

## PGA Championship

## AGELESS WONDER

*What will Phil do next: Mickelson becomes oldest major champ*

BY DOUG FERGUSON  
AP Golf Writer

**K**IAWAH ISLAND, S.C. — The pandemonium closed in around Phil Mickelson as he walked toward the 18th green at Kiawah Island, where thousands upon thousands of euphoric fans wanted a piece of the history he delivered Sunday in the PGA Championship.

For all the thrills and spills that have defined his 30 years of pure theater, his latest act gave Mickelson his own place in the game.

A major champion at age 50, the oldest in the 161 years of major championship golf.

That final walk toward a two-shot victory was as much stress as he faced over the final hour, and it was a bit scary until Mickelson emerged out of the masses and flashed a thumbs-up.

"Slightly unnerving," Mickelson said, "but exceptionally awesome."

Just like his game.

Mickelson never thought he was too old to win again, much less a major. He just didn't have much evidence on his side until a remarkable four days at Kiawah Island where he kept his nerve and delivered all the right shots for his sixth major, and by far the most surprising,



Matt York/AP

Phil Mickelson makes his way through fans on the 18th fairway during the final round at the PGA Championship golf tournament on the Ocean Course Sunday in Kiawah Island, South Carolina.

He made two early birdies with that magical wedge game that never left him, and then let a cast of challengers fall too far behind to catching him in the shifting wind off the Atlantic.

Mickelson closed with a 1-over 73 to win by two over Brooks Koepka and Louis Oosthuizen.

"One of the moments I'll cherish my entire life," Mickelson said. "I don't know how to describe the feeling of excitement and fulfillment

and accomplishment to do something of this magnitude when very few people thought that I could."

That list didn't include Mickelson. Never mind that he had not won in more than two years, had not registered a top 20 in nearly nine months and last won a major in 2013 at the British Open.

See PGA / A6



Phil Mickelson celebrates after winning the final round at the PGA Championship golf tournament on the Ocean Course, Sunday in Kiawah Island, South Carolina.

David J. Phillip/AP

## TOKYO OLYMPICS

## With two month before the Games, Japan opens mass vaccination centers

BY MARI YAMAGUCHI  
Associated Press

**TOKYO** — Japan mobilized military doctors and nurses to give shots to elderly people in Tokyo and Osaka on Monday as the government desperately tries to accelerate its vaccination rollout and curb coronavirus infections just two months before hosting the Olympics.

Prime Minister Yoshihide Suga is determined to hold the Olympics in Tokyo after a one-year delay and has made an ambitious pledge to finish vaccinating the country's 36 million elderly people by the end of July, despite skepticism it's possible. Worries about public safety while many Japanese remain unvaccinated have prompted growing protests and calls for canceling the Games set to start on July 23.

Suga's government has repeatedly expanded the area and duration of a virus state of emergency since late April and has made its virus-fighting measures



Carl Court/pool, Getty Images

A medical staff prepares the Moderna coronavirus vaccine for use at the newly-opened mass vaccination center in Tokyo Monday.

stricter. Currently, Tokyo and 9 other areas that are home to 40% of the country's population are under the emergency and further extension is deemed unavoidable.

With COVID-19 cases still persistently high, Suga now says vaccines

are key to getting the infections under control. He has not made vaccinations conditional to holding the Olympics and has arranged for Pfizer to donate its vaccine for athletes through the International Olympic Committee, while trying to speed up Japan's inoculation drive as anti-Olympic sentiment grows.

At the two mass inoculation centers staffed by Japan's Self-Defense Forces, the aim is to inoculate up to 10,000 people per day in Tokyo and another 5,000 per day in Osaka for the next three months.

People inoculated at the centers on Monday were the first in Japan to receive doses from Moderna Inc., one of two foreign-developed vaccines Japan approved on Friday.

Previously Japan had used only Pfizer Inc., and only about 2% of the population of 126 million has received the required two doses.

Japan began vaccinating health care workers in mid-February while stick-

ing to a standard requirement of clinical testing inside Japan — a decision many experts said was statistically meaningless and only caused delay.

Vaccinations for the next group — the elderly, who are more likely to suffer serious COVID-19 effects — started in mid-April but has been slowed by bureaucratic bumbling including reservation procedures, unclear distribution plans and shortage of medical staff to give shots.

Completion of Japan-developed vaccines is still uncertain, but Japanese government officials hope the approvals Friday of Moderna and AstraZeneca will help speed up the rollout.

"Speeding up the rollout makes us feel safer because it affects our social life and the economy," said Munemitsu Watanabe, 71-year-old office worker who got his first shot at the Tokyo center. "If 80-90% of the population gets vaccinated, I think we can hold the Olympics smoothly."

## GOLF

## Oregon women advance in Arizona

The Oregon women's golf team fell one spot Sunday to 10th place in the NCAA Championships in Scottsdale, Arizona, but comfortably advanced to Monday's stroke play round.

The Ducks shot a 5-over 293 on Sunday, seven shots better than its second round Saturday. Oregon is at 19-over 883 for the tournament.

The 24-team field at Grayhawk Golf Club was cut to the top 15 teams and the top nine individuals not on an advancing team after Sunday. The final 18 holes of stroke play will be Monday, determining the top eight teams that will advance to Tuesday's match play quarterfinals as well as the 72-hole individual champion.

Stanford shot an 11-under 277 Sunday to comfortably lead the team race over Duke, Oklahoma State and Texas. Arizona is in ninth place. UCLA was tied with Michigan for the 15th and final team spot for Monday through nine holes Sunday.

Briana Chacon continues to lead the way for Oregon. She shot a 1-over 73 Sunday and is tied for 10th individually at even-par 216. Ching-Tzu Chen had the best round of the day for the Ducks with a 71 to move into a tie for 24th at 3-over 219.

Hsin-Yu Lu is tied for 57th at 223, Sofie Kibsgaard Nielsen is tied for 103rd at 229 and Tze-Han Lin is tied for 114th at 231.

Stanford's Rachel Heck is the individual leader at 10-under 206 after a 70 on Sunday. Teammate Angeline Ye is second at 211 after the best round of the day with a 65.

— The Register-Guard

## NASCAR

## Elliott wins rain-shortened race

**AUSTIN, Texas** — Chase Elliott managed the slipping and sliding, the standing water and the poor visibility that made it hard for drivers to see just a few feet in front of them.

And when NASCAR's debut at the Circuit of the Americas ended early because of poor racing conditions in the rain, Elliott had earned not just his first victory of the season, but also historic ones for Hendrick Motorsports and Chevrolet.

Elliott's Texas Grand Prix victory after 54 of the expected 68 laps was win No. 800 for Chevrolet and No. 268 for Hendrick Motorsports, which tied Petty Enterprises for most victories.

"I never thought we'd win this many races," said team owner Rick Hendrick, whose team had also earned win Nos. 400, 500, 600 and 700 for Chevrolet. He called it "an honor" to tie Petty.

"I'm so proud for Chevrolet," Hendrick said. "I've never raced anything but Chevrolet."

When pressed on what wins stand out over the years, Hendrick said, "It takes every one of those wins to get to the number we got to now. There's just so many. All of them are special."

Sunday's race will be notable for ending defending Cup champion Elliott's winless drought, and for putting the drivers through a soggy and occasionally muddy mess before it was ended under the second red flag of the afternoon as the rain only got worse.

— Associated Press