel will face Seattle for the first time since 2014.

SCOREBOARD

Baseball

MLB AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division	W	L	Pct	GB
Boston	60	49	.550	—
New York	57	50	.533	2
Tampa Bay	57	53	.518	3½
Baltimore	53	55	.491	5½
Toronto	51	57	.472	8½
Central Division	W	L	Pct	GB
Cleveland	58	48	.547	—
Kansas City	56	51	.523	2½
Minnesota	51	55	.481	7
Detroit	50	57	.467	9½
West Division	W	L	Pct	GB
Chicago	41	65	.387	17
Houston	69	39	.639	—
Seattle	55	55	.500	15
Los Angeles	54	55	.495	15½
Texas	52	56	.481	17
Oakland	48	61	.440	21½

Thursday’s Games

Boston 9, Chicago White Sox 5	Cleveland 5, N.Y. Yankees 1
Tampa Bay 5, Houston 3	Texas 4, Minnesota 1
Kansas City 6, Seattle 4	Detroit 7, Baltimore 5
L.A. Angels 5, Philadelphia 4	San Francisco 11, Oakland 2
Friday’s Games	
Detroit (Verlander 6-7) at Baltimore (Gausman 8-7), 4:05 p.m.	Chicago White Sox (Rodon 1-4) at Boston (Rodriguez 4-3), 4:10 p.m.
Milwaukee (Woodruff 0-0) at Tampa Bay (Faria 5-1), 4:10 p.m.	N.Y. Yankees (Garcia 5-7) at Cleveland (Bauer 9-8), 4:10 p.m.
Texas (Perez 5-9) at Minnesota (Colon 2-9), 5:10 p.m.	Toronto (Valdez 1-0) at Houston (Peacock 9-1), 5:10 p.m.
Seattle (Paxton 11-3) at Kansas City (Hammell 5-8), 5:15 p.m.	Oakland (Cotton 5-8) at L.A. Angels (Chavez 5-10), 7:07 p.m.

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division	W	L	Pct	GB
Washington	63	43	.594	—
Miami	51	55	.481	12

New York	49	57	.462	14
Atlanta	49	58	.458	14½
Philadelphia	39	67	.368	24
Central Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Chicago	57	50	.533	—
Milwaukee	57	53	.518	1½
St. Louis	53	55	.491	4½
Pittsburgh	52	56	.481	5½
Cincinnati	44	64	.407	13½
West Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Los Angeles	76	32	.704	—
Arizona	62	46	.574	14
Colorado	62	47	.569	14½
San Diego	48	59	.449	27½
San Francisco	42	68	.381	35

Thursday's Games	
Milwaukee 2, St. Louis 1	Arizona 10, Chicago Cubs 8
Colorado 5, N.Y. Mets 4	Pittsburgh 6, Cincinnati 0
L.A. Dodgers 7, Atlanta 4	L.A. Angels 5, Philadelphia 4
San Francisco 11, Oakland 2	
Friday's Games	
Washington (Strasburg 10-3) at Chicago (Hendricks 4-3), 11:20 a.m.	St. Louis (Leake 7-9) at Cincinnati (Wojciechowski 1-1), 3:40 p.m.
San Diego (Wood 2-3) at Pittsburgh (Nova 10-8), 4:05 p.m.	L.A. Dodgers (Darvish 6-9) at N.Y. Mets (deGrom 12-4), 4:10 p.m.
Milwaukee (Woodruff 0-0) at Tampa Bay (Faria 5-1), 4:10 p.m.	Miami (Conley 4-3) at Atlanta (Dickey 6-7), 4:35 p.m.
Philadelphia (Velasquez 2-6) at Colorado (Gray 3-2), 5:40 p.m.	Arizona (Walker 6-5) at San Francisco (Bumgarner 1-4), 7:15 p.m.

MLB Northwest League

North Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Spokane	6	2	.750	—
Tri-City	4	3	.571	1½
x-Vancouver	3	4	.429	2½
Everett	3	5	.375	3
South Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Eugene	5	3	.625	—
Hillsboro	4	3	.571	½

Basketball

WNBA EASTERN CONFERENCE

	W	L	Pct	GB
Connecticut	14	9	.609	—
Washington	14	9	.609	—
New York	12	11	.522	2
Atlanta	10	14	.417	4½
Chicago	8	16	.333	6½
Indiana	8	16	.333	6½

WESTERN CONFERENCE

	W	L	Pct	GB
Minnesota	20	2	.909	—
Los Angeles	17	6	.739	3½
Phoenix	13	10	.565	7½
Dallas	11	14	.440	10½
Seattle	10	13	.435	10½
San Antonio	4	21	.160	17½

Thursday’s Games

Minnesota 69, Atlanta 54	Yardage: 7400; Par: 70 (35-35)
Friday’s Games	
Phoenix at Connecticut, 4 p.m.	Chicago at Indiana, 4 p.m.
Washington at San Antonio, 5 p.m.	Seattle at Dallas, 5 p.m.
New York at Los Angeles, 7:30 p.m.	

Soccer

MLS EASTERN CONFERENCE

	W	L	T	Pts	GFGA
Toronto FC	12	5	7	43	41
Chicago	11	5	5	38	40
New York City FC	11	7	4	37	40
New York	11	8	2	35	32
Atlanta United FC	10	7	4	34	28
Columbus	10	11	2	32	33
Orlando City	8	8	6	30	23
New England	7	9	5	26	34
Philadelphia	7	10	5	26	27
Montreal	6	8	6	24	30
D.C. United	5	14	3	18	42

WESTERN CONFERENCE

	W	L	T	Pts	GFGA
Sporting K.C.	9	4	9	36	28
FC Dallas	9	4	7	34	32
Houston	9	7	6	33	39
Seattle	8	7	7	31	32
Portland	8	8	7	31	39
Vancouver	8	8	3	30	29
San Jose	8	9	5	29	34
Real Salt Lake	7	12	4	25	30
Los Angeles	6	10	5	23	31
Minnesota United	6	12	4	22	29
Colorado	6	12	2	20	20

NOTE: Three points for victory, one point for tie.

Saturday’s Games

FC Dallas at Philadelphia, 4 p.m.	Toronto FC at D.C. United, 4 p.m.
Orlando City at Montreal, 4:30 p.m.	Seattle at Minnesota United, 5 p.m.
New England at Chicago, 5:30 p.m.	Houston at Real Salt Lake, 7 p.m.
Vancouver at Colorado, 7 p.m.	Columbus at San Jose, 7:30 p.m.

Basketball

WNBA EASTERN CONFERENCE

	W	L	Pct	GB
Connecticut	14	9	.609	—
Washington	14	9	.609	—
New York	12	11	.522	2
Atlanta	10	14	.417	4½
Chicago	8	16	.333	6½
Indiana	8	16	.333	6½

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Golf

PGA Tour

Bridgestone Invitational	Thursday
At Firestone Country Club (South Course)	Akron, Ohio
Purse: \$9.75 million	Yardage: 7400; Par: 70 (35-35)
First Round Leaderboard	
Thomas Pieters	32-33—65
Russell Knox	32-34—66
Kevin Kisner	35-32—67
Ross Fisher	31-36—67
Bubba Watson	35-32—67
Jordan Spieth	34-33—67
Rory McIlroy	33-34—67
Jon Rahm	34-33—67
Jimmy Walker	35-33—68
Andres Romero	36-32—68