

SPORTS

# Daly next in line as golf's long-overdue hero

Fans of professional golf have found a new hero in John Daly. Two weeks ago, Daly leveled his PGA Championship opponents with 325-yard drives and radar-like putting. Now Daly must face a tougher opponent — the shadow of Jack Nicklaus.

Every sport has a hierarchy of athletes, and each has a single athlete who rules that sport. For men's golf, the king is Nicklaus.

During his career, Nicklaus has won 70 PGA Tour events, 20 of which were majors. But the time to find a successor is long overdue. Nicklaus is more often selling cars and designing golf courses than showcasing his playing ability. And at 51, Nicklaus should have passed the crown long ago. Daly is just the newest in a long line of heirs.

**Amy McCaffrey**  
Staff Writer

It's not that Nicklaus isn't still worthy of being the King of Golf — his battle with Chi Chi Rodriguez in the 1991 Senior U.S. Open playoff certainly proved that — but the sport is ready for a new leader. The sport needs a regular player on the PGA Tour (Nicklaus plays part-time on the Senior Tour and selectively on the junior circuit).

The Senior Tour is exciting for its nostalgia value, not for its feats of athleticism. The seniors play less-chal-

lenging courses at a 54-hole pace, and golfers older than 50 do not — and cannot — win regular tour events. Nicklaus's last PGA victory was over five years ago, at the 1986 Masters. The King of Golf has to be the best at his sport, and Nicklaus no longer is.

Part of the problem with finding a successor is that golf is a sport of predictable parity and fleeting streaks. All golfers, pros and hacks alike, go through cycles when everything clicks, which are followed too quickly by dismal slumps. Hale Irwin got caught up in a streak last year, winning the U.S. Open and the Buick Open in subsequent weekends. The U.S. Open was Irwin's first opportunity to hoist a trophy in five years.

And then there are the impostors. Perhaps the biggest letdown on the tour is Greg Norman. Norman has made a career of shooting well in the opening rounds and dropping back into the pack sometime before the 72nd hole. The last tournament Norman won was the 1990 Memorial, and that was shortened by rain to 54 holes. Norman only had a one-stroke lead, and based on his previous record, the tournament was his to lose.

Curtis Strange is another player who looked to dethrone Nicklaus. The champion of consecutive U.S. Opens in 1988 and 1989, Strange has rarely been heard from since. Strange has not won another Tour event, although he has cleaned up in the unofficial made-for-TV skins games.

Of the current tour players, Nick Faldo is the most natural successor. Faldo has captured four majors already,

and he's got David Leadbetter, the best instructor in golf, looking after his swing. But Faldo hasn't won a tour event since last summer's British Open. Even the King of Golf can have a slump, but Faldo's slump has become more of a habit.

Faldo also has a few strikes against him that shouldn't count but do. For one, he appears surly and distant. Image isn't everything, but Faldo is openly hostile toward his loyal subjects, the spectators. For another, Faldo is British. Based on this year's Masters, when Augusta National spectators harassed Wales native Ian Woosnam, nationality evidently matters. Americans can't stand to see foreigners take away their most precious golf tournament, which Faldo has had the audacity to do twice.

So for now, Daly is the next prince in line for Nicklaus' title. There are plenty of golfers before him who didn't meet early expectations. It's easy to make predictions; it's the proving that has tripped up the Normans and the Stranges.

If Daly proves to only be a one-time Cinderella story, or even an average Tour player, there are still plenty of young hopefuls waiting in the wings. Phil Mickelson is a senior at Arizona State University with a Tour win and two Sports Illustrated interviews already under his belt.

Then there's Tiger Woods for those with greater foresight — he's only 16, but he has already won most of the junior national tournaments and last spring missed qualifying for a PGA tournament by one stroke.

The princes are easy enough to find — the trick is weeding out the frogs.

## Major League Standings

(as of Aug. 24)

American League								
East	W	L	Pct.	GB	L10	Str.	Home	Away
Toronto	67	57	.540	—	5-5	L-1	37-29	30-28
Detroit	67	57	.540	—	7-3	W-5	41-22	26-35
Boston	62	61	.504	5	L-2	33-30	29-31	
Milwaukee	59	64	.480	7 1/2	8-2	W-4	31-30	27-34
New York	56	65	.463	9 1/2	6-4	W-1	30-31	25-34
Baltimore	51	72	.414	15 1/2	6-4	L-1	23-38	28-34
Cleveland	40	82	.328	26	3-7	W-2	21-39	19-43
West	W	L	Pct.	GB	L10	Str.	Home	Away
Minnesota	75	50	.597	—	6-4	W-1	39-23	36-27
Chicago	67	56	.545	7	2-8	L-5	34-27	33-29
Oakland	68	57	.544	7	4-6	L-2	37-24	31-33
Texas	63	59	.516	10 1/2	6-4	L-1	34-24	29-35
Seattle	64	60	.516	10 1/2	3-7	L-5	35-25	29-35
Kansas City	63	59	.516	10 1/2	3-7	W-1	30-34	33-25
California	60	63	.487	14	5-5	W-2	27-34	33-29
National League								
East	W	L	Pct.	GB	L10	Str.	Home	Away
Pittsburgh	71	50	.587	—	5-5	L-1	38-23	33-27
St. Louis	66	55	.545	5 1/2	7-3	W-2	38-24	28-31
Chicago	62	60	.508	10	6-4	L-1	37-25	25-35
New York	59	63	.484	13	2-8	L-2	31-30	28-33
Philadelphia	59	63	.484	13	6-4	W-1	35-25	24-38
Montreal	49	72	.404	22 1/2	4-6	W-1	25-34	24-38
West	W	L	Pct.	GB	L10	Str.	Home	Away
Los Angeles	68	54	.557	—	6-4	L-2	39-21	29-33
Atlanta	67	55	.549	1	6-4	L-1	35-28	32-27
Cincinnati	59	62	.492	8	6-4	W-2	30-31	30-31
San Francisco	60	62	.492	8	5-5	W-1	33-27	27-35
San Diego	58	64	.480	9 1/2	4-6	W-1	28-32	31-32
Houston	51	71	.418	17	5-5	L-1	31-31	20-40

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## Lewis shatters 100-meter mark

**The Associated Press**  
TOKYO — Carl Lewis, who calls himself the old man of track, ran faster than he ever did in his youth as he pulled away from the field in the swiftest 100 meters in history. The 30-year-old Lewis not only sped past countrymen Leroy Burrell and Dennis Mitchell in the final 50 meters, he shattered Burrell's world record with a 9.86-second clocking in winning Sunday's final at the World Track and Field Championships. "It was the most incredible race of all time," Lewis said, "and the great thing was the old man was able to pull it out." The time clipped four-hundredths of a second off the previous mark of 9.90 set by Burrell at the U.S. Championships two months ago in New York. Burrell also went under his own record, finishing second in 9.88, and the next four finishers broke 10 seconds — the first time six sprinters broke the 10-second barrier in the same race. In 14 events in three World Championships and two Olympics, Lewis has 13 gold medals and a silver.

## AP Football Top 25

Rank	Record	Pts	Pvs
1. Florida St. (49)	10-2	1,483	4
2. Michigan (5)	9-3	1,384	7
3. Miami (2)	10-2	1,276	3
4. Washington (1)	10-2	1,252	5
5. Florida (1)	9-2	1,150	13
6. Notre Dame	9-3	1,148	6
7. Penn St.	9-3	1,064	11
8. Georgia Tech	11-0-1	1,054	2
9. Clemson (1)	10-2	1,043	9
10. Oklahoma	8-3	921	17
11. Tennessee	9-2-2	846	8
12. Houston (1)	10-1	810	10
13. Colorado	11-1-1	788	1
14. Texas	10-2	769	12
15. Nebraska	9-3	599	24
16. USC	8-4-1	503	20
17. Auburn	8-3-1	500	19
18. Iowa	8-4	475	18
19. BYU	10-3	363	22
20. Michigan St.	8-3-1	351	16
21. Texas A&M	9-3-1	321	15
22. Alabama	7-5	298	—
23. Ohio St.	7-4-1	277	—
24. UCLA	5-6	168	—
25. Syracuse	7-4-2	121	—

Others receiving votes: Louisville 120, Baylor 115, UNC 83, Oregon 28, Virginia Tech 27, N.C. State 24, California 23, Illinois 22, Virginia 16, LSU 15, Pittsburgh 12, Air Force 10, Georgia 9, Mississippi 8, Stanford 5, Arizona 4, West Virginia 4, Southern Miss. 3, Colorado St. 2, San Diego St. 2, South Carolina 2, Indiana 1, Kansas 1.

## Sports on TV

**Monday, August 26**  
11 a.m. — Tennis: U.S. Open (Opening Day); USA  
7:30 p.m. — Tennis: U.S. Open; USA  
7:35 p.m. — Major League Baseball: Montreal at Atlanta; TBS  
8 p.m. — Major League Baseball: Los Angeles at Chicago Cubs; WGN

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