

# LAS VEGAS Sentinel Voice

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"THE TRUTH SHALL SET YOU FREE"



Tiger Woods in pain during the U.S. Open tournament.

## Surgery to end Tiger's season

Special to Sentinel-Voice

Tiger Woods is done for the year, but not without one last major that he said might have been his best ever.

Woods explained why Wednesday when he revealed he will have season-ending surgery to repair a torn ligament in his left knee that he injured 10 months ago.

He also suffered a double stress fracture of his left tibia two weeks before the U.S. Open, ignoring doctors' advice to take six weeks off to let it heal. And he still won the U.S. Open at Torrey Pines, going 91 holes over five days on a knee that was getting worse.

"Now, it is clear that the right thing to do is to listen to my doctors, follow through with this surgery and focus my attention on rehabilitating my knee," Woods said on his website. He had arthroscopic surgery April 15 to clean out cartilage in his left knee, bypassing [recommended] ACL surgery with hopes it could get him through the 2008 season. But the stress fracture and a ligament that could no longer sustain a powerful swing made it impossible to keep going.

Woods did not say when he would have surgery. His swing coach, Hank Haney, said the recovery is typically six to eight months. "He's been playing way less than 100 percent for a long, long, time," Haney said. "It has limited him a lot in practice. He's going to come back better than he's ever been."

Woods was last seen in public late Monday afternoon walking with a pronounced limp across Torrey Pines toward the parking lot, the U.S. Open trophy in his arms.

Upcoming surgery makes his 14th major title even more staggering — despite the stress fractures, he managed to win a U.S. Open that required five days of flinching, grimacing and a long list of spectacular shots that have defined his career. "Although I will miss the rest of the 2008 season, I'm thrilled with the fact that last week was such a special tournament," Woods said.

He won despite doctors telling him to rest.

Haney was with him in Florida when doctors told Woods the preferred treatment for the stress fractures was three weeks on crutches and three weeks of inactivity.

"Tiger looked at the doctor and said, 'I'm playing in the U.S. Open, and I'm going to win.' And then he started putting on his shoes," Haney said. "He looked at me and said, 'Come on, Hank. We'll just putt today.'"

## Walker mends from attack

LAS VEGAS — Oakland Raiders wide receiver Javon Walker was "quickly recovering" following hospitalization for a concussion and facial injuries after a Las Vegas robbery.

Walker was released from a hospital, and his agent released a statement Wednesday in which the 29-year-old Walker thanked those who offered prayers and support.

Walker was found unconscious early Monday on a street near the Las Vegas Strip after a night of partying during which he was photographed spraying a nightclub crowd with champagne.

According to reports Walker visited a nightclub, Tryst, at the Wynn Las Ve-



JAVON WALKER

gas resort on Saturday night. He spent Sunday night at another club, Body English at the Hard Rock Hotel and Casino, before leaving about 3:30 a.m.

Police Lt. Clinton Nichols said detectives are retracing

Walker's activities in the hours before he was found injured Monday morning on a street off the Las Vegas Strip.

"That's one of the first things we do, backtrack what he did and where he stayed," Nichols said, adding that the investigation was still in the early stages. "We knew there was a large amount of cash taken, and some jewelry."

Nichols said that detectives planned to interview Walker before his release from the hospital about his activities in the hours before he was robbed.

Agent Kennard McGuire said Walker was "recovering in a private environment." An aide to McGuire, of MS

World in Richmond, Texas, declined to say where Walker was staying.

"Javon looks forward to getting back to his family and teammates," the statement said, "and is looking forward to the start of the upcoming season."

A Raiders spokesman said the team was in the process of gathering information and had no further comment.

Walker, 29, signed a six-year, \$55 million deal with the Raiders after being released by the Denver Broncos in February.

Walker injured his right knee for the second time in his career last season and was limited to eight games and 26 catches in 2007.

## Black leaders honor Tim Russert

By Hazel Trice Edney

Special to Sentinel-Voice

WASHINGTON (NNPA)

— Some remember him for the 1999 interview with former Ku Klux Klan Grand Wizard David Duke that obliterated Duke's claim to be running for Louisiana governor based on the state's economy.

Others remember him for the recent commemoration of the 40th Anniversary of the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

But, most people simply remember NBC "Meet the Press" moderator Tim Russert as a fair, balanced, principled and tough journalist whose preparation for interviews set a standard for professional journalists.

Russert — widely respected in the Black community, as well as across America — died of a heart attack at the NBC studio in Washington on June 13 at the age of 58. He was praised in statements sent to the NNPA News Service from representatives of the Black Press, civil rights leaders, politicians and his fellow journalists, among millions of viewers of the longest running news public affairs program.

"In April, as I watched

[Russert] dedicate a portion of his program to Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., who was assassinated on April 4. I remarked 'This is the best 'Meet the Press' I have ever seen,'" recalls Dorothy Leavell, chair of the National Newspaper Publishers Association Foundation, which oversees the Washington, D.C.-based NNPA News Service.

"As many Americans, no matter what color or ethnicity, I thought I personally knew Tim Russert. He was an unusual man, dedicated and loving every minute of his profession, but even more dedicated to family. He will be missed during this, the most important election for African-Americans ever, for his even-handed treatment, his fairness and the scholarly manner in which he did his job. His high-level professionalism in journalism leaves us all a goal to reach for," said Leavell, publisher of the Chicago and Gary Crusader newspapers.

Leavell's sentiments were echoed by NNPA Chairman John B. Smith Sr., publisher of the Atlanta Inquirer.

"The Black Press of America joins with others in

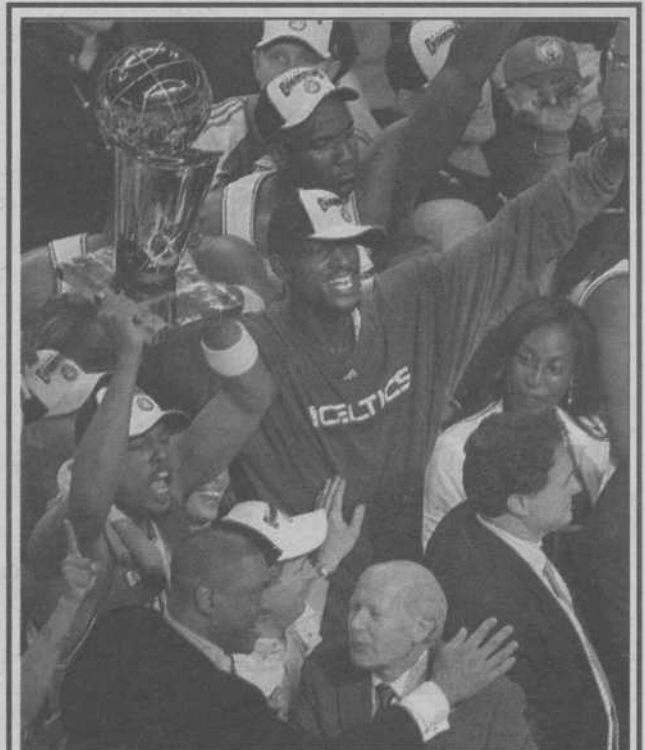
expressing sadness at the sudden death of Mr. Tim Russert," Smith said. "Through his broadcasts, Russert touched many lives and brought clarity to the political process for 'the least of these' among the American public."

The National Association

of Black Journalists also posted a statement on its website in which NABJ President Barbara Ciara declared, "Sunday mornings will not be the same without him."

She said, "There are few in this business who are as re-

(See Russert, Page 4)



## CHAMPIONS AGAIN

Can you count to 17? Championships, that is. Boston finally can. The Celtics trounced the Los Angeles Lakers on Tuesday night in Boston to win the NBA title. Coach Doc Rivers, left, enjoys the moment. (See story page 12)