

Doyle edges Watson for U.S. Senior Open

HUTCHINSON (AP) — Allen Doyle figured he had maybe one friend among the thousands of people following him, Tom Watson and Loren Roberts in the final round of the U.S. Senior Open.

"My wife was out there," he deadpanned. "I think the rest were all for Tom."

Nevertheless, Doyle shot a steady 2-under 68 Sunday to overcome Watson's two-shot lead and home-state advantage to win the Open for the second year in a row.

"I was in a no-lose position. If Tom won, he was supposed to win," Doyle said. "If you grabbed anybody and they said they were (rooting for Doyle) they were probably lying."

He enjoys being an underdog, he said, "because I am one."

"Being the underdog is not a bad thing. It allows you to come into town and take care of business, practice without people bothering you."

A year ago in Kettering, Ohio, Doyle needed a closing round 63 to come from far back in the pack. With the win Sunday, Doyle becomes the first back-to-back U.S. Senior Open winner since Gary Player in 1987-88 and the oldest ever at 57 years, 11 months and 17 days. Pocketing first-place money of \$470,000, he's also the third U.S. Senior Open winner to post four straight rounds in the 60s.

Doyle went into the final round trailing only Watson, who built a two-stroke lead with consecutive rounds of 4-under-par 66 on the tricky Prairie Dunes layout.

But Watson couldn't get control of his putter. The popular Kansas City native three-putted two of the first three holes for bogey and never regained his rhythm, finishing with a 72 and a four-day total of 274, two shots behind Doyle's 8-under 272.

"I got off to a bad start ... and that put me in the defensive type of mood, it seemed like," Watson said. "And I just didn't get the offense working. I felt like I was playing defense all day. And as a result, I

shot the score I did."

Several others spent the day charging into contention and then dropping out.

D.A. Weibring, who bogeyed the last two holes at last year's U.S. Senior Open and finished one stroke behind Doyle, took the lead with seven birdies on his first 12 holes to get to 7 under for the day and the tournament.

But he collapsed on the back nine with bogeys on 13 and 14 and a double-bogey on the par-4 16th after driving into the rough. He shot a 68 to finish the tournament at 2 under.

"Can we talk about the first 12?" he said.

Bruce Lietzke had a 66 Sunday and was tied for third with Peter Jacobsen (69) at 5 under.

Roberts, whose 8-under-62 on Saturday broke the USGA Open championship record and brought him within three strokes of the lead, had a 68 Sunday and wound up at 278 along with Weibring and Jay Haas.

Scott Simpson and Andy Bean were at 4-under 276 while Bob Gilder was at 3-under 277.

Watson fans might also say Doyle was lucky as well. After Doyle hit into the rugged rough on No. 11, a USGA official decided his ball was in the hole of a burrowing animal and gave him a free drop.

He went on to par the hole while Watson bogeyed and fell behind by one stroke — for good.

"The officials were there. They approved everything," Doyle said defensively. "I said, 'Is this a burrowing animal hole?' The official said, 'Yes.'"

After Watson made a great recovery shot out of the thick rough to within 2 feet of the cup on No. 17, Doyle made a tough, curling 15-foot birdie putt to maintain a two-stroke lead with one to play.

"I must have played probably 8 inches of break on it without a lot of speed," he said. "When it got going down that hole and kept going left, that was a beautiful sight."

Gordon spins Kenseth to win at Chicagoland

JOLIET, Ill. (AP) — Jeff Gordon spun out Matt Kenseth with four laps to go, then held on to win Sunday's Nextel Cup race at Chicagoland Speedway.

Fans showered the track with debris after the race, an apparent protest of Gordon's racing tactics.

"I hate to win one like that," Gordon said in Victory Lane. "Matt, he ran a great race."

Gordon and Kenseth tangled earlier this year during a race at Bristol Motor Speedway, causing Gordon to shove Kenseth in a physical confrontation afterward.

Gordon denied that Sunday's finish had anything to do with Bristol.

Gordon said he didn't want to wreck Kenseth, insisting, "I wanted to race him." But he added Kenseth was trying to block him.

"I'm not going to back down," Gordon said. "I wanted to win."

Kenseth crew chief Robbie Reiser said in a television interview: "We just got spun out, I guess."

Second-place finisher Jeff Burton, a former teammate of Kenseth's at Roush Racing, initially declined comment because he didn't see what happened.

But after wincing during a television replay, Burton said, "Matt's a hard-nosed racer, and there'll be retribution for that, I'm sure."

Burton said if NASCAR isn't willing to issue rough driving penalties, it will be up to drivers to settle issues on the track.

"If NASCAR doesn't handle it, then we need to handle it," Burton said. "And that's OK."

Kenseth and David Stremme then crashed on the way to the start/finish line, sending Kenseth spinning again at the finish.

Kenseth dominated the second half of Sunday's race and appeared to be headed to his third victory of the season, but a sudden surge from Gordon in the closing laps allowed him to catch Kenseth in Turn 2. Gordon then appeared to tap Kenseth's rear bumper with his front bumper.

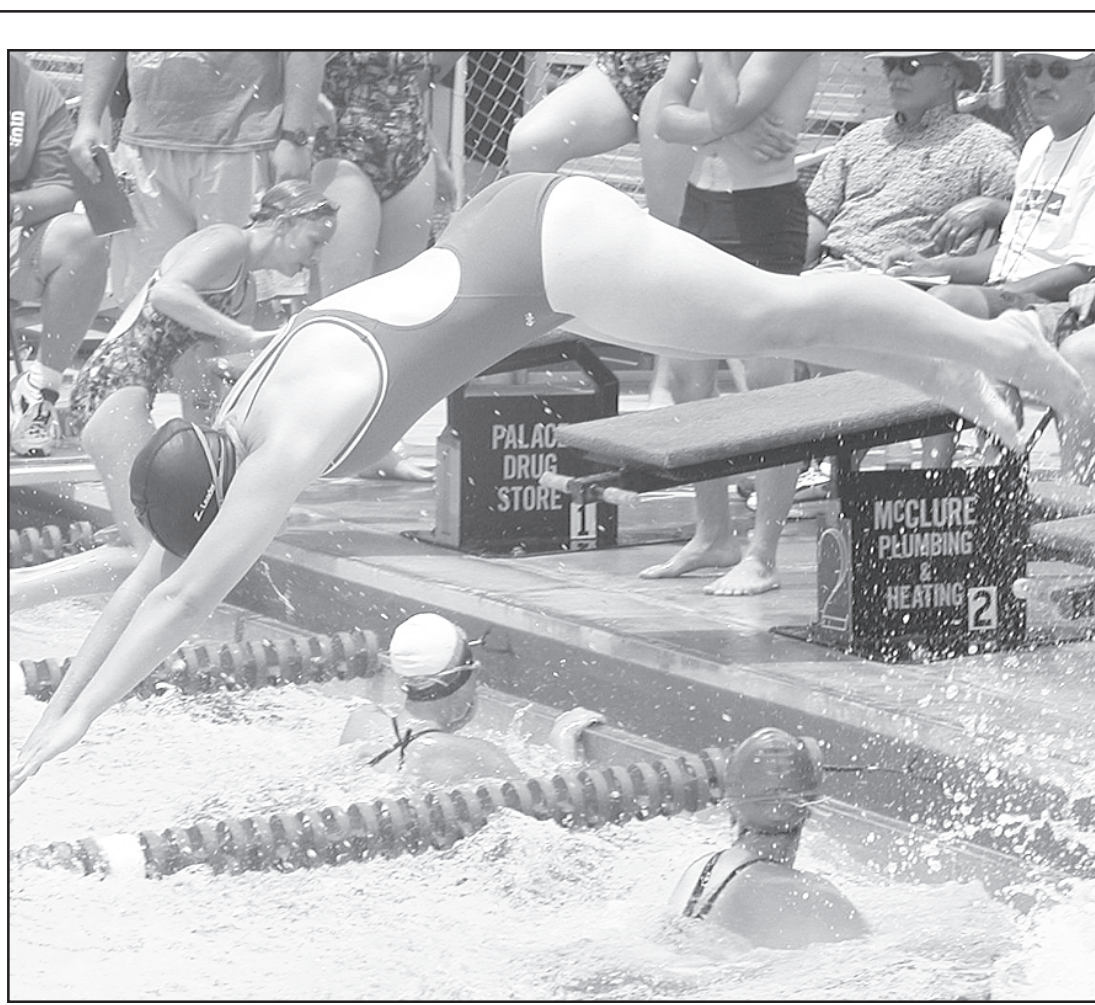
Earlier in the race, Gordon closed in on Kenseth's rear bumper on a restart with 30 laps to go. But Gordon couldn't pull off the pass and Kenseth got away.

It was Gordon's first victory at the suburban Chicago track, and his second victory of the 2006 season. Gordon won two weeks ago at Infineon Raceway.

Burton, trying for his first victory since 2001, finished second, followed by Kyle Busch, Kevin Harvick and Dale Earnhardt Jr.

The race was slowed eight times for caution flags, with no major crashes until the Gordon-Kenseth accident.

Michael Waltrip's car was damaged when he brushed the wall with 40 laps to go, and Casey Mears — who won his first NASCAR race on Saturday with a victory in the Busch Series — spun and hit the wall with 34 laps to go.



TISHA COX/Colby Free Press

Colby Swim Club's Leah Cox jumped into the water during the 200-yard medley relay while teammate Kirstie Strutt (below, right) finished her lap at the Northwest Kansas League swim meet Saturday at the Colby Municipal Pool. Results were not available by press time.

University president to review process

BOZEMAN, Mont. (AP) — Montana State University will take a "serious look at itself," including its recruiting process, after two former athletes were charged with murdering another man, university President Geoff Gamble said.

The second of those two former athletes, one-time redshirt football player John LeBrum, made an initial appearance in Justice Court June 30. Bail was set at \$1 million for LeBrum, as it had been a day earlier for Brandon Miller, a former basketball player.

Both LeBrum and Miller are charged with murder in the death last week of Jason Cody Wright, a suspected cocaine dealer whose body was found June 23.

Miller played at Colby Community College before transferring to Montana State.

Neither LeBrum nor Miller completed their degrees. Both also were dropped from their teams, Miller, in December, for not keeping his grades high enough and LeBrum, nearly two summers ago, for violating team rules.

Colby Free Press contributed to this story.

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SportsBriefs

BERLIN (AP) — Italy let France do nearly anything it wanted Sunday, except win the World Cup. That belongs to the Azzurri, 5-3 in a shootout after a 1-1 draw.

Outplayed for an hour and into extra time, the Italians won it after French captain Zinedine Zidane was ejected in the 107th for a vicious butt to the chest of Marco Materazzi. It was the ugliest act of a tournament that set records for yellow and red cards, diving and,

at times, outright brutality.

Only Brazil has more World Cups, five.

TENNIS

WIMBLEDON, England (AP) — Nobody can stop Roger Federer on grass.

No. 1 got even against No. 2 as Federer ended a five-match losing streak to Rafael Nadal on Sunday, winning 6-0, 7-6 (5), 6-7 (2), 6-3 to earn his fourth straight Wimbledon title and eighth Grand Slam championship.