

Rangers monitor play, interpret rules on the course



Ralph Gaillard
Golf-N-Around

course, brought more profit to the courses. Out of these beginnings the Rangers, Marshals or Ambassadors on a golf course was born. The three titles differ by course, depending on designation by golf course management. However, no matter what the title, job duties usually are the same.

The Ranger rides the course in a golf cart with a flag or sign on the cart and ensures golfers are following course rules and regulations. The Ranger also monitors play and asks slow-playing golfers or speed up.

At some courses the Ranger ensures on-course water coolers are kept filled and picks up trash. Perhaps a little-known fact is that the Ranger's primary responsibility is to interpret the rules of golf for players, if/when asked.

Rangers are usually not paid for their services but are allowed

free play at the course during certain times/days.

It has been observed that Rangers have a great love for the game, know the rules of golf and have a great sense of pride in the golf course.

The Rangers at Winston Lake Golf Course are: Don "Hound" Adams, James Dixon, Walt Foster, Sam Puryear, Joe Thompson, Lonnie Wellman and this writer. Next time you play remember the Ranger, Marshal or Ambassador is proud to be there serving you.

Local happenings

Seems as though Quincey "Beaver" Spurgeon got his nickname from the "Red Rider & Beaver" cowboy and Indian movies of the 1950s. When Spurgeon and his childhood friends would play cowboys and Indians, he would have to play Beaver,

Red Rider's sidekick. His friends started calling him Beaver, and the nickname has been with him ever since.

The Monday Morning Golfers playing at Pudding Ridge recently had James Lindsay, Dave Meadows, Earnest Morris and "Butch" Wheeler each winning a "skin." James Dixon, Walt Foster, Leonard "Jack" Jackson and David "The Good Doctor" Peay all beat Lonnie Wellman in a recent match at "The Lakes."

Wellman has demanded that this writer stop reporting on him in this column. I don't think so.

Sam Puryear recently won a match with Harold "The Masked Man" Hairston. Hairston returned the next day for a rematch and Puryear didn't show. As expected, The Masked Man is now saying that Puryear is dodging him. It's on, y'all.

Harvey Jones and George

Phillips won a two-man team match against Bobby Garrett and Roy Phillips. Amos Lewis is recuperating from recent surgery but has been seen practicing his chipping and putting at The Lakes. Amos, glad to see you up and around, and in great spirits.

Until next time - keep it in the fairway.

If you have ideas for Golf-N-Around call The Chronicle at (336) 723-8428 or e-mail Ralph Gaillard at ralphg@bellsouth.net.

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Golf marvels at Tiger Woods, the million dollar showman who keeps on winning

BY JIM LITKE
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

A golfing season few people believed could get much better just did. And the really unbelievable part? Tiger Woods might still be improving.

His victory Sunday in the American Express Championship in Sotogrande, Spain, was Woods' fourth in a row and eighth this season. No golfer has strung that many wins together since Ben Hogan in 1953. No one has won eight in a single season since Johnny Miller 25 years ago.

"The changes I've made in my swing over the last couple of years - finally I've started to reap the benefits of it," Woods said after coming from behind to win the tournament in a playoff Sunday. "It hasn't been an easy road."

The streak included the second major tournament win in Woods' career, two years and a thousand doubts after his ground-breaking victory at the Masters.

The last time anyone enjoyed a better season perhaps was 1945, when a slim Texan named Byron Nelson beat up a tour depleted by wartime service to win a DiMaggio-like 11 straight and 18 altogether.

When asked whether those records are possible against today's deeper, stronger tournament fields, Woods answered: "Hopefully, next year I'll play the same type of golf, and we'll see about the number of victories."

At just 23, the kid will not put a limit on his upside. Every time it seems Woods can't get bigger, he does.

He began Sunday's final round in Spain one stroke behind local hero Miguel Angel Jimenez, who had already won twice on home soil. A pack of Woods' fellow pros were also within striking distance of the lead. And awaiting him at almost every hole were spectators who behaved as though they had stopped off on the way home from the bullfights.

Still resentful over the behavior of the U.S. team and its fans in a last-day rush to victory over Europe at the Ryder Cup, the Spanish galleries treated most Yanks rudely, but saved their worst for Woods.

Woods took command of the tournament with an eagle at the 11th hole. But at the 17th, he hit his third shot onto a severely sloped green, then watched helplessly as the ball snaked slowly down a bank and into a pond.

The gallery roared.



Woods

"It was disappointing to hear the sounds, but understandable," Woods conceded. "They obviously wanted him (Jimenez) to win."

But it was not to be. Not in the year of the Tiger.

Woods' triple-bogey at 17 let Jimenez back into the match, but only for so long. The Spaniard bogeyed the 18th to set up a playoff in the fading light. On the first extra hole, floodlights were needed to illuminate the green and the Spanish Civil Guard was called to keep fans at bay in the fairway.

Woods calmly stroked a 12-foot birdie putt for the match, and didn't seem the least bit surprised to see it drop. When it was over, he gave a quick fist pump to the few still supporting him. Everybody else got a cold-eyed stare.

In late August, Woods renegotiated a five-year endorsement deal with Nike reportedly doubling his pay to between \$80 million and \$90 million. The new deal was struck, in part, because of a clever commercial few people

believed was shot "live."

In the ad, Woods bounces a ball on the face of a club - between his legs and behind his back - for nearly 30 seconds before whacking it, like a baseball, into the distance. It turns out he needed only four takes for a wrap.

There is no more doubting Woods' abilities as a showman, or his ability to deliver as the odds-on favorite, no matter where or when.

The question now is whether, like golfing greats Hogan and Jack Nicklaus, he can rise to the occasion often and long enough to make the comparisons stick.

Early though it is, Woods looks like someone built for the long haul. And not just because of his celebrated run-up, or the ease with which he's segued from prodigy to world-beating teen-ager, to young pro respectfully measuring every accomplishment against Nicklaus at the same age.

It's the way he's always answered the question, "What's next?"

"It can still get better," he says.

Isaiah

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and the previous season Parkland managed only three wins.

"We've turned the program around," Isaiah said. "I wanted to go out in my last season with a good year and it's happened for me this year."

"Coach Bell told me that he was going to ride me," Isaiah added. "When he started calling my number I took the challenge."

Isaiah did some of his best work last Friday night during the Mustangs' battle with Glenn of the Piedmont Triad 3-A's final playoff berth. Isaiah's 54-yard touchdown run jumpstarted the offense and the Mustangs took a 19-6 victory.

"Going into the season I didn't know how this offense would affect me," he said. "But I looked at it like this. Art Brown got a lot of yards in this offense (at Mount Tabor, where Bell was the assistant head coach before accepting the Parkland job). So I figured there had to be something to it."

The newness of the Bell regime and the momentum from the basketball team's 3-A state championship helped push the Mustangs during the preseason. Parkland came out of the gate quickly and hasn't really let up. Their 7-3 finish is the school's best this decade.

"I think that gave us a boost and gave us the desire to work hard," Isaiah said. "I think all of that has really paid off because we've been in a groove since basketball season."



Isaiah

Right now Isaiah said it doesn't matter to him how long the football season will continue. If the Mustangs continue to win it will delay his participation on the basketball team, where he's slated to be a starter.

"This is a new experience and I want to enjoy it," he said. "I don't know what the atmosphere is like, but I'm looking forward to it."

So are the rest of Isaiah's teammates.

But unlike most of them Isaiah has a lot of decisions to make regarding what he'll be doing next year. He's being recruited in both basketball and football but isn't sure yet just which way he will go.

For now, he said he's content with his team's football success and is hoping that will take him and the Mustangs far.

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