

# Blacks could assist Woods by taking up golf

Ever since Eldrick "Tiger" Woods left Stanford University to play golf professionally, his million-dollar career has attracted fans all over the world.

The son of an African-American military veteran and a Thai woman, Wood's arrival on the Professional Golf Association Tour was considered by many as a signal for others with a similar complexion to take to the golf links and find ways to make a more than adequate living. After all, Woods was not the first Black person to play in the almost lily-white professional golf tour.

Charlie Sifford, after many years on the all-Black United Golf Association circuit, won the Long Beach Open on November 10, 1957, and was allowed to



## SPORTS PACE

By Huel Washington

play in a major PGA tournament in the South at Greensboro, N.C., in 1961.

Later on, the California-based Sifford was a forerunner for the Senior Tour, now the Champions Tour, which features golfers over 50 years of age.

Growing up in the Southern California area with his eye on Sifford was Robert Lee Elder, who became a caddy at a golf club in San Bernardino. He joined the army and honed his skills on the base team placing second in the 1960 All Service tour-

namment to future U.S. Open champion, Orville Moody.

Elder, after being discharged in 1961, joined the UGA tour and won the championship five times. At one time, he won 21 victories in 23 consecutive tournaments.

In 1967, Elder became the second African-American following Sifford to qualify for the PGA tour and won four tournaments. He won the Monsanto Tournament in 1974 and in 1975 was the first African-American invited to play in the invitational Masters Tournament

by Charles Roberts, the Augusta National Chairman. Elder played in five more Masters tournaments.

When Tiger Woods won the 1997 Masters, one of the first people to greet him besides his father, Earl, was Lee Elder.

On the female side, Althea Gibson, who had been one of tennis' greatest competitors in the U.S. Open and Wimbledon in 1956 and 1957, was introduced to golf by a friend in 1960 and three years afterward became the first African-American woman to play on the professional golf circuit. She competed on the Ladies Professional Golf Association Tour throughout the racially charged 1960s.

Throughout the years, African-Americans such as Jim

Dent, Calvin Peete, Jim Thorpe and even Brad Elder, Lee's son, have appeared on the regular tour and the senior circuit.

Thorpe, a former football star at Morgan State, who took up golf, has made millions since reaching 50 years of age. His last year as a regular, he appeared in the U.S. Open at the Olympic Club in San Francisco.

Although he is noted as one of the greatest prizefighters to hold the heavyweight championship, Joseph Louis Barrow (1937 to 1950) was also known as a golf fanatic when he was young.

His son, Joseph Barrow, reportedly has started a golf association for African-American youngsters in Arizona with donations from the community and the Western States Golf Association. Some of those young people must be playing in amateur tournaments somewhere in this country. Are they ever going to reach the PGA tour?

While Woods has won 10 major tournaments and many amateur tournaments since turning professional, the first African-American to win a tournament was William Wright, a 1956 graduate of Seattle's Franklin High School, who went on to Western College in Los Angeles and won the 1959 U.S. Amateur Public Links Championship as a junior. A year later, Wright won the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics golf tournament.

He is currently a golf pro at The Lakes in El Segundo, the former home of the Los Angeles Raiders, near the Los Angeles Airport.

Once Woods recovers fully from the loss of his father the number one golfer in the world will probably resume his position at the apex of the tour, and with him as an example, the lack of dark-skinned individuals on the tour other than Vijay Singh, a Fiji Islander, is still a mystery.

Woods at 20 years of age, without playing a professional round, signed a \$40 million endorsement deal with Nike and a \$20 million deal with Titleist.

His first year, he won \$2,066,833. The earnings are outrageous even compared to baseball, football and basketball. So far, after only appearing in four tournaments and taking nine weeks off because of the death in his family, Woods has won more than \$7 million dollars this year.

He has donated millions to his Tiger Woods Foundation for young golfers and others.

As for the sport, Woods could use some company from others with African-American ancestry on the green, and the game is open for more Blacks to get some green.

## Pork

(Continued from Page 3) lost two previous elections in the mid '90s at the 14-year-old Tar Hills plant.

Luter released a statement last week stating the company would not appeal the court's decision. "Smithfield respects and accepts the court's judgment, even though we strongly disagree with the findings," he said.

Edward Morrison, is a former worker at the plant, who is scheduled to speak at the events in Chicago, Washington, D.C., and in North Carolina. He and other organizers also speak about unsafe conditions at the plant and the injury Morrison received prior to being dismissed by Smithfield.

Human Rights Watch issued two reports on Smithfield. The most recent, in 2005, was "Blood, Sweat and Fear: Workers' Rights in U.S. Meat and Poultry." The report explained the dangers of high-speed production lines and the rights of immigrant workers. The report said the plant's workforce is nearly 60 percent Hispanic immigrants and 40 percent Black.

Rev. Graylan Hagler, the pastor of the Plymouth Congregational United Church of Christ in Washington, D.C., is the president of Ministers for Racial, Social, Economic Justice, a coalition of more than 600 congregations, is a supporter of the plant unionizing to address many problems at the plant including concerns about safety and racial discrimination issues, including threatening immigrants with deportation.

"Basically, you have overwhelmingly White supervisors (only two are Black) in a plant that is mostly people of color, Hagler said.

Hagler described the working conditions and safety concerns:

"You've got a massive plant that slaughters 32,000 hogs a day. The work is basically conveyor belt driven. ... You see people doing this repetitive, heavy work with sharp instruments," he said. Hagler asked a supervisor when the workers got a break and was told they get a 30-minute break after three hours.

"You really can't go to the restroom ... can't take a break off the floor ... [it's work that] begs for injury — particularly the way it's run..." Hagler said.

Morrison, 42, is now a full-time organizer with the

UFCW since losing his job and claims Smithfield refuses to pay for his job-related injury. He only worked at the plant for five months last year, working on the kill floor, the toughest job in the plant.

"They took one look at me and said, 'Okay, kill floor.'" Standing 6 feet 1 inch tall and weighing 235 pounds, Morrison said that he was the oldest man on the floor working mostly with men in their 20s and 30s.

Morrison flipped about 4,000 hogs averaging nearly 400 pounds each on his shift, enduring temperatures that soared to 125 degrees.

"My arms would lock up from all this flipping all day long," he recounted. He said his frequent complaints weren't heard until he tore his meniscus, requiring surgery and physical therapy.

"They sent me a termination letter while I was on medical leave. They said if I couldn't return to work 100 percent, and ready to go to work at my same job that I would be terminated. There was no way I was going to be able to do that same job after knee surgery," he said.

Morrison said Smithfield denied his worker's compensation claim, which he is currently suing the company to recover.

"Before my injury, I was an athlete. I was active. I can't run anymore," Morrison said. "This is something I've got to carry with me for the rest of my life."

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The City will be accepting the first 50 qualified applications for the position of Legal Assistant. Minimum requirements include: High school diploma or GED and minimum of six months of office experience in clerical, accounting, legal or other related clerical field; possess valid state driver's license and maintain satisfactory motor vehicle record and ability to obtain appropriate NV driver's license; type 45 accurate net words per minute. Original typing certificate dated no earlier than 6/19/05 must accompany application

Filing opens 8am, 6/19/06 Completed applications accepted until 5PM, 6/29/06 or when 50 qualified applications have been received, whichever occurs first. (Resume without an application, faxed mat'l. or postmark date not accepted). For detailed info regarding this position and to apply on line, visit our website [www.cityofnorthlasvegas.com](http://www.cityofnorthlasvegas.com) or apply at:



CITY OF NORTH LAS VEGAS  
Human Resources Dept.  
2225 Civic Center Dr., Ste 226  
North Las Vegas, NV 89030  
(702) 633-1500  
Monday-Thursday; 8:00am-6:00pm  
(Building access until 5:45pm)

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## EMPLOYMENT

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SALARY RANGE - \$52,727 - \$76,717

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Filing opens 8AM, 06/19/06. Completed applications accepted until 5PM, 06/29/06 (resume without an application, faxed material, or postmark date not accepted). Applicants may apply online by downloading a City application @ [www.cityofnorthlasvegas.com](http://www.cityofnorthlasvegas.com) or submit completed application and resume to:



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KLVX-TV (PBS), Las Vegas, NV, is currently accepting resumes for the following vacancies:

### Tape Librarian/ Secretary II

Starting salary \$13.60 - \$15.00/hr. plus benefits. Maintain the station's video library; generate daily satellite record schedule, pull and reshelv materials for broadcast. MIN/QUALS: HS grad or equiv., 2 yrs clerical exp., verified typing/keyboarding score of 40wpm net. Library, computer, and prior exp at a television station preferred.

### Office Specialist II

Starting salary \$12.96 - \$14.29/hr. plus benefits. Duplicate, circulate, and assist with inventories of multiple formats of educational media. MIN/QUALS: HS grad or equiv., 2 yrs clerical exp., verified typing/keyboarding score of 40wpm net OR 4 yrs exp., verified typing/keyboarding score. Library or educational media collection exp helpful. Submit detailed resume and current (6 months) typing cert to Barbara Heath, Personnel Analyst, 2832 E Flamingo Road, Las Vegas, NV 89121; fax to 702-799-1141; or email to [bjheath@interact.ccsd.net](mailto:bjheath@interact.ccsd.net) Resumes must be received/postmarked no later than June 30, 2006. Competitive applicants will receive a screening packet. EOE  
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