

Golf

Tiger Woods set for return to golf after 10-month absence

Golfer says he's on the 'other side' of pain, loving life

By DOUG FERGUSON
Associated Press

NASSAU, Bahamas — Tiger Woods says he is on the "other side" of too many years relying on pain medication to cope with his back surgeries, which led to his arrest on a DUI charge six months ago that he attributed to a bad mix of prescription drugs. "I'm loving life now," he said Tuesday. Woods is making yet another return to competition this week at the Hero World Challenge, an 18-man event with no cut at Albany Golf Club. It's his first tournament in 10 months and his first time competing since fusion surgery in April, the fourth operation on his back. Early indications are

that Woods is in a much better spot than when he returned a year ago in the Bahamas. According to those who played with him in recent weeks, his swing looks faster and more fluid, and Woods appears to be happy and healthy. Woods reached a low point on Memorial Day when he was arrested in the middle of the night after Florida police found his car parked awkwardly on the side of the road about 15 miles from his home, with Woods asleep behind the wheel, the engine running and a blinker on.

Toxicology reports revealed that Woods had two painkillers (Vicodin and Dilaudid), a sleep drug (Ambien), an anti-anxiety drug (Xanax) and the active ingredient for marijuana in his system. He went through an in-patient treatment



Woods

program to deal with prescription medication, and last month pleaded guilty to a reckless driving charge that allowed him to avoid jail time. "I've come out the other side and I feel fantastic," Woods said. "A lot of friends have helped me. I didn't realize how bad my back was. Now that I'm feeling the way I'm feeling, it's just hard to imagine that I was living the way I was living with my foot not working, my leg not working and then the hours of not being able to sleep at all because of the pain."

Woods attributed the Memorial Day arrest to "trying to go away from the pain." "I was trying to sleep, which I hadn't done in a very long time because of the things I've been dealing with," he said. "So as my

back improved, I've been able to start sleeping again because I don't have the nerve pain going down my leg. I don't have my leg twitching all over the place. I don't have these issues anymore."

Woods hasn't won since the 2013 Bridgestone Invitational, his 79th title on the PGA Tour that leaves him three short of tying Sam Snead's record. That might have been the last time he had reasonable health.

There were small signs of back pain a week later at the PGA Championship, and what followed were three surgeries and a stop-and-start schedule. Woods had his first back surgery, a microdiscectomy, a week before the 2014 Masters. Since then, there have been four occasions where he returned either from back surgery or from taking time off to let his injuries heal.

The fourth surgery was to fuse two discs in his lower

back. That was more about the quality of life than trying to win a golf tournament. The fact that Woods is even playing his holiday exhibition just over seven months after surgery, and six months after that embarrassing arrest, feels like a bonus. "I missed playing golf for fun," Woods said. "I hadn't done that in two years. I played nine holes here and 18 holes here, and then I have to take three days off because my back was killing me."

Woods returned from a 15-month layoff a year ago at the Hero World Challenge, and while he finished 15th in the 18-man field, he made 24 birdies, raising hopes. He never spoke of being in pain last year, or even at Torrey Pines in January. He then flew to Dubai and withdrew after a 77, citing back spasms. The difference this time, Woods said, is that he doesn't feel pain, and he thinks now

he can take on any shot. He said when he looks back on his performance last year in the Bahamas, it seems as though he were in slow motion. "I didn't realize how bad my back had become and how much I was flinching and just how slow I was," he said. "I didn't realize it because it's been a slow, degrading process. I thought I had some speed, thought I was playing halfway decent, shot some good scores, but now I've looked back on it and man, I didn't even have much at all."

He's not sure what he has now. The tournament starts Thursday. It will be the first time since Feb. 3 in Dubai that Woods has to count every shot. "I'm just looking forward to getting through these four rounds and having an understanding — a better understanding — of where I'm at," he said.

College Football

USC enjoys rare rest before Pac-12 title game rematch with Stanford

By DAN GREENSPAN
Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — While the Pac-12 North was being decided in Seattle, Pac-12 South champion Southern California was enjoying an overdue day off.

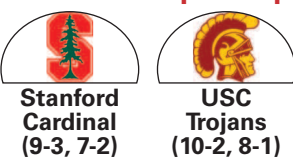
Tight end Tyler Petite went to the Bay Area to see his girlfriend. Tight end Daniel Imatorbhebhe watched rivalry games play out across the country.

Quarterback Sam Darnold was flipping back and forth between Notre Dame-Stanford and the Apple Cup, where Washington's 41-14 win over Washington State gave the 14th-ranked Cardinal the division title and a spot in the Pac-12 championship game Friday night against the rested 11th-ranked Trojans.

USC will be the first team from a Power 5 conference to play in a conference championship game after a bye week since Oklahoma and Auburn in 2004.

It wasn't intentional. The Pac-12 has to accommodate USC and Stanford's rivalry

Pac-12 Championship



Stanford Cardinal (9-3, 7-2)
USC Trojans (10-2, 8-1)
Friday, 5 p.m. (ESPN)
at Levi's Stadium

games against the Fighting Irish and a nine-game conference schedule. But it could have created a problem if the Cougars had won the Pac-12 North since Washington State would have lost a day of preparation traveling to Santa Clara, California, and exacerbated the disparity.

The Cardinal only have a short bus ride to Levi's Stadium to worry about, and Stanford head coach David Shaw has no issues facing a recharged USC team.

"If anybody in the country deserved it, it's them. I mean, going 12 straight weeks without a bye, especially in this conference playing nine conference games and Notre Dame, it's brutal," Shaw said.

USC spent much of the season hindered by injuries,



AP Photo/Carlos Osorio, File

In this Oct. 21, 2017, file photo, Southern California quarterback Sam Darnold scrambles during the second half of a game against Notre Dame, in South Bend, Ind.

but its break came when the team is largely healthy.

Outside linebacker Porter Gustin (toe) will not play in the Pac-12 title game, USC head coach Clay Helton said, but the rest of the roster is good to go. Gustin missed eight of USC's last 10 games after he was injured against Stanford on Sept. 9 and has a "better opportunity" to play in a bowl game, Helton said. For Petite, the bye week gave him more time to

recover from a shoulder injury. Imatorbhebhe was happy to set aside the mental grind of the game for a few days.

"Just got to rest," Imatorbhebhe said. "It was awesome. My mind needed it as well as my body, so it was cool."

But the time in front of the television reminded USC how difficult it will be to beat Stanford twice in the same season. Three turnovers in

the fourth quarter allowed Stanford to pull away from the Fighting Irish for a 38-20 win. Darnold stopped watching early in the second half to get dinner and was initially surprised by the late separation.

"My dad texted me the final score and I was just like, 'Whoa.' So I went back and watched the highlights and they were just really physical. We're preparing really hard for that type of game and it's going to be really fun," Darnold said.

Darnold's two interceptions were the only significant mistakes on offense in a 42-24 win over Stanford as USC ran for 307 yards and threw for 316 yards.

Petite believes the passing offense is better than it was in the second week of the season because of the development of receivers Tyler Vaughns and Michael Pittman Jr. Neither the redshirt freshman Vaughns nor the sophomore Pittman caught a pass against Stanford, but are now reliable options. "With the receivers kind

of coming into their own, Tyler really stepping up and Pitt really stepping into his role, too, and just gaining Sam's trust, I think that was the biggest thing," Petite said.

They should free up Deontay Burnett, who had nine receptions for 121 yards and two touchdowns in the first meeting at the Coliseum. However, Stanford is allowing an average of 195.25 yards passing over its last eight games, intercepting 12 passes while giving up seven touchdown passes.

Stanford had won three straight in the series, including a 41-22 triumph in the 2015 Pac-12 title game, prior to this season. Bye or no bye, USC has not forgotten those losses.

"We would have been excited to play Wazzu or Washington, too, but we do have an extensive history against these guys. They beat us three times in a row and that score's not really settled, so I know we are really fired up to go and compete against them again," Imatorbhebhe said.

FAAETEETE: Bulldog players overwhelmingly thankful for their head coach

Continued from 1B

His Bulldogs responded the following year by going .500, finishing 5-5, also ending the 2016 season in the first round (a 12-7 loss to St. Helens). All the while the team was working out some kinks. Senior offensive lineman Beau Blake attributes some of the team's difficulties to the attitude even he admits he had.

There was some division, he shared the week leading

up to the state championship game, that didn't allow the team to play to their full potential. That's where Faeteete comes in.

The 2017 season proved to be different, in many ways.

Hermiston was preparing to play its last season as a member of the OSAA, as it will be joining the WIAA starting with the 2018-19 school year. The Bulldogs no longer had a first-year starting quarterback at the

helm, and the talent of the roster grew exponentially from efforts in the weight room.

The goal remained the same: to get to the state championship game and raise the first place trophy after 48 minutes of play.

But there was a different feeling in the air. Just ask Blake.

"He's gotten better and it comes more natural to him," Blake said of what he's seen from Faeteete over the last

three years. "When he first started out you could tell that he had a lot of stress but now it's all natural to him and he's getting into his groove — his coaching groove."

"He's a positive energy," Blake added. "He's always wanting you to do better, and he always tries to pick you up. He's so knowledgeable about stuff and he's been able to make a great team out of his energy and his coaching staff. It's amazing what he's done."

That groove helped, as the Bulldogs wrapped up their best season under Faeteete.

And as far as his players go, they have nothing but praise for their coach.

"I want to thank him," Blake said. "He is the best, I love him to death. He's so great. I just want to thank him for all he has done. He's helped me so much, he's helped this whole team and this program and I'm very proud of him for all he's

done."

Said fellow senior Joey Gutierrez: "Thank you for pushing us and never letting us get down on ourselves, all those hard hours even though it sucked, it finally payed off and just hats off to him for keeping us all together and getting us here."

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SCOREBOARD

Local slate

PREP BOYS BASKETBALL

Wednesday
Pendleton at Baker, 7:00 p.m.
Riverside at White Salmon (WA), 7:00 p.m.

Thursday
Irrigon at Stanfield, 7:30 p.m.
Touchet (WA) at Griswold, 7:30 p.m.

Friday
Stanfield vs. TBD, Sherman Tournament, TBD
Umatilla vs. TBD, Vernonia Tournament, 1:30 p.m.
Riversdale vs. Umatilla, Vernonia Tournament, 4:30 p.m.
Grant Union vs. Culver, Sherman Tournament, 4:30 p.m.
Pilot Rock at Echo, 4:30 p.m.
Irrigon at Weston-McEwen, 4:30 p.m.
College Place (WA) at Riverside, 5:00 p.m.

Mountain View vs. Hermiston, Wilsonville Invitational, 5:30 p.m.
Eagle Point vs. Pendleton, Wilsonville Invitational, 7:00 p.m.
Enterprise at Ione, 7:30 p.m.

Saturday
TBD vs. Pendleton, Wilsonville Invitational, TBD
TBD vs. Hermiston, Wilsonville Invitational, TBD
Riversdale at TBD, McLoughlin Tournament, TBD
Heppner vs. TBD, Beau Classic, TBD
Irrigon vs. TBD, Ione Basketball Bonanza, 1:00 p.m.
TBD at Ione, Ione Basketball Bonanza, 2:30 p.m.
Echo at Condon/Wheeler, 3:30 p.m.
Umatilla vs. TBD, Vernonia Tournament, 5:30 p.m.

PREP GIRLS BASKETBALL

Wednesday
Baker at Pendleton, 7:00 p.m.

Thursday
Irrigon at Stanfield, 6:00 p.m.
Touchet (WA) at Griswold, 6:00 p.m.

Friday
Sherman at Stanfield, TBD
TBD vs. Griswold, McLoughlin Tournament, TBD
Weston-McEwen at Irrigon, 3:00 p.m.
Umatilla at Riverside, 3:00 p.m.
Pilot Rock at Echo, 3:00 p.m.
College Place (WA) at Riverside, 3:30 p.m.

Heppner at Chemawa, 4:30 p.m.
Enterprise at Ione, 6:00 p.m.
Griswold at McLoughlin, 6:30 p.m.
Wilsonville at Hermiston, 7:00 p.m.

Saturday
TBD vs. McLoughlin, Mac-Hi Tournament, TBD
Riverside vs. TBD, Mac-Hi Tournament, TBD
TBD vs. Griswold, Mac-Hi Tournament, TBD
Umatilla vs. TBD, Vernonia Tournament, TBD
Heppner vs. TBD, Beau Classic Tourney, TBD
Stanfield vs. TBD, Sherman Tournament, TBD
TBD vs. Irrigon, Ione Basketball Bonanza, 1:00 p.m.
Summit at Pendleton, 2:30 p.m.
Leviston (ID) at Hermiston, 5:45 p.m.
Riversdale vs. TBD, Vernonia Tournament, 7:00 p.m.
TBD at Weston-McEwen, Ione Tournament, 7:00 p.m.

COLLEGE VOLLEYBALL

Wednesday
EOU vs. Our Lady of the Lake (Texas), NAIA National Championships in Sioux City, Iowa, 3 p.m.

Thursday
EOU vs. Viterbo (Wis.), NAIA National Championships in Sioux City, Iowa, 3 p.m.

COLLEGE WRESTLING

Friday
EOU, Battle of the Rockies in Grant Falls, Mont., TBD

Saturday
EOU, Battle of the Rockies in Grant Falls, Mont., TBD

COLLEGE MEN'S BASKETBALL

Friday
BMCC at the Walla Walla Classic in Walla Walla, Wash., TBD

Saturday
BMCC at the Walla Walla Classic in Walla Walla, Wash., TBD
EOU at Southern Oregon, 6 p.m.

Sunday
BMCC at Clackamas CC, 1 p.m.

COLLEGE WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Friday
BMCC at Linn-Benton CC, 6 p.m.

Saturday
BMCC at Portland CC, 2 p.m.
EOU at Southern Oregon, 4 p.m.

Football

NFL

Week 13 Schedule

Thursday
Washington at Dallas, 5:25 p.m.

Sunday
Tampa Bay at Green Bay, 10 a.m.
Minnesota at Atlanta, 10 a.m.
San Francisco at Chicago, 10 a.m.
Detroit at Baltimore, 10 a.m.
Denver at Miami, 10 a.m.
Indianapolis at Jacksonville, 10 a.m.
Houston at Tennessee, 10 a.m.
Kansas City at N.Y. Jets, 10 a.m.
New England at Buffalo, 10 a.m.
Cleveland at L.A. Chargers, 1:05 p.m.
Carolina at New Orleans, 1:25 p.m.
L.A. Rams at Arizona, 1:25 p.m.
N.Y. Giants at Oakland, 1:25 p.m.
Philadelphia at Seattle, 5:30 p.m.

Monday
Pittsburgh at Cincinnati, 5:30 p.m.

NCAA

Week 13 Top 25 Results

No. 6 Auburn 26, No. 1 Alabama 14
No. 3 Clemson 34, No. 24 South Carolina 10
No. 4 Oklahoma 59, West Virginia 31
No. 5 Wisconsin 31, Minnesota 0
No. 7 Georgia 38, Georgia Tech 7
No. 21 Stanford 48, No. 8 Notre Dame 20
No. 9 Ohio State 31, Michigan 20
No. 10 Penn State 66, Maryland 30
No. 17 Washington 41, No. 13 Washington State 14
No. 16 Michigan State 40, Rutgers 7
No. 18 LSU 45, Texas A&M 21
No. 19 Oklahoma State 58, Kansas 17
No. 20 Memphis 70, East Carolina 13
No. 22 Northwestern 42, Illinois 7
Fresno State 28, No. 23 Boise State 17

Top 25 Schedule

Friday
No. 14 Stanford at No. 11 USC, 5 p.m. (ESPN)
No. 16 Memphis at No. 12 UCF, 9 a.m. (ABC)
No. 10 TCU at No. 2 Oklahoma, 9:30 a.m. (FOX)
No. 6 Georgia at No. 4 Auburn, 1 p.m. (CBS)
No. 7 Miami at No. 1 Clemson, 5 p.m. (ABC)
No. 8 Ohio State at No. 3 Wisconsin, 5 p.m. (FOX)

Pac-12 Schedule

Friday
No. 12 Stanford at No. 11 USC, 5 p.m. (ESPN)

Hockey

NHL

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA	
Tampa Bay	24	17	5	2	36	88	62
Toronto	26	16	9	1	33	92	78
Detroit	25	10	10	5	25	70	74

Boston	22	10	8	4	24	60	66
Montreal	25	10	12	3	23	60	81
Ottawa	22	8	8	6	22	67	74
Florida	24	10	12	2	22	72	83
Buffalo	25	6	15	4	16	55	85

Metropolitan Division

GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA	
Columbus	25	16	8	1	33	72	60
N.Y. Islanders	24	15	7	2	32	89	76
New Jersey	24	14	6	4	32	78	74
Washington	25	14	10	1	29	74	75
Pittsburgh	26	13	10	3	29	74	90
N.Y. Rangers	25	13	10	2	28	72	70
Carolina	23	10	8	5	25	68	70
Philadelphia	25	8	10	7	23	70	78

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Central Division

GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA	
St. Louis	24	17	6	1	35	84	63
Nashville	24	15	6	3	33	76	68
Winnipeg	24	15	6	3	33	80	64
Chicago	24	12	9	3	27	76	83
Dallas	23	12	10	1	25	67	69
Minnesota	24	11	10	3	25	72	74
Colorado	22	11	9	2	24	73	71

Pacific Division

GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA	
Vegas	22	15	6	1	31	81	66
Los Angeles	25	14	8	3	31	73	57
San Jose	23	13	8	2	28	81	51
Calgary	24	13	10	1	27	70	76
Vancouver	25	11	10	4	26	68	73
Anaheim	24	10	10	4	24	65	73
Edmonton	25	10	13	2	22	67	81
Arizona	27	6	17	4	16	66	98

Tuesday's Games

Tampa Bay 2, Buffalo 0
N.Y. Islanders 5, Vancouver 2
Columbus 3, Carolina 2, SO
Florida 5, N.Y. Rangers 4
San Jose 3, Philadelphia 1
Los Angeles 4, Detroit 1
Chicago 3, Nashville 2
Edmonton 3, Arizona 2, OT
Dallas at Vegas, late finish

Wednesday's Games

Tampa Bay at Montreal, 4:30 p.m.
Tampa Bay at Boston, 4:30 p.m.
Anaheim at St. Louis, 6 p.m.
Winnipeg at Colorado, 6:30 p.m.

New York	10	10	500	7
Brooklyn	7	13	350	10

Southeast Division

W	L	Pct	GB	
Washington	11	9	550	—
Miami	10	10	500	1
Charlotte	8	11	421	2½
Orlando	8	13	361	3½
Atlanta	4	16	200	7

Central Division

W	L	Pct	GB	
Detroit	13	6	684	—
Cleveland	14	7	667	—
Indiana	12	9	571	2
Milwaukee	9	9	500	3½
Chicago	3	16	158	10

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Southwest Division

W	L	Pct	GB	
Houston	16	4	800	—
San Antonio	13	7	650	3
New Orleans	11	9	550	5
Memphis	7	12	368	8½
Dallas	5	16	238	11½

Northwest Division

W	L	Pct	GB	
Portland	13	8	679	—
Denver	11	8	519	1
Minnesota	12	9	571	1
Utah	9	11	450	3½
Oklahoma City	8	11	421	4

Pacific Division

W	L	Pct	GB	
Golden State	15	6	714	—
L.A. Clippers	8	11	421	6
L.A. Lakers	8	12	400	6½
Phoenix	8	14	364	7½
Sacramento	6	14	300	8½

Tuesday's Games

Cleveland 108, Miami 99
Phoenix 104, Chicago 97
Washington 92, Minnesota 89
Utah 106, Denver 77
Milwaukee 112, Sacramento 87

Wednesday's Games

Oklahoma City at Orlando, 4 p.m.
Phoenix at Detroit, 4 p.m.
Washington at Philadelphia, 4 p.m.
Charlotte at Toronto, 4:30 p.m.
Miami at New York, 4:30 p.m.
Indiana at Houston, 5 p.m.
Minnesota at New Orleans, 5 p.m.
Brooklyn at Dallas, 5:30 p.m.
Memphis at San Antonio, 5:30 p.m.
Golden State at L.A. Lakers, 7:30 p.m.

No. 8 Wichita State 112, Savannah State 66
Purdue 66, No. 17 Louisville 57

Wednesday
Pennsylvania at No. 4 Villanova, 4 p.m. (FS2)
Michigan at No. 13 North Carolina, 4:30 p.m. (ESPN)
Louisiana Tech at No. 24 Alabama, 5 p.m.
Incarnate Word at No. 15 Gonzaga, 6 p.m.
Belmont at No. 23 TCU, 6 p.m.
No. 10 Miami at No. 12 Minnesota, 6:15 p.m. (ESPN2)
No. 1 Duke at Indiana, 6:30 p.m. (ESPN)

Women's Basketball

Top 25 Tuesday

No. 23 Marquette 92, Loyola-Chicago 30
No. 18 Texas A&M 98, Prairie View A&M 70

No. 1 Connecticut at Nevada, 6 p.m. (CBSN)
No. 10 Oregon 87, Hampton 45
UC Riverside at No. 7 UCLA, 7 p.m.

Wednesday
No. 25 Villanova at Princeton, 2:30 p.m.
No. 13 Maryland at No. 22 Michigan, 3 p.m.
No. 15 Notre Dame at Virginia, 4 p.m.
Louisiana at No. 6 Mississippi State, 5 p.m.
No. 13 Florida State at Iowa, 5 p.m.
Rice at No. 18 Texas A&M, 5 p.m.
No. 16 Stanford at San Francisco, 7 p.m.

Soccer

MLS Playoffs

Conference Championships

Eastern Conference
Tuesday: Toronto 0, Columbus 0
Nov. 29: Columbus at Toronto, 4:30 p.m.

Western Conference
Tuesday: Seattle 2, Houston 0
Nov. 30: Houston at Seattle, 7:30 p.m.

MLS CU
Dec. 9: at highest seed, 1 p.m.

Golf

PGA Tour

HERO WORLD CHALLENGE
Site: Nassau, Bahamas
Course: Albany GC. Yardage: 7,267. Par: 72
Purse: \$3.5 million (Winner's share: \$1 million)

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