

Tiger Woods celebrates after sinking the putt to win the Arnold Palmer Invitational golf tournament at Bay Hill in Orlando, Fla., on Sunday. Woods has suffered from injuries.

Tiger Woods brings roar with comeback

ORLANDO, Fla. (AP) -Tiger Woods was down to his last shot at Bay Hill, tied for the lead as he measured a 15foot birdie putt. That's when he heard a lone voice among thousands of people packed into the grandstand behind the 18th green.

"Some guy yelled out, 'Playoff!'" Woods said with a smile. What was the guy thinking?

Woods knew the putt was going in when it was a few feet from the hole. He crouched and began tobackpedal, then planted on his left knee - more proof the knee is stronger than ever - to wind up and pound his fist. The putt capped a dramatic final hour at Bay Hill that ended in near darkness and reminded golf what it had been missing during Woods' eight-month absence while recovering from surgery.

"It's just about being there and somehow timing it right and making putts at the right time and pulling off shots at the right time," Woods said. "We're all trying to do it."

As usual, the timing could not have been better.

Because of a two-hour rain delay, the final round did not start until just before 3 p.m., and NBC Sports decided to stay on through the conclusion, stretching the broadcast into prime time.

The overnight rating for Bay Hill — a 4.9 with a 10 share — was the highest for any golf tournament since the U.S. Open Woods won last June.

Sean O'Hair could only watch. He lost a 5-shot lead at the start of the day and wound up in the company of others whom Woods has beaten with clutch putts. O'Hair missed a 40-foot birdie attempt moments before Woods' winning putt.

"I'm trying to compete against Tiger," O'Hair said. "It's not like it's 'The Tiger Show' and I'm just out there to watch him. I think that's the one thing the media thinks about the guys out here, and it's not about that. We're trying to win golf tournaments, and he just happens to be that good."

Even so, there is a mythical quality about Woods that makes so many people watch. Again, the timing could not have been better with the Masters two weeks away.

"As I look back at my three tournaments I've played this year, I've gotten better at each one," Woods said. "And that was the whole idea, to keep progressing to Augusta."

The LAS VEGAS SENTINEL-VOICE

McCain eyes pardon for Johnson

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WASHINGTON – Sen. John McCain wants a presidential pardon for Jack Johnson, who became the nation's first Black heavyweight boxing champion 100 years before Barack Obama became its first Black president.

McCain feels Johnson was wronged by a 1913 conviction of violating the Mann Act by having a consensual relationship with a White woman — a conviction widely seen as racially motivated.

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"I've been a very big fight fan, I was a mediocre boxer myself," McCain, R-Ariz., said in a telephone interview. "I had admired Jack Johnson's prowess in the ring. And the more I found out about him, the more I thought a grave injustice was done."

On Wednesday, McCain joined Rep. Peter King, R-N.Y., filmmaker Ken Burns and Johnson's great niece, Linda Haywood, at a Capitol Hill news conference to unveil a resolution urging a presidential pardon for Johnson. Similar legislation offered in 2004 and last year failed to pass both chambers of Congress.

King, a recreational boxer, said a pardon would "remove a cloud that's been over the American sporting scene ever since [Johnson] was convicted on these trumped-up charges."

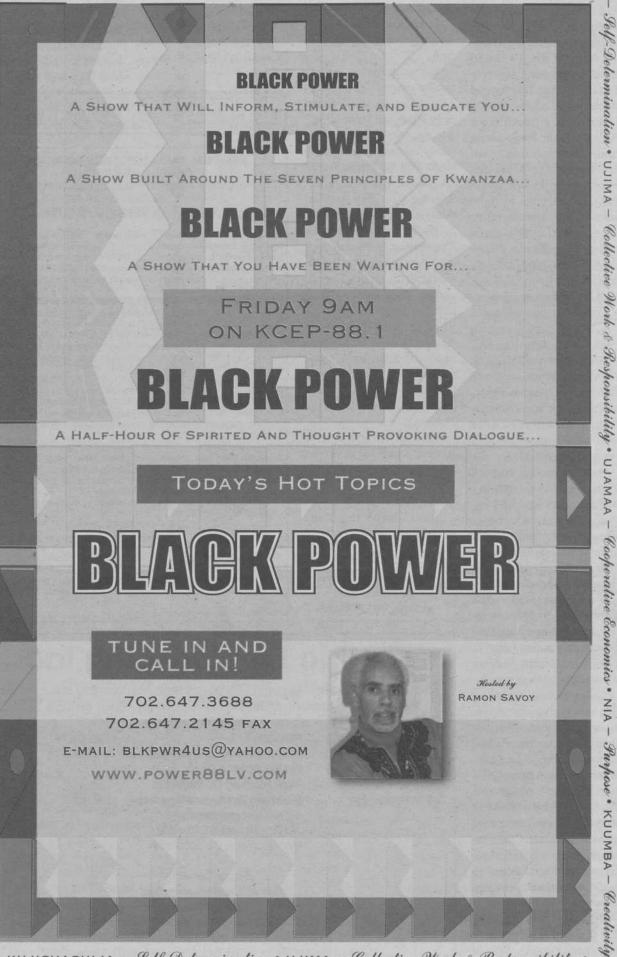
"I think the moment is now," King said.

Presidential pardons for the dead are rare.

In 1999, President Bill

Clinton pardoned Lt. Henry O. Flipper, the Army's first Black commissioned officer, who was drummed out of the military in 1882 after White officers accused him of embezzling \$3,800 in commissary funds. Last year, President George W. Bush pardoned Charles Winters, who was convicted of violating the Neutrality Act when he conspired in 1948 to export aircraft to a foreign country in aid of Israel.

The Justice Department (See Johnson, Page 11)



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