



SPORTS

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Friday, July 18, 2008

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OHIO VALLEY REGIONAL

Thursday's Games

16-and-under
 Game 1 — Prairie Village (Louisville, Ky.) 15, Wisconsin Rapids 0
 Game 2 — Wausau, Wis. 9, vs. Spencer County, Ky. 1
 Game 3 — Barron County, Ky., vs. Marinette, postponed
 Game 4 — Prairie Village 4, Harrison County (Granger, Ind.) 0, 4th inning, postponed

14-and-under

Game 1 — Wisconsin Rapids 14, New Washington, Ind. 2
 Game 2 — Wausau, Wis. 2, Prairie Village (Louisville, Ky.) 0
 Game 3 — Barron County, Ky., vs. Marinette, postponed
 Game 4 — Wisconsin Rapids 1, Angola, Ind. 0, 4th inning, postponed

Today's Games

16-and-under
 Game 4 — Prairie Village vs. Harrison County (completion of Thursday's game), 9 a.m.
 Game 3 — Barron County, Ky., vs. Marinette, 10 a.m.
 Game 5 — Game 2 winner vs. Game 3 winner, 11:45 a.m.
 Game 6 — Spencer County vs. Game 3 loser, 1:30 p.m.
 Game 7 — Wisconsin Rapids vs. Game 5 loser, 3:15 p.m.
 Game 8 — Game 4 loser vs. Game 6 winner, 5 p.m.

14-and-under

Game 4 — Wisconsin Rapids vs. Angola (completion of Thursday's game), 9 a.m.
 Game 3 — Barron County vs. Marinette, 10 a.m.
 Game 5 — Game 2 winner vs. Game 3 winner, 11:45 a.m.
 Game 6 — Prairie Village vs. Game 3 loser, 1:30 p.m.
 Game 7 — New Washington vs. Game 5 loser, 3:15 p.m.
 Game 8 — Game 4 loser vs. Game 6 winner, 5 p.m.

Saturday's Games

16-and-under
 Game 9 — Game 4 winner vs. Game 5 winner, 11 a.m.
 Game 10 — Game 7 winner vs. Game 8 winner, 1 p.m.
 Game 11 — Game 9 loser vs. Game 10 winner, 3 p.m.

14-and-under

Game 9 — Game 4 winner vs. Game 5 winner, 11 a.m.
 Game 10 — Game 7 winner vs. Game 8 winner, 1 p.m.
 Game 11 — Game 9 loser vs. Game 10 winner, 3 p.m.



EagleHerald/Jody Korch

Thursday's downpour created a lake on Scott Field, washed out games and forced the cancellation of opening ceremonies for the Ohio Valley Regional fastpitch softball tournament. (Color reprints: www.ehextra.com)

Some things never change

Syd's still the one to beat in UPLGA Championship

By TOM KAESER

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MENOMINEE — Syd Wells won her first Upper Peninsula Ladies Golf Association title when Ronald Reagan was just beginning his first term in office and Tiger Woods was wowing crowds as a toddler. Since beating Flossie Strong of Ontonagon in the 1981 tournament at the Little River Country Club, Wells has dominated the U.P. tournament with seven more titles, including last year's victory at Pine Grove.

Wells will be the favorite when the UPLGA Championship tees off at 9 a.m. Sunday at Riverside Country Club.

The Riverside Country Club golfer has hoisted the trophy at Sault Ste. Marie (1988), Terrace Bluff (Gladstone, 1999), Wawonowin (Ishpeming, 2000), Highland (Hyde, 2001), Little River (1981, 2002), Marquette Country Club (2003) and North Shore (2004).

Ironically, the Wisconsin Women's Amateur Player of the Year has never competed in the U.P. championship on her home course.

With a field of just 60 golfers teeing off in Sunday's qualifying round and some of the U.P.'s top golfers passing up the event this year, that blank space on Wells' victory tour may be filled when the championship winds up Wednesday afternoon.

"With match play, you never know," Wells said cautiously. "I've been up and down this year. It's tough doing it without Mike Miller (former Riverside golf pro). I've been hitting pretty good in stroke play."

Wells, who is on the tournament committee, noted that Riverside has gone out of its way to recruit players for the tournament.

"When we mentioned we were going to start on Sunday, everyone thought it was a great idea," she explained. "Some people have conflicts and others have problems with gas (prices)."

Wells finished just three strokes shy of making the cut in the U.S. Women's Publiclix Championship at Erin Hills, Wis., and is coming off a runner-up finish in the Brown County Amateur meet.

"It will be nice playing a golf course where I don't need notes," she said with a laugh. "I know the greens in my sleep."

Wells was golfing for Michigan State University when she won her first U.P. title 27 years ago.

"Basically, over the years,

I've grown from my experiences," she explained. "My strong suit has always been my drives and my short game. My weaknesses aren't as glaring now. I'm probably more consistent now."

Knowing she's the heavy favorite heading into the tournament won't alter Wells' game plan.

"Most of the time I go out and play the golf course," she said.

The biggest threat to the defending champion may come from another former Menominee High School standout, Jenny Smith of North Shore Golf Club.

Smith took Wells to the last hole in the 2002 meet at Little River, and lost to former U.P. champion Kendra Anderson on the first playoff hole in the 2004 semifinals at North Shore.

Smith and Wells will be in the same 9 a.m. opening four-some during the qualifying round Sunday, along with Judy LaValley of Riverside and Karen McCorkle of Gladstone. Wells is automatically the top seed as the defending champion.

LaValley and McCorkle are also strong contenders to go deep into the Championship bracket.

Smith has played Riverside twice this summer and has been tuning up her game for the last month.

"I have confidence in myself," she said. "I know I can do it. For me the short game will be the key. The greens look a lot quicker (than North Shore or Little River)."

Smith noted that she isn't hitting her drives as far and is interested to see if some of the four par 5s on the back nine will be switched to par 4s.

"It's a very challenging course. If I can hit it straight, I'll be OK."

Sandra Collins of the Soo, Michelle Mansfield of Little River, Janet Hruska of Marquette, Janet Gagnon of Oak Crest and Cathy Shamion of Ontonagon, along with Gladstone crowd favorite Rosie Spindler, should also be in the championship mix.

Jill Sabotta of Iron River, who defeated Wells in the 2003 tournament and defeated Anderson for the 2004 crown, is not playing in this year's tournament.

Alesia Nordahl of Little River, who advanced to the quarterfinals of the 2004 and 2005 tournaments, is sidelined with a bad back.

Marquette High School freshman Carley Saint-Onge, who won the MHSAA U.P. Division I title last spring, is also passing up the tournament, as is perennial threat Nancy Osier of Ewen-Trout Creek.

... and then the rains came

Softball regional play to resume this morning

MARINETTE — Mother Nature swung the biggest stick of all Thursday at the Ohio Valley Regional fastpitch softball tournament.

Two games each were completed at the 14-and-under and 16-and-under

tournaments. The third game of the day at each field was rained out in the fourth inning and will resume today at 9 a.m.

The 5 p.m. opening ceremonies were washed out and will not be rescheduled.

The final game of the day — Marinette against Barron County, Ky., in both brackets — was washed out and will be made up today at 10 a.m.

The 16-and-under tourney is being played on Scott Field. The 14-and-under tourney is being held at Seguin Field.

The Marinette Youth Baseball/Softball Inc. grounds crew planned to begin preparing the fields today at 6 a.m.

The double-elimination tournaments will run through Sunday, with the winner advancing to the World Series.

Angry sea, high scores at Open

Another memorable round for Rocco

By DOUG FERGUSON
AP Golf Writer

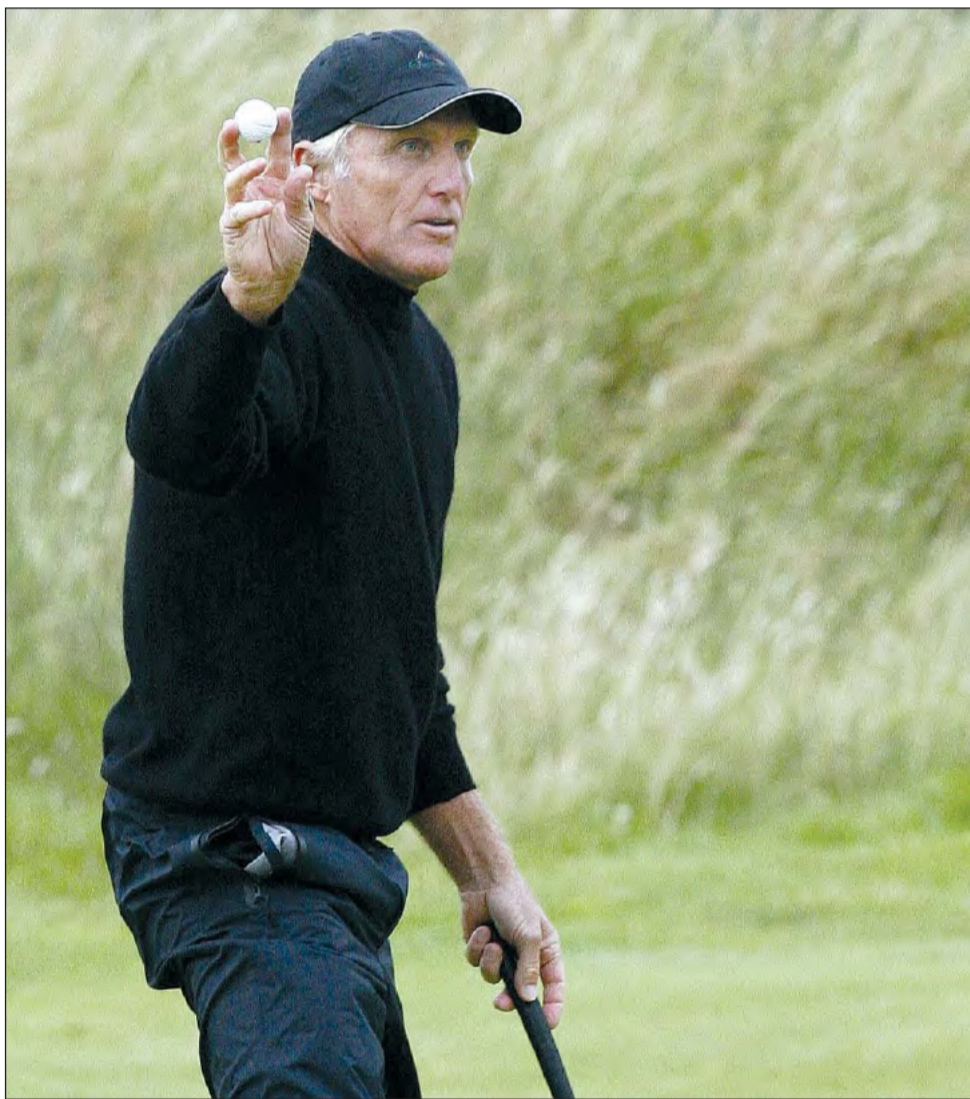
SOUTHPORT, England — From sunny San Diego to bleak and blustery Royal Birkdale, the expression on Rocco Mediate's face didn't change.

He watched one final birdie tumble into the cup for a 1-under 69 and a three-way share of the lead in the British Open, straightened his 45-year-old back, then dropped his jaw into a smile that said, "How did that just happen?"

Others must have been wondering the same thing Thursday.

Ernie Els was playing some of his best golf in the worst of the weather until taking 45 shots on the back nine and posting an 80, his highest score in nearly two decades at his favorite major.

Phil Mickelson was up to his



The Associated Press

Australian Greg Norman reacts on the 18th green during the British Open golf championship at the Royal Birkdale Golf Club, Southport, England, Thursday.

M&M Timberjacks locked and loaded for preseason

By TOM KAESER

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The M&M Timberjacks kick off their second season Sunday when they play the N.E.W. Storm at 4 p.m. at the Peshtigo High School field.

Coach Joe Plautz's team defied the odds in its debut season by finishing in a tie for second place in the Wisconsin State Football League with a 7-3 record.

The Timberjacks are a little low on numbers this season with 27 players suiting up for Sunday's game.

"I'm going to play this one like a



regular-season game," Plautz said. "I want to get everyone in the game. We scouted (N.E.W. Storm) in May when they played the (Arctic) Blast and they looked like a pretty well-orga-

nized team."

The key players are still in place for another strong season. Dan Ries rushed for 616 yards on 127 carries for a 4.9 average last year and connected on 28 of 53 passes (52 percent) for 531 yards.

Aric Chaltry connected on 24 of 51 passes for 321 yards, while rushing for 476 yards (5.2 ypg).

Jim Ahrndt snared 16 passes for 256 yards and three TDs, and Randy Hoheneder and Joel Wortner each had 15 receptions. Hoheneder led the team in receiving yards with 277 and topped the team in receiving touchdowns (four).

Drew Buyarski averaged six yards per carry and is expected to be a bigger part of the T-Jacks' attack this season.

"We're a running team. That's who we are," Plautz said. "I want to see how well we run the football and how well we move the football. I want us to be effective when we pass."

Ahrndt led the defense in solo tackles (39) and assists (43). Joel Wortner led the Timberjacks in sacks with five.

"I'm really excited about our defense," said Plautz. "We've got some very good players on defense."

Ries was honored as the Offen-

sive Back of the Year last season; Demeuse was the Defensive Back of the Year; Robert Peak, who was the Defensive Lineman of the Year, anchors the line again; and Offensive Lineman of the Year Adam Buyarski leads the blocking.

T.J. Buscher returns as the defensive coordinator; Dan Buyarski and Larry Merrill join the team as line coaches; Tom King and Aaron Hubert are assistants; and Mike Van Rens is a sideline assistant.

Tickets for Timberjacks' games are \$4 for adults and \$2 for ages 10-17. There is no charge for children 9 and under.



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