

WAC KICKS OFF FINAL 10-TEAM SEASON

DENVER — The Western Athletic Conference kicks off its 34th season of football on September 2 and its final season with 10 teams as the league expands to 16 teams next summer. A new bowl alliance, television contract and nationally spot-lighted games highlight the upcoming season.

A multi-year agreement will feature at least 13 games on ESPN, ESPN2 and ABC during the 1995 season with the possibility of additional telecasts being added at a later date. Brigham Young and Air Force kick off the season on Saturday, September 2 with a contest on ESPN at Falcon Stadium. The Deuce will carry 18th-ranked Texas at Hawaii later that evening.

"Our package with ESPN this season will be a preview for next year when we formalize our exclusive contract with ESPN and ESPN2," said Commissioner Karl Benson.

The WAC will be in the national spotlight the following week (Sept. 9) with three games on national or regional television. ESPN will carry Wyoming at Air Force and Colorado State at 13th-ranked Colorado, while ABC will showcase no. 16 UCLA at Brigham Young. Other key games that day include San Diego State at 15th-ranked Oklahoma, Fresno State at

California, UTEP at Arizona State and Stanford at Utah.

Other top-25 match-ups during the season feature Fresno State at UCLA (Sept. 30) and Air Force hosting ninth-ranked Notre Dame on Nov. 18.

The WAC is coming off its best season with two teams ranked in the Top 10 (Utah-8th, Brigham Young-10th) and another in the Top 15 (Colorado State-14th). This season Sports Illustrated ranked Colorado State 17th and Brigham Young 24th in its preseason poll, while a total of five teams received votes in the USA Today/CNN Coaches' Poll including Brigham Young, Colorado State, Air Force, Utah and Fresno State. "The challenge for the WAC is to repeat last year's national success," said Benson. "If we can have one more successful year, it will elevate us for next season."

In 1995, the WAC football teams will be the benefactors of a new football agreement with the alliance. One at-large berth will be available to a conference team. If a WAC team does not get chosen by the alliance, a new agreement with the Plymouth Holiday Bowl and the Cotton Bowl goes into effect. In the partnership, the Cotton Bowl will have the choice between the WAC Champion and the second-place team from the Pacific-10 Conference to play the second-

place team from what will be the Big 12 Conference in 1996. If the Cotton Bowl does not choose the WAC Champion, that team will return to the Holiday Bowl to play the third-place team from the Big 12.

"Our goal is to have a team ranked high enough to receive

consideration from the alliance," said Benson.

In addition to the alliance and Holiday and Cotton Bowl agreement, the WAC is in the midst of a two-year pact with the Weiser Lock Copper Bowl. The second-place team from the WAC will play a Big 12 team.

Whitaker Wins Unanimous Decision Over Awkward Scot

ATLANTIC CITY, N.J. - It took Pernell Whitaker a few rounds to figure out awkward Gary Jacobs of Scotland, but Whitaker finally brawled his way to a unanimous decision to retain his World Boxing Council welterweight crown last Saturday.

Whitaker knocked down the game Jacobs twice in the 12th round, nearly scoring a knockout in the final seconds, but Jacobs managed to get to his feet before the bell rang.

Judge Gus Mercurio of Australia scored it 118-109, Tamotosu Tomihara of the U.S. 118-107 and Takeaki Kanaya of Japan 117-109.

"I love the mauling and brawling," Whitaker said after the unanimous decision win raised his record to 36-1-1.

"It was a matter of time," Whitaker said of his knockdown blows. "Once I found him, it was no problem."

It was the American's fourth

victory since he lost two years ago to Mexican Julio Cesar Chavez in Mexico City in a fight many ringsiders believe Whitaker won.

Whitaker's first knockdown punch was a left that toppled Jacobs face first on the canvas at the Atlantic City Convention Centre.

"I hit him with everything, I don't know how he got up," Whitaker said.

Whitaker quickly chased Jacobs and hit him with a combination and then a right for the second knockdown.

Jacobs again beat the count of American referee Ron Lipton and was standing when the final bell rang. Lipton took a point away from Jacobs in the final round for holding, after he had warned him several times.

Whitaker though said that people shouldn't expect to see him looking for more knockdowns in future bouts.

"I don't want you to think that Pernell Whitaker is a power puncher by what happened in the 12th round because I'm not a power puncher, that's not my style," he said.



Whitaker had also hit the floor early in the 11th round, but afterwards claimed that it was only a slip from a glancing blow. "No I wasn't knocked down," said Whitaker, who pounded the canvas with both fists before getting up at the count of five. "I wasn't hit by anything I just went down. I didn't know what was going on until I saw the ref counting."

Jacobs, bidding to be the first Scottish world champion since lightweight Jim Watt in 1979-81, wanted to force Whitaker to brawl.

"I just wanted to pressure him and make him work for every second of the round and that is what happened for the first five or six rounds," said Jacobs, 41-6.

At the start Jacobs was able to muscle inside of Whitaker's jab and tie up and frustrate the champion.

Jacobs punctuated his bully tactics by throwing down Whitaker in the second round and in the third round the referee warned the challenger for hitting in the back of the head as the bell sounded.

"It took me about four, five rounds to figure out what he was really doing," Whitaker said. "He was a little awkward, being another lefty. But good fighters always adapt."

Tiger Woods Wins U.S. Amateur

NEWPORT, R.I. — Tiger Woods became the first golfer in 12 years to capture consecutive United States Amateur Golf Championships Sunday when he defeated Buddy Marucci, 2-up.

Woods took a 1-up lead to the last hole of the 36-hole final and won when Marucci conceded the hole after missing a birdie putt.

The 19-year-old Woods became the first to win back-to-back U.S. Amateur titles since Jay Sigel in 1982 and 1983. Sigel plays on the PGA Senior Tour.

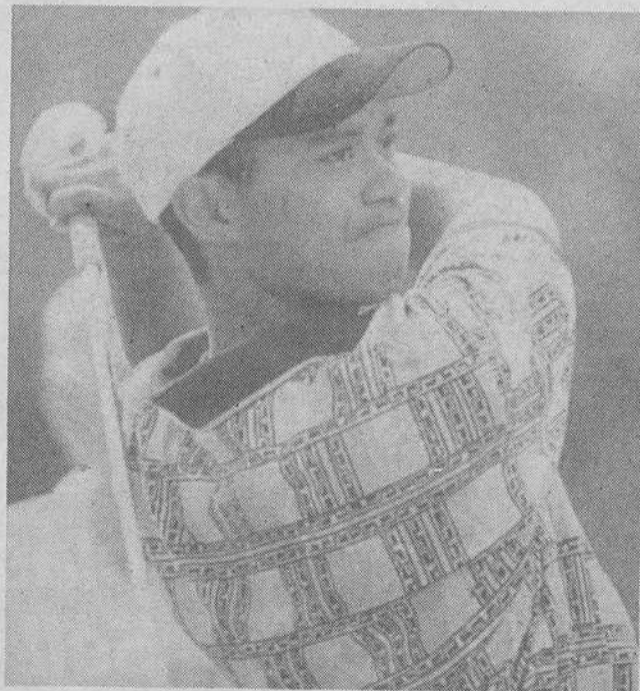
Woods, who begins his sophomore year at Stanford University next month, became the youngest winner in the history of the U.S. Amateur last year when he rallied from six holes down to defeat Trip Kuehne.

Marucci, a 43-year-old with no aspirations of turning pro, will receive an invitation to the 1995 Masters at Augusta, Georgia, as an amateur finalist.

Woods defeated Scott Kammann, 5 and 3, and Mark Plummer, 2 up, in match play competition Saturday. Plummer is also 43 years old.

Marucci defeated Steve Scott in 19 holes to advance to the final.

On the PGA Seniors tour,



Tiger Woods

Isao Aoki of Japan birdied three of the final four holes Sunday to post his first victory of the year, a one-stroke triumph at the \$800,000 Bank of Boston Classic at the Nashawtuc Country Club in Concord, Massachusetts.

Aoki's win, which followed three second-place finishes and one third-place showing, was his first since he won back-to-back tournaments last September. He capped a 3-under-par 69 with birdies on the 15th, 16th and 18th holes. Aoki's 12-under 204

earned him the \$120,000 top prize. Bob Charles and Senior Tour rookie Hale Irwin tied for second at 11-under 205 after final-round 68s. Charles won the event in 1989 and 1990.

Bruce Summerhays and Walter Zembriski were three shots back at 9-under 207. Summerhays fired a 66 and Zembriski shot 67. Defending champion Jim Albus had a final-round 69, but he was a distant nine shots behind Aoki at 3-under 213.

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