



DYNAMIC DEFENDER. Caprice Dydasco of the Washington Spirit dribbles the ball during a 2016 National Women's Soccer League (NWSL) match. Dydasco and the Spirit defeated the Chicago Red Stars to reach the NWSL championship game, but lost that match to the Western New York Flash on penalty kicks after 120 minutes of play ended in a 2-2 draw. (Photo/Chris Colvin, courtesy of the Washington Spirit)

NWSL final featured stalwart Asian fullbacks

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ball, and Williams surged higher than the other players, heading in the tying goal.

Neither team scored in the handful of seconds left, leading to the first penalty-kick shootout in NWSL championship history. The Flash took the lead in the first round when Abby Dahlkemper slotted home her shot and D'Angelo stopped Krieger's attempt. Both teams traded goals in the next round. Then Washington evened the score when McDonald's shot sailed over the crossbar and Katie Stengel finished her opportunity.

The Flash again took the lead when Williams made her shot and D'Angelo saved another. Mewis could not seal the

win on her opportunity when Wys made her only save of the shootout, but D'Angelo had her teammate's back. Diana Matheson tried to beat D'Angelo on the right side of the goal, but the keeper turned away Matheson's shot to give Western New York the championship.

In the game of soccer, every member makes vital, if invisible, contributions to the final outcome. Nowhere is this more apparent than on defense, where fullbacks can break up scoring opportunities or feed midfielders who go on to log an assist or a goal. Both Erceg and Dydasco were essential team contributors, and each is expected to continue to add to their team's success during the NWSL's fifth season.

Golf's landscape has new look as PGA Tour heads to Asia

By Doug Ferguson
AP Golf Writer

SHANGHAI — To get a sense of how much the landscape in golf is changing, consider the Professional Golfers' Association (PGA) Tour schedule next year. The Asia swing in October will have as many tournaments as the Florida swing in March.

Perhaps this illustrates the suspicions seven years ago when PGA Tour commissioner Tim Finchem held a news conference on the final day of the HSBC Champions and whispers filled the room that it was the start of an "Asian invasion."

That was the first year the HSBC Champions, billed as "Asia's major," became a World Golf Championship (WGC).

The PGA Tour added the CIMB Classic in Malaysia the following year. Justin Thomas won the seventh edition at Kuala Lumpur this year, and the next day the tour announced it had a 10-year deal with South Korean conglomerate CJ Corp. to sponsor an event in South Korea starting in 2017 that offers \$9.25 million in prize money. Only the four majors, The Players Championship, and the World Golf Championships have higher purses.

Two days later, the PGA Tour celebrated the opening of a new Asian office in Tokyo.

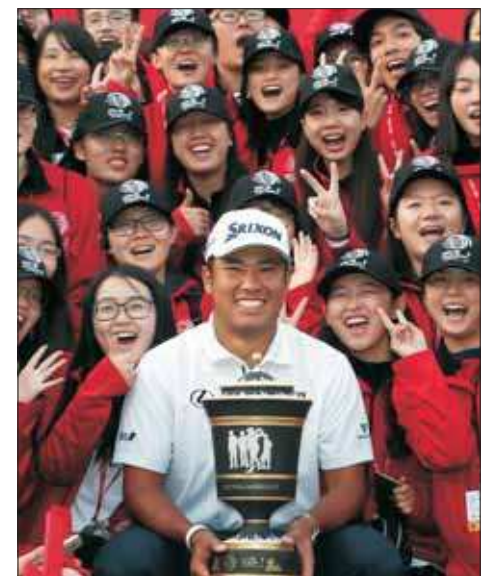
The PGA Tour Champions is going to Japan next year, though any regular PGA Tour event is not on the immediate horizon. Japan is hosting the Olympics in 2020. Any tournament beyond that likely would start with the World Cup and the Presidents Cup.

A week's worth of Asian developments got the attention of the players. They now have the option of playing for \$26 million over three straight weeks, although those tournaments are halfway around the world.

"It just seems like we should play at home, but I'm not sure where the tour is trying to go," said Kevin Kisner when asked about the new tournament in South Korea. "Obviously, they want to make it more of a world tour, which is great. We're playing for \$9.25 million, but not all of us want to get on a plane and fly over there and play for it.

"I'd rather have a \$9.25 million purse in Aiken, South Carolina," he said with a wry smile because he lives off the 17th hole at Palmetto Golf Club. "The economy is not growing fast enough in the U.S. to keep asking people to throw money at us."

The Ladies Professional Golf Association (LPGA) Tour, ahead of the curve by



PGA HEADS EAST. Japan's Hideki Matsuyama poses with spectator ushers for a group photo after winning the 2016 WGC-HSBC Champions golf tournament at Sheshan International Golf Club in Shanghai, China, on October 30, 2016. The landscape in golf is changing, as witnessed by the Professional Golfers' Association (PGA) Tour schedule next year, which has an Asia swing in October that will have as many tournaments as the Florida swing in March. (AP Photo/Ng Han Guan)

necessity, just wrapped up a six-tournament swing through Asia.

The PGA Tour is not headed down that road, not yet and perhaps not ever. The tour showed its strength when it remained fully sponsored domestically through the 2008 recession. The presence in Asia simply is recognizing where the growth is, and the tour would be foolish to ignore that.

Japan is the second-largest golf market in the world. Paul Johnson, who heads up international affairs for the PGA Tour, said it has 14 sponsors that have significant business in Japan, and so a Tokyo office makes sense.

Tournaments are one piece of the puzzle, and Johnson said events outside the country "energize our fan base."

"As sponsors globalize, we want to be in a position to work with them," Johnson said. "There is a broader strategy that says we need to build our business outside the U.S. If you want to drive business, you have to be in the marketplace."

No one is making players travel to Asia in October, especially after an Olympic year when three majors were crammed into a seven-week window ahead of the Rio Games.

Among those who chose to sit out the HSBC Champions without injury or illness were Jordan Spieth, Phil Mickelson, Jim Furyk, and Zach Johnson. All have a history of being willing to travel except for Johnson, who hasn't played overseas (excluding the British Open and a Ryder Cup or Presidents Cup) in a decade. Spieth, for example, is soon returning to the Australian Open.

However, players might feel a need to go to Asia so they don't fall too far behind at the start of the season. Having three events makes it easier to play in two of them, particularly if they aren't eligible for the HSBC Champions.

"Over here is great," Ryan Moore said. "It's good exposure for golf, it's good exposure for the PGA Tour. I've won twice in Asia (both times in Malaysia). I've had success, so maybe I'm the wrong person to ask."

Meanwhile, the Florida swing in March will have only three PGA Tour events next year because the World Golf Championship at Doral has moved to Mexico City. It will be the first time that two WGCs are held outside the United States since the series began in 1999.

Times are changing.

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1								8
			1			3	5	
	6				2		9	
6				4				
	4	7	2	6	5			
		8						7
7	5				8			
3	4			9				
8								2

Difficulty level: Hard #18135

Solution to last issue's puzzle

Puzzle #71594 (Medium)

All solutions available at <www.sudoku.com>.

2	7	1	6	3	5	4	9	8
4	6	5	1	8	9	2	3	7
9	3	8	7	2	4	5	1	6
8	9	3	4	7	1	6	5	2
1	4	6	9	5	2	8	7	3
7	5	2	3	6	8	9	4	1
3	2	9	5	1	6	7	8	4
5	8	7	2	4	3	1	6	9
6	1	4	8	9	7	3	2	5

Khmer Rouge premier dies at 80

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He died in late October of an illness at his hometown in southern Takeo province.

In late 1981, Pen Sovann was removed from power by the Vietnamese in an ouster triggered by his calls for the withdrawal of the country's forces from Cambodia. He was imprisoned for 10 years in Hanoi.

Sri Lanka cracks down on owners of elephants taken from wild

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possible."

The government is planning to set up its own pool of captive animals to be hired out to temples for ceremonies.

"We have to create a pool of elephants" for processions, said Perera, the wildlife minister. "We are creating a process now for how to issue permits, how to release some of the elephant babies" to temples for their upkeep and use in processions.

Under the plan, some would be kept in a so-called elephant orphanage. But some would go to families or temples that are financially capable of feeding and caring for them.

Some elephant owners say those who claim mistreatment are acting

on western notions of conservation and animal welfare.

"Elephants living with us do better than the animals in the wild," said Harsha Dharmawijaya, whose family has kept at least one elephant for 96 years. "We scrub their bodies and bathe them, feed them, and treat their illnesses. ... In a way this is a noble act."

Some critics, however, note that Buddhism is a faith that preaches compassion for nature.

"If the Buddha was alive, would he condone what's going on? I don't think he would," said Sumith Pilapitiya, a former World Bank environmental specialist who argued that the government should focus on the welfare of the animals rather than religious norms.

"In the name of Buddhism ... we are ill-treating animals," he said.

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