

Soccer fans show up at U.S. Open

Howdy, sports fans!
It's good to be back on the sports page with the old On the Ball column. We have a lot to cover, so let's get to it.
As predicted in this column last week, Tiger Woods has won the 2002 U.S. Open, despite having to stop and change Sergio Garcia's diapers several times. Tiger put a whuppin' on Garcia



Darrel Pattillo
On ● The Ball

and Mickelson and the rest of the boys, and you'd have thought The Rock was golfing, the way the crowd was going on. Speaking of the crowd, I kind of feel sorry for the US soccer team, because apparently they beat Mexico 2-0, but none of the soccer fans were there to see it, they being at the Open, breaking into English-style soccer songs and chanting "Here we go Tiger, here we go!"

—dp—

So, will this be the year America wins the World Cup? Why not? They're in the quarterfinals for the first time since Washington, Franklin, and Jefferson played, so set your alarm clocks for 2:30 a.m. or whatever time they play and root our boys on.

—dp—

Now: The continuing saga of Roger Clemens versus the New York Mets. Our story so far: Clemens beans Mike Piazza two years ago, then throws half a bat at him during the World Series in 2000. This year, during interleague play, the Yankees played the Mets and Clemens was forced to bat against the Mets. Now, everybody and their brothers, including Sergio Garcia's nanny, knew that Shawn Estes was going to try to hit Roger Clemens. That's the way baseball works. You throw at our guy, and we're going throw at your guy. Even if it takes two years, we're going to remember. So Estes threw at Clemens Saturday, and missed him. Not by much, but come on! Roger Clemens is 6'4" and weighs 240 pounds. His butt is as big as Luciano Pavarotti's! How could you miss it! Stay tuned.

—dp—

If you have a son or daughter, or niece or nephew, or even grandkids participating in sporting activity around the area, send me the results. You don't have to be a sportswriter to help me out. Heck, you don't even have to be a sportswriter to do my job! Look at me!

Seriously, though, there's so much going on that I can't get to, but that needs to be covered, that even just a score and a few sentences is a big help. My e-mail address is colbysports@nwkansas.com

—dp—

And finally, since I'm on a roll prediction-wise, I'll give you a few more:

(As predicted earlier) The Red Sox will win the World Series this year.

Sergio Garcia will be allowed to stay up until 8 p.m. now, as long as he promises not to whine and cry about Tiger Woods.

Mike Tyson will go berserk and eat all of his relatives.

Darrel Pattillo is the sports editor at the Colby Free Press. His column appears on Mondays.

Hunting Big Horn sheep in northwest Kansas



DARREL PATTILLO/Colby Free Press

Fox Still, Sharon Springs, eyed the big horn sheep target he just placed an arrow in at the Northwest Kansas Bowhunters Association monthly archery shoot. The club meets once a month from April through September and once in January. They hold competitions with compound bows and traditional recurve bows. Nineteen members participated Sunday in the shoot.

Kenseth gets third win at Sirius 400

BROOKLYN, Mich. (AP) — Matt Kenseth became the first three-time winner of the season, holding off a furious charge from Dale Jarrett in the Sirius Satellite Radio 400.

Jimmie Newman was third, followed by Michael Waltrip and Jeff Gordon, the defending race champion who came back from a lap down earlier in the race. Series points leader Sterling Marlin finished 21st. He has 110-point lead over Gordon and Johnson.

U.S. defeats Mexico 2-0

JEONJU, South Korea (AP) — Brian McBride and Landon Donovan scored on counterattacks, and the United States shocked Mexico 2-0 Monday to advance to the quarterfinals of the World Cup, the best showing for the Americans since 1930.



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Tiger cruises to U.S. Open victory

By PAUL NEWBERRY

AP Sports Writer

FARMINGDALE, N.Y. (AP) — Don't consider the "Tiger Slam" a real Grand Slam?

Tune in again about two months from now. By then, it's very possible Tiger Woods will have addressed those concerns.

The genuine slam seems downright inevitable after Woods cruised to a three-stroke victory Sunday in the U.S. Open, making him the first player since Jack Nicklaus three decades ago to win the first two majors of the year.

Woods still takes umbrage at those who say he hasn't won the slam already. After all, he became the first player to hold all four major championships at the same time, a streak that began at the 2000 U.S. Open.

Before the year was over, he captured the British Open and PGA Championship.

In April 2001, he finished off his version of the slam with a victory at Augusta National.

Now, after winning his second straight Masters and conquering brutal Bethpage Black, he's halfway home to an accomplishment no one can dispute.

"I've won the slam before," Woods said. "You can call it what you want. But when I was at home, I had all four trophies on my mantle, and no other person can say that."

"So," he added, "this will be a different type of slam, it being the calendar year."

Notice that Woods said "will," a telling twist of the tongue. He, like everyone else, is apparently convinced that no one can derail him in the last two majors of the year.

Next up: the British Open at Muirfield, five weeks away.

If he wins that, the PGA Championship at Hazeltine looms in mid-August.

"Right now, I couldn't care less," Woods said. "I want to celebrate this one. ... It will be a while before I start working on my links game."

Everybody else should start working now if they want to knock him off.

Woods started the final round of the U.S. Open with a five-stroke lead and never let the margin get closer than two shots, staring down Phil Mickelson and Sergio Garcia.

The only sour note was the ending — bogeys on two of his last three holes, including a meaningless three-putt in gathering darkness on the 18th for a 2-over 72.

Woods isn't complaining.

At 26, he already has won eight major championships, including seven of the last 11.

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Lleyton Hewitt wins third straight Queen's Club title

LONDON (AP) — Top-seeded Lleyton Hewitt won his third consecutive Queen's Club grass-court championship after overcoming Tim Henman 4-6, 6-1, 6-4.

Hewitt, the world No. 1 player, is the first player to win three straight Queen's Club titles since John McEnroe completed the feat in 1981.