

Woods refreshed, ready for Nelson Classic

IRVING, Texas (AP) — To prepare for Part III of his third full year on the PGA Tour, Tiger Woods didn't touch a club for 10 days.

He arrived for the GTE Byron Nelson Classic looking fresh and relaxed, no longer the No. 1 player in the world ranking but no less the star attraction. He wore a smile so wide that even the tournament host took notice Wednesday.

"It looks like he's much more free," Nelson said. "He's smiling more. But he's a 23-year-old kid. I think he'd like to go out there and beat somebody."

If that's what he does when the Nelson Classic starts on the TPC at Las Colinas and Cottonwood Valley courses, Woods can likely attribute that to his break away from golf.

"I just hung out with my friends and got away from

the game," Woods said. "I was really burned out. Bay Hill was playing tough, The Players Championship was really hard, then the Masters and Hilton Head. Those are tough tracks.

"It's not so much the golf that wears you out, but the mental fatigue of grinding on these golf courses," he said. "They were playing so difficult, you can't let up."

Woods has broken 70 just once in his past 17 rounds, but history would indicate that this might be a good week to change that.

For one thing, the Nelson Classic has proven to be a birdie haven over the past four years. The worst winning score in that period was a 15-under 265 by Phil Mickelson in 1996 and by John Cook last year. The record of 263 belongs to Woods and Ernie Els. A better harbinger for Woods is that three-week

break.



TIGER WOODS

When he won the Masters in 1997, Woods was so pooped he didn't even feel like celebrating his record-setting victory. He took four weeks off, showed up at Las Colinas and proceeded to tie Els' tournament record.

A year ago, he took a three-week break after the Masters and started the third phase of

his season by winning the BellSouth Classic in Atlanta.

The Nelson field isn't as strong as the early commitments suggested. David Duval and Els decided not to play, and Vijay Singh also chose to sit this week out. Payne Stewart withdrew on Monday, saying he felt burned out.

Still, it has 32 of the top 50 on the money list. That includes Fred Couples, who was in great position to win last year until hitting into the water on No. 17.

Not in the money but still a featured attraction is Sergio Garcia, the 19-year-old British Amateur champion who turned pro last month in Spain and tied for 25th in the Peugeot Open.

Other past champions include Nick Price and Tom Watson, who defends next week in Colonial but hasn't broken par in his last 14 rounds on tour.

What might help Woods more than being refreshed is reverting to the form from the first part of the season.

During the West Coast swing, Woods won in San Diego and finished in the top five in five of his six tournaments. He only had one round over par during that stretch, a 78 on a nasty, windy day at Pebble Beach.

Since leaving California after his quarter final loss in the Match Play Championship, Woods has yet to get into serious, Sunday contention.

His scoring average has been nearly three strokes higher since then, and a lot of it has to do with putting. Woods is ranked 102nd in putting, and his average of 29.69 putts per round puts him 162nd out of 188 players.

In the Masters, he took the second-most putts (126) but still tied for 18th, nine strokes back of Jose Maria Olazabal.

As always, Woods says it's a matter of staying patient.

He says he putts by feel, lining up putts from all possible angles but ultimately relying on his hunch before he pulls the trigger.

"I know what it's going to do generally, but I go by my feel," he said. "That's how I putted at Augusta — when I played pretty good there."

Jackson

(Continued from Page 9) some of the high profile celebrities involved in the talent international gala.

Hal Jackson, the executive producer of TTI, is a popular radio and television personality who has been in the communication industry for over 59 years. He has been the recipient of many awards from past presidents

such as Franklin D. Roosevelt, John F. Kennedy, Jr., Harry S. Truman, and Dwight D. Eisenhower and is a pioneer for blacks in radio history.

First black radio announcer in network radio, first black radio sports announcer, first black radio station owned and operated in New York City, and the list goes on. He can

be heard on 107.5 WBLS in New York City where his show has been rated #1 by Arbitron for the past 11 years.

"It is nice to be important," a modest Hal Jackson says. "but it is more important to be nice."

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BIC

(Continued from Page 1)

done fairly. We hold their (entrepreneurs, businesspeople) hand a little bit, until they can get out on their own. ... We go the extra mile."

Bailey said that Microbusiness Center also services many business-minded African-American and Latinos.

"Our target market is low-income people who want to start a business, not just people with money who we want to give a loan to," Bailey said. "I hope that we can both

compliment each other, though."

Scott said that the BIC will make special efforts to reach out to African-American, Hispanic, Asian and women businessowners.

The grand opening of the BIC will be on Monday, May 24, at the new facility at 12:30. The public is welcomed. Those interested in more information can call the SBA at 388-6611, or the Las Vegas Business Center at 638-6371. After May 24 the center can be reached at 638-0853.

Cunningham

(Continued from Page 1) have standards and you will meet those standards and expectations," said Gary Peck, director of the local American Civil Liberties Union.

Peck has pledged to solicit the support of the national ACLU "We need tests and standards that make sense ... This behavior is not acceptable."

Cunningham plans to file a complaint Friday with the office of civil rights of the U.S. Department of Education.

"The standards should be lowered. Middle school kids should be targeted to be

prepared for the test," said Cunningham, who has two adult sons and a daughter in her sophomore year in high school. "You cannot change the rules in the middle of the game."

The Assembly Education Committee voted to reduce the current score of 61 to 57 on the math portion of the test to help some troubled seniors pass.

"They were cheated," said Ron Mason, whose daughter failed the math portion of the test. "It's like taking French and being given a Spanish test."

Mason and his wife, Cindy, have contacted Ralph

Murdock and David Chesnoff, attorneys at mayoral candidate Oscar B. Goodman's law firm, to file a civil lawsuit on their behalf.

"Our angle on the case would be to work it out as a quick matter," Murdock said. "(Otherwise) this is a very expensive case and will take a lot of time. This is a no money damage case. This would be to get the kids their diplomas."

The fee to retain the attorneys will be in the neighborhood of \$20,000 and the Masons are hoping to get all concerned parents involved to help subsidize the forthcoming legal actions.

Seahawk defensive end Sinclair has diabetes

SEATTLE (AP) — Michael Sinclair, an All-Pro defensive end for the Seattle Seahawks, has diabetes.

"Right now, my body feels great," said Sinclair, who is participating in a Seahawks' minicamp. "But this is uncharted territory."

Sinclair said he felt run-down in December when the Seahawks' season ended. Team physicians detected Sinclair's illness — where the body doesn't produce enough insulin to regulate blood sugar levels — last week during a routine physical exam.

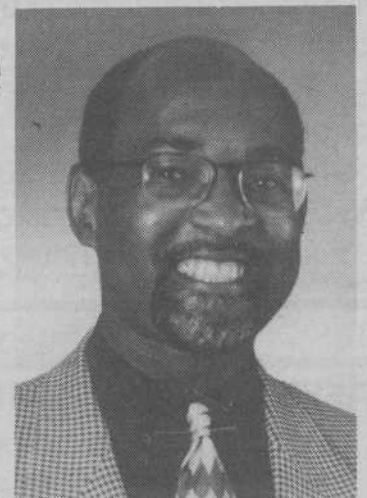
Sinclair was told the diabetes was not expected to affect his NFL career. He was given medication and has been put on a diet to maintain proper blood-sugar levels.

"Just listening to the doctor, that helped a lot," Sinclair said. "Even last year, toward the end of the season, I started to feel that I wasn't energetic and I was sluggish. My body just adjusted to feeling that way."

Sinclair led the league with 16 1/2 sacks last season, when he was voted to his third Pro Bowl in a row.

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