

GOLF

Cam Davis wins first PGA Tour title

Cam Davis of Australia won the Rocket Mortgage Classic on Sunday for his first PGA Tour title when Troy Merritt missed a 6-foot par putt on the fifth hole of a playoff.

Davis had putts to win on each of the five extra holes, one of them from 6 feet and a 12-foot birdie putt on the fifth play-off hole, the par-3 15th. He wound up winning when Merritt missed the green to the left and then missed his par put.

Davis closed with a 5-under 67 to match Merritt (68) and Joaquin Niemann (68) at 18-under 270 at Detroit Golf Club.

Niemann dropped out of the playoff with a bogey on the first extra hole, his first bogey of the week. He also lost in a playoff at the Sentry Tournament of Champions.

Davis holed a 50-foot bunker shot for eagle on the par-5 17th and birdied the par-4 18th to get to 18 under. Niemann two-putted from 14 feet for birdie on the 17th, while Merritt made his fourth birdie in five holes on the 17th to join Davis at 18 under.

Niemann had a chance to win it on the 72nd hole, but missed a 17-foot birdie putt.

Ko wins week after slipping from No. 1

Jin Young Ko closed with seven straight pars for a 2-under 69 and a one-shot victory in the Volunteers of America Classic, her first start since losing the No. 1 world ranking.

Ko made a par putt from just outside 3 feet on the final hole at Old American Golf Club to beat Matilda Castren of Finland, who also shot 69.

The South Korean star won for the first time this year, and the timing couldn't have been better. She had held the No. 1 ranking for nearly two years until Nelly Korda supplanted her last week by winning the KPMG Women's PGA Championship.

Ko had failed to finish in the top 10 in four of her previous five starts on the LPGA Tour. But not far from her American home of Dallas, she thrived. She finished at 16-under 268 for her eighth career LPGA victory. She remains at No. 2.

Gaby Lopez of Mexico closed with a 65, making her only bogey on the final hole. She finished alone in third, two shots behind.

— Associated Press

MOTOR SPORTS

Elliott starts new Hendrick streak

Even a start near the back of the pack couldn't prevent Chase Elliott from continuing his uncanny success on road courses.

Elliott started in the 34th position but still found a way to win the NASCAR Cup Series at Road America on Sunday to wrap up a playoff spot. The 25-year-old Hendrick Motorsports driver has seven career Cup Series victories on road courses, putting him in sole possession of third place in NASCAR history.

"I really have no idea," Elliott said about his success on road courses. "I feel like it's just good cars."

Elliott, the 2020 series champion, gave Hendrick Motorsports its seventh victory in its last eight Cup races.

— Associated Press

NBA

» **Chauncey Billups was introduced as the Portland Trail Blazers head coach on June 29.**

Sean Meagher/
The Oregonian file



'I think highly of the roster'

New coach Chauncey Billups expected to elevate Blazers

BY AARON FENTRESS • The Oregonian

Unless Neil Olshey can make a major roster splash this offseason, new Portland Trail Blazers coach Chauncey Billups could prove to be the most impactful addition to the team this offseason.



Sean Meagher/The Oregonian file

» **Jusuf Nurkic (left), CJ McCollum (center) and Damian Lillard (right) high-five at the Moda Center in May. Lillard has discussed the team's overall lack of accountability when it came to playing defense.**

Olshey, president of basketball operations, will have little if any cap space to work with, and attempts in the past to bring a major star to Portland via free agency or a trade have not succeeded.

So, in order for the Blazers to become a true contender, they likely will have to improve from within, and Olshey believes Billups is the man to make that happen.

"I think we made the right call, and I think you guys would be really excited to see how he leads the franchise on the court," Olshey said during Tuesday's announcement.

Here is a look at what Billups brings to the franchise:

Accountability on defense

"I think the biggest, I guess, improvement that we can make as a team is on the defensive end of the floor," Billups said.

To say the least.

The Blazers finished the season fourth in offensive rating (118.3) but 12th in net rating (1.7) because the defense sat at 29th (116.6).

Olshey made it known after the Blazers and former coach Terry Stotts parted ways on June 4 that the former coach's inability to turn around the defense played a factor in the split, and that any new coach would have to put forth a plan to repair the team's poor play at that end of the court.

Of course, adding schemes and becoming more versatile on defense will play a factor. But two areas desperately in need of an overhaul are the team's lack of commitment to playing sound defense and players being held accountable.

Guard Norman Powell, after being acquired in a trade with Toronto in late March, admitted that the Blazers didn't truly embrace playing defense like the Raptors did.

See **Blazers** / A6

OLYMPICS | SOFTBALL PREVIEW



Sue Ogrocki/AP file

USA Softball pitcher Cat Osterman pitches in an exhibition game against USSSA Pride in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, on June 4. U.S. coach Ken Eriksen predicts tight competition in softball as the sport returns to the Olympics for the first time since 2008. The 15-woman U.S. roster includes Osterman, the last holdover from the 2004 gold medal-winning team.

Americans on many teams as softball returns to Olympics

U.S. coach predicts tight competition

BY RONALD BLUM
AP Baseball Writer

Ken Eriksen predicts tight competition in softball as the sport returns to the Olympics.

"Over the last probably 16 years you've seen the world catch up in softball because of the opportunities that USA Softball provided in the teaching and the clinics overseas, but also the colleges started to recruit some really good athletes overseas and develop them," the U.S. coach said. "And then the rules have been relaxed in respect of do you have to be a 100% citizen, whatever that means, in quotations, of a country that's playing. And so we are going to be playing against a lot of citizens of the United States that happen to be on Italy, that happen to be of Mexico, that happen to be of Canada."

Seventeen of the 19 players currently on Mexico's roster are listed on the team's website as living in the United States.

Italy's roster includes second baseman Emily Carosone, born in Orlando, Florida.

Infielder Kelsey Harshman, who was born in Tucson, Arizona, is part of a Canada team filled with U.S. college veterans that include Joey Lye, who quit as Bucknell's coach to compete for the Olympic team.

"And so that's where those countries have caught up quite a bit," said Eriksen, the head coach since 2011 after nine years as an assistant. "Australia has a great developmental program and Japan, a very disciplined and structured organization. So this will be an Olympics unlike any other. I think everybody right now is not that farly separated as they used to be."

See **Softball** / A6

CYCLING | TOUR DE FRANCE



Christophe Ena/AP

Slovenia's Tadej Pogacar, wearing the overall leader's yellow jersey, celebrates on the podium after the eighth stage of the Tour de France cycling race.

Defending champ Pogacar keeps control; Roglic drops out

Associated Press

TIGNES, France — Defending champion Tadej Pogacar kept control of the Tour de France on a rain-soaked second day in the Alps as a crash-filled opening week took its toll on rivals on Sunday.

"I'm sure a lot of guys suffered today," said Pogacar, who retained the race leader's yellow jersey by responding when required in the ninth stage.

Both last year's runner-up Primoz Roglic and former

overall leader Mathieu van der Poel dropped out of the race before the grueling 144.9-kilometer (90-mile) route from Cluses to Tignes.

Australian rider Ben O'Connor won the stage after launching a solo break with 17 kilometers to go. Sergio Higuita was unable to follow the 25-year-old as O'Connor powered up the Col du Pré for the finish at Tignes.

O'Connor struggled to fight back tears after his first tour win.

See **Tour** / A6