



SPORTS PACE

By Huel Washington

Do titles accurately reflect greatness?

Every athlete, amateur or professional, would like a championship on their resume by the time their careers are over. And the chance to become a champion is a lot easier in individual endeavors than team sports, where athletes depend on the actions of others.

San Francisco Giants left fielder Barry Bonds' outstanding career nears completion after 18 years in the Major Leagues. There are some who think that just because the teams he was on never won a world series his career that one blemish will separate him from the others sports fans call champions.

Team sports like baseball, football, hockey and basketball in this country, where athletics fill a very prominent place in the every day lives of the citizens, have produced many heroes who are still wondering why a championship never came their way.

Right at home with Bonds is his godfather, Willie Mays, who as a rookie was on the New York Giants team that defeated the Cleveland Indians in the 1954 World Series. Mays never won another World Series after the team moved to San Francisco. Mays was the center fielder when the Giants faced the New York Yankees in the 1962 World Series.

San Francisco came within one hit and an out in 1962 against the New York Yankees, but Willie McCovey flied out to second baseman Bobby Richardson with the winning runs on base. McCovey, a Hall of Famer who played 22 years, never won a World Series.

Ernie Banks, the Chicago Cubs' outstanding infielder from 1953 to 1971, never played in a World Series during his team's miserable showings during that period.

Dan Marino arrived in the National Football League in the same class as John Elway, who went on to win championships in Super Bowls XXXII and XXXIII. Marino led the Miami Dolphins into Super Bowl XIX against the San Francisco 49ers but lost 38-16. His team never reached the big game again during his 22-year career. Elway, as quarterback of the Denver Broncos, appeared in Super Bowls XXI, XXII and XXIV before finally taking home the Lombardi Trophy.

Another football superstar whose career comes under scrutiny is Jim Kelly, who quarterbacked the Buffalo Bills to four consecutive Super Bowls XXV, XXVI, XXVII and XXVIII, losing each time. Against the Giants in 1991, Kelly's team came within a missed field goal by Scott Norwood of winning. The score was 20-19 for the Giants.

Taking a cut in pay and signing with the Los Angeles Lakers, Karl Malone left the Utah Jazz with hopes of winning a National Basketball Association championship before hanging up his basketball shoes. A gold medal winner on the 1992 and 1996 Olympic teams, Malone, in his 18 years in the NBA, came close to the league title in 1994 but his team fell to the Chicago Bulls and Michael Jordan. In this year's seemingly guaranteed championship with Kobe Bryant and Shaquille O'Neal, Malone and his teammates ran into a track team masquerading as the Detroit Pistons, losing four games to one.

No championship and now Malone is thinking about retiring. His daughter, Cheryl Ford, an all-star with the Detroit Shock, helped her team win the Women's National Basketball Championship last season, defeating the Los Angeles Sparks.

Others whose outstanding performances covered quite a few years on teams that didn't win championships include Barry Sanders of the Detroit Lions, Carl Yastrzemski of the Boston Red Sox and John Stockton, a teammate of Malone's on the Jazz. Many others in their respective halls of fame never were on championship teams.

Bonds, who turned 40 two months ago, may not play
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Singh knocks Woods from No. 1 in golf

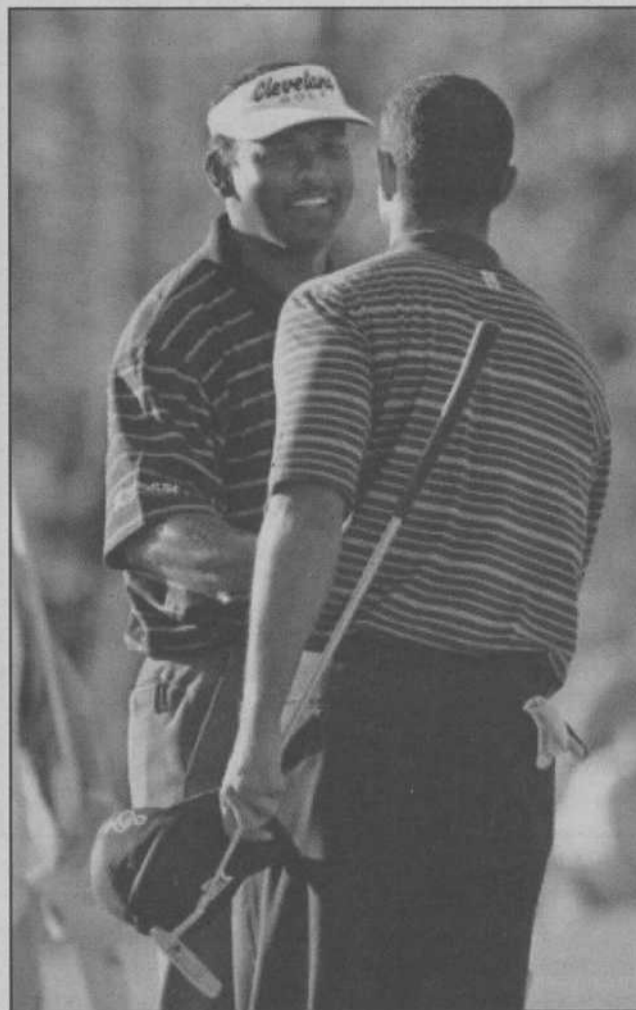
NORTON, Mass. (AP) - Vijay Singh has been playing the best golf in the world for a long time. Now he has Tiger Woods' No. 1 ranking to prove it. Singh finished his long climb to the top of golf's ultimate leaderboard by beating Woods in a head-to-head matchup, shooting a 69 on Monday to win the Deutsche Bank Championship by three strokes and claim Woods' spot as the top-ranked player in the world.

It was Singh's sixth victory of the year, enough to convince the computers that crunch the numbers what many have known for months.

"Finally it's turned into my favor," said Singh, who birdied three of the last four holes to win the \$900,000 first prize. "I've worked pretty hard for this. I finally achieved what I wanted to do starting at the beginning of the year.

"It was a good win, as well. Coming down the stretch got pretty tight there, but I got focused and I played pretty good coming down."

Woods had been No. 1 for more than five years — a record 264 consecutive weeks — in the rankings that consider performance over the past two years, factoring in the strength of field. Singh had winnowed Woods' lead



Vijay Singh smiles at Tiger Woods as they shake hands on the 18th green after Singh won the Deutsche Bank Championship at TPC Boston in Norton, Mass. Monday by three strokes over Tiger Woods and Adam Scott.

to 12.09-11.91 heading into the Deutsche Bank, needing only to finish ahead of Woods to pass him.

The new numbers released later Monday had Singh at 12.72 points to Woods' 12.27,

making Singh the first player other than Woods to hold the No. 1 ranking since Aug. 8, 1999.

"That's not too bad, is it? I've had a good run," Woods said. "I'm not disappointed

about the ranking; I'm disappointed in not winning... Winning takes care of the ranking."

Singh and Woods were tied at 13 under after Singh bogeyed the 13th hole, but Woods bogeyed the next one and Singh birdied No. 15 to pull ahead by two strokes. The 41-year-old Fijian added birdies on the final two holes to finish 16 under, three ahead of Woods and defending champion Adam Scott.

"It was a golf tournament to me. It wasn't about the ranking," said Singh, who has won the last nine times he took a lead into the final round.

"It wasn't about going out there and trying to beat Tiger and beat the No. 1 player. I was out there trying to win the golf tournament and that was my goal starting out today.

"You know, Adam Scott nearly jumped up and took it away," he added, "but I was very focused."

Scott started the day seven strokes behind Singh before making the turn with four consecutive birdies to get into contention.

He birdied the 18th hole to move into second place at 13 under, and Woods' 69 matched him; John Rollins and Daniel Chopra were an-
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Dallas to sponsor Grambling-Prairie View game

By Andre Coe
Special to Sentinel-Voice

DALLAS (NNPA) Last week, Dallas City Council member Maxine Thornton-Reese spent eight minutes during council session trying to explain to the mayor and her colleagues how they were disrespecting the annual football game between Grambling State University and Prairie View A&M University.

On Wednesday, Thornton-Reese was joined by nearly 80 other supporters of the game between the two historically Black universities that is held in Fair Park each October.

After nearly three hours of testimony, the supporters got what they wanted: \$250,000 in city funding over five years.

Council members voted to fund the Grambling-Prairie View State Fair Classic game from the city's special events fund, the Convention and

Event Service Current Funds. The vote was 14-0, with Don Hill absent.

The funding issue erupted when Thornton-Reese accused Dallas Mayor Laura Miller of giving preferential treatment to a predominantly White football game over a Black game when the mayor refused to change procedures to allow a vote on the funding issue.

The council was voting to provide a subsidy to the annual University of Texas vs. Oklahoma University football game, but planned to table a similar vote on the Grambling game.

At one point in the session, council members had considered pulling funding from the South Dallas/Fair Park Trust Fund, which helps businesses and residents in the specific South Dallas neighborhood.

"I was very concerned at one time about the substitute motion," Thornton-Reese

said. "They were still trying to put us on the back burner. They wanted money to come from Black folks' money, from the South Dallas/Fair Park Trust Fund instead of coming from the Convention (Event Service Current Funds)."

Thornton-Reese said she stands up for what she believes in all the time, although many times she tries to make that stand behind closed doors.

"But when they try to embarrass me in public, then it becomes a public issue," she said, referring to last week's City Council meeting.

State Sen. Royce West, D-Dallas, State Rep. Terri Hodge, D-Dallas, Dallas County Commissioner John Wiley Price and former Dallas City Council member Al Lipscomb were among the Prairie View and Grambling supporters. The group was so large that the site of the origi-

nal hearing was moved from a small room to the council chambers.

Hodge said the trust fund was designed to help elderly and poor South Dallas homeowners with renovations and should not have been considered a funding source for the game. She was unhappy with attempts by Council member Gary Griffith to funnel money from the fund.

"I find it extremely disingenuous when you talk about economic development that the only time you are concerned about economic development is when it is voting time," Hodge said at the meeting.

"It is our game; they are our schools," she said outside council chambers. "And they can only climb to the level that we send them. If we don't do the things necessary to propel them to the top that the Texas/OU people have
(See Game, Page 15)