

Break up the Williams sisters! Change the rules!



Darrel Pattillo

On The Ball

Well, the Williams sisters are dominating tennis like Tiger is dominating golf. Serena beat Venus for the Wimbledon singles title, and together they won the doubles title. So, now, like in the golf world, you're going to have a bunch of professional athletes playing their best to determine who's going to get that coveted third place trophy!

—dp—

Hey, golfers! Make sure you get down to the hardware store and pick up a leaf blower for those tough situations where there might be some kind of debris on the green that might affect your putts. No, really, you can use them! I saw it on KSN television's news coverage of the women's Open at Hutch. A whole dang squadron of guys were grooming the greens at Prairie Dunes with leaf blowers. So, what's next for these pampered pros? Paid servants to carry their clubs around for them? What? Oh...

—dp—

I was out at the golf course late Wednesday afternoon conducting research for my column, the subject being 'man-on-the-street'-type interviews. You know, taking the pulse of the nation. Real deep, intense background work for my future Pulitzer prize-winning columns.

So I'm standing there, waiting to tee off on the ninth hole, and I decide to interview Jim Stanley of Colby. Here is the transcript:

Question: Hey, Jim, how's it going?

Jim: Life is good, Darrel.

It's that kind of hard-hitting, in-depth, take-no-prisoners kind of reporting that'll secure my place in the newspaper Hall of Fame, yessiree Bob.

I've been spending Wednesday evenings watching my son Matt play in the Bambino league games out at the Colby Recreation Complex. It's been rather enjoyable to watch the kids go at it, but I do have one gripe: They should change the rule allowing the runners to take off and steal whenever they can. At the level these kids are playing at, no catcher has a prayer of throwing out a runner stealing a base. A walk is as good as a run. I'd like to see the rule changed that would keep a runner on the base until the ball has left the pitcher's hand. That's the way it was when I was playing Little League, and that's the rule whenever I watch the Little Leaguers playing on ESPN. A twelve-year old pitcher has enough to worry about without having to keep the runner on first close to the bag. Just something to think about.

—dp—

Baseball and the world lost a great one over the weekend. Ted Williams, the Splendid Splinter, passed away. Ted was a few years ahead of my time, but I remember studying him when I was playing baseball. Ted was a bit of a picky hitter, in that he wouldn't swing at anything that wasn't over the plate. I guess that worked out all right for him, but I couldn't bring myself to lay off of anything I could reach. Contrasting styles, yes, but if you compare my baseball career with Ted's, I think the results speak clearly.

—dp—

Now, here are some scores: 3-2, 7-6 (10 innings) and 2-1.

Darrel Pattillo is the sports editor for the Colby Free Press. His column appears on Mondays. You can e-mail him at colbysports@nwkansas.com

Hello, Oakley! Send your sports news to colbysports@nwkansas.com

Getting back on defense



DARREL PATTILLO/Colby Free Press

Dusty Quenzer (second from left) and Omar Fercha (right) played for Colby against Southwest Nebraska during the MAYB tournament this weekend at the Colby Community Building. Colby came in second, losing in the final game to Hays. Complete details on the tourney will be published as soon as they are available.

Hewitt triumphs at Wimbledon

By STEPHEN WILSON
AP Sports Writer

WIMBLEDON, England (AP) — Lleyton Hewitt was 6 years old when he sat in front of the TV at his grandmother's house and watched Pat Cash win Wimbledon.

That was 1987, the last time an Australian had lifted the most famous trophy in tennis. So when Hewitt beat David Nalbandian 6-1, 6-3, 6-2 in Sunday's final, he decided to do something special.

"I had no idea of what I was going to do if I won," he said. "I went back to my chair. Then I thought, 'Stuff it, I'll go and do it.' It's been 15 years since an Aussie won."

Hewitt climbed over the wall, ran up the stairs and went into the guest box where he embraced his coach Jason Stoltenberg, kissed his girlfriend Kim Clijsters and hugged his parents Glynn and Cherilyn.

Hewitt also drew inspiration from a pre-match phone call from Pat Rafter, who lost in the previous two finals and is on an extended break from the game.

Hewitt got plenty of support from a full contingent of Aussie greats, including Frank Sedgman, Ken Rosewall, John Newcombe and Neale Fraser.

Inkster becomes second-oldest Open champion

By CHUCK SCHOFFNER
AP Sports Writer

HUTCHINSON (AP) — Watching from 40 feet away as her ball plopped into the cup on the sixth hole, Juli Inkster pumped both fists.

It was an act she would repeat many times during a sweltering afternoon at the Prairie Dunes Country Club.

Inkster showed grit, determination and a feathery touch with her putter while making one critical shot after another Sunday to win the U.S. Women's Open by two strokes over Annika Sorenstam.

Her 4-under 66 matched the best final round by a Women's Open champion. And with every successful shot, Inkster's fist-pumping became more pronounced as the crowd roared its

approval.

"I told the people in our group, 'I've got to stop the fist-pumping or I'm going to run out of gas coming down the home stretch,'" Inkster said with laugh.

Well, she didn't stop. She was too darn excited. And she certainly didn't wear out, even with the heat index at 104. The 42-year-old mother of two took the lead with a birdie on No. 7 and Sorenstam, two strokes ahead at the start of the round, never led again.

It was the second U.S. Open title for Inkster — she won in 1999 — and made her the second-oldest champion. Babe Zaharias was 43 when she won in 1954.

"I'm 42 years old, I'm already in the Hall of Fame, everybody asks me why

I play," said Inkster, the only American to win this tournament in the last eight years. "I play because I love to play, and how can you not love to do what I did today?"

Inkster finished the tournament on the torturous, rolling course at 4-under 276 and won \$535,000, the largest pay-off in women's golf. Sorenstam closed with an even-par 70 for a 278. No one else broke par for the tournament.

Sorenstam, who already has six victories this year, shot par or better in all four rounds. It still wasn't enough.

"I didn't lose. Juli won," the Swedish star said. "I gave it everything I had.

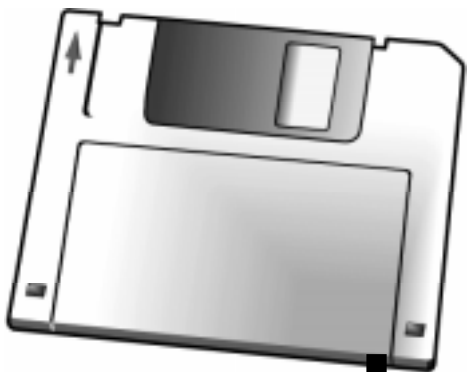
"To finish under par in this championship, on this golf course, I've got to be proud of that."

Shani Waugh of Australia had a 72

Sunday and finished third at 283. Spain's Raquel Carriedo, who started the day tied for 24th, shot a 66 to finish fourth at 284. Se Ri Pak, the 1998 Open champion, was another stroke back in fifth.

But this day belonged to Inkster, who won the first of her three straight U.S. Amateur Championships at Prairie Dunes in 1980. That immediately stamped her as the hometown favorite and the fans took to her as if she were one of their own.

"Twenty-two years ago I was standing here holding the U.S. Amateur trophy," Inkster told the crowd gathered around the 18th green. "Now I'm holding the U.S. Open Trophy. So I'm going to have to buy a condo or house here in Hutchinson, Kansas."



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