

# Win gives Woods grand slam

AUGUSTA, Ga. (AP) — The vanquished usually make a mad dash to the parking lot on the final day of the Masters.

This time, it was different. Some gathered in front of TVs in the Augusta National clubhouse. A few more actually wandered out to the 18th green to witness in person. Tiger Woods was making history, and even the guys he beats week in and week out wanted to see.

“It’s a great time to be involved in the game, whether you’re a player or a spectator,” Steve Stricker said. “It’s a great time to watch.”

Woods kept his rivals around until the end Sunday, even those who completed their 18 holes with no chance of denying his destiny.

Call it a Grand Slam, call it a Tiger Slam, it really makes no difference. This was something special, a moment that transcended the game of golf to become one of those landmark moments in the American sports lexicon.

DiMaggio’s 56-game hitting streak. Chamberlain’s 100-point game. Tiger’s four straight major championships.

“He’s not like anyone we’ve seen before in the game,” said Mark Calcavecchia, who returned to the course in time to watch Woods wrap up a clean sweep of the U.S. Open, British Open, PGA Championship and Masters — albeit not in the same calendar year.

Woods held off his two most dangerous rivals, David Duval and Phil Mickelson, with a 16-under 272 total to win the first major of 2001.

In a span of 294 days, Woods routed Pebble Beach, conquered the home of golf at St. Andrews, hung on to win a heart-stopper at Valhalla, and picked up a second green jacket at Augusta National.

“It is special,” he said. “It really is.” Four years earlier, Woods introduced himself to the world with a remarkable 12-stroke victory at this very course. It was his first major title and one he didn’t fully appreciate at age 21. “I guess I was a little young, a little naive,” Woods said. “I didn’t understand what I accomplished for at least a year or two after that event.”

Now an old man of 25, he fully comprehends the gravity of the moment. It’s tough enough to win one major professional title. Two in a row is something special.

But four in a row? That was thought to be unattainable, until Woods set the bar so high that only he can reach it.

“This year, I understand,” he said. “I have a better appreciation for winning a major championship. To win four of them in succession, it’s hard to believe, really.”

Woods raised his arms in triumph after his final shot, an 18-foot putt, curved gently into the cut for a birdie.

He wound up 2 shots ahead of Duval, with Mickelson in arrears by 3.

“He seems to do just what is required,” Mickelson said. “I think if I was making a run, he may have followed suit.”

Duval and Mickelson were both doomed by bogeys at the par-3 16th.

Duval rocketed a 7-iron over the green, and couldn’t get up and down with a slipper, downhill chip. Mickelson’s tee shot reached the green, but in the worst possible location — an upper tier that led to a 3-putt bogey.

Woods began the day with a 1-stroke lead and closed with a 4-under 68, thanks to a spectacular 8-iron from 149 yards that grazed the cup at the 11th hole for a tap-in birdie. He went to No. 18 needing just a par to clinch victory, but went the extra step — as usual — with a birdie.

“I was so attuned to each and every shot,” said Woods, who took a congratulatory call from President Bush. “I finally realized I had no more to play. That’s it. I’m done.”

Woods buried his face in his cap, the only time all day he wasn’t in control. Then he strolled off the green into the embrace of his father, who taught him the game, and his mother.

“I started getting a little emotional,” Woods conceded. “That’s why I put the cap over my face, to pull it together.”

It will be left to others to determine

where this achievement ranks in the annals of golf.

Woods now has won six majors, as many as Nick Faldo and Lee Trevino and only one behind the likes of Palmer, Sam Snead and Harry Vardon. Woods swept the last four with a combined score of 65-under par, breaking records just about every step of the way.

Bobby Jones, who helped design Augusta National, won the only undisputed version of the Grand Slam in 1930, when the U.S. and British Opens and U.S. and British Amateurs were the most prominent tournaments of the day.

Some, including Jack Nicklaus and Arnold Palmer, have dismissed Tiger’s slam as falling short of a true Grand Slam, arguing that it must be accomplished within the calendar year.

Others say that standard is too demanding.

“He’s got four together on the mantle right now, and that’s a Grand Slam,” said Chris DiMarco, who led the first two rounds but faded over the weekend. “It doesn’t matter what order it came in.

“Of course, he might go out and win three more in a row and shut everyone up.”

Next stop, the U.S. Open.

“We’ll find out in June,” Woods said.

# Rockies find road unfriendly so far

DENVER (AP) — The San Diego Padres and Colorado Rockies head into the second week of the season with decidedly different outlooks and 3-3 records.

The Padres, who dropped three games to San Francisco to open the season, rebounded for their first-ever sweep of a three-game series in Denver, capping the comeback with an 11-3 win on Sunday.

The Padres are scoffing at pre-season prognostications that pegged them as division doormats.

“I don’t think we’re as bad as a lot of the baseball experts or some of the media have us placed in our division,” manager Bruce Bochy said.

Added outfielder Tony Gwynn, whose team plays its home opener Tuesday, “We come home 3-3, where we started 0-3. I think a lot of people had written us off to begin with, but to start 0-3 really didn’t help our cause. And now we’ve turned it around and have played really good baseball.

“We find ourselves back at .500, playing with a lot of confidence and going back home. We’re thrilled to death to be where we are.”

The Rockies, on the other hand, have a bullpen in disarray and mounting injuries.

They lost shortstop Neifi Perez, who was placed on the 15-day disabled list with a sprained left thumb that might require surgery. They’ve already lost reliever Juan Acevedo to the DL, and reliever Craig Dingman went down with an apparent shoulder injury in Sunday’s game.

The three straight losses come on the heels of three impressive wins over the St. Louis Cardinals, during which Colorado’s starters compiled a 1.69 ERA.

Manager Buddy Bell tried to keep the past week in perspective.

“I didn’t make a big deal out of the first three,” Bell said, “and I’m not making a big deal out of the last three. Things haven’t gone well over the last three games, but that’s why we play a long season.”

First baseman Todd Helton agreed. “We’ve been through worse

stretches than this,” he said. “We just have to go out and try to win (Monday in St. Louis). I think the change of scenery will be good.”

Phil Nevin homered and drove in five runs, and Brian Tollberg pitched eight strong innings on Sunday.

Nevin broke a 3-3 tie in the sixth, greeting Dingman with a 453-foot three-run homer. Ahead of him, Damian Jackson walked and Mike Darr singled, both off Horacio Estrada (0-1).

Nevin, who also hit a three-run homer Saturday, added a two-run single in the ninth.

“Against two of the best teams in the division, we played San Francisco tough and came in here and took three from Colorado,” Nevin said. “You have to like that. It’s early, but for us, a very young team, this is a good start and a confidence-builder.

Tollberg (1-0) allowed seven hits and three runs, walking one and striking out four.

Darr had a career-high four hits for San Diego, which also got production from the bottom of the order. No. 7 hitter Santiago Perez had a single, RBI double and walk and scored twice, and No. 8 hitter Donaldto Mendez had three hits, including a solo homer, and drove in two runs.

Larry Walker had three hits, including a two-run homer, for Colorado.

Colorado starter Ron Villone allowed three runs on eight hits through five innings, departing with the score tied 3-3.

*Notes:* Gwynn was scratched from the starting lineup because of tightness in his legs. Gwynn appeared in a career-low 36 games last season and didn’t play after surgery in June on his left knee. X-rays on Colorado shortstop Perez’s left thumb and catcher Brent Mayne’s right wrist both were negative after Saturday’s game. In going on the DL, Perez’s consecutive games-played streak ended at 171. Shortstop Juan Uribe was activated from Double-A Carolina.

# baseball scoreboard

By The Associated Press

<b>AMERICAN LEAGUE</b> <b>Saturday's Games</b>	(Eldred 0-1), 6:05 p.m.
Toronto 3, N.Y. Yankees 2	
Baltimore 4, Cleveland 2, 11 innings	
Detroit 5, Chicago White Sox 3	
<b>Kansas City 5, Minnesota 3</b>	
Oakland 4, Anaheim 2	
Boston 6, Tampa Bay 2	
Seattle 6, Texas 5	
<b>Sunday's Games</b>	
Boston 3, Tampa Bay 0	
N.Y. Yankees 16, Toronto 5	
Cleveland 4, Baltimore 3	
Detroit 5, Chicago White Sox 3	
<b>Kansas City 15, Minnesota 4</b>	
Texas 5, Seattle 4	
Anaheim 6, Oakland 4	
<b>Today's Games</b>	
Tampa Bay (Wilson 0-0) at Toronto (Hamilton 0-0), 5:05 p.m.	
Detroit (Sparks 0-0) at Minnesota (Radke 1-0), 6:05 p.m.	
<b>N.Y. Yankees (Pettitte 1-0) at Kansas City (Stein 0-1), 6:05 p.m.</b>	
Cleveland (Finley 1-0) at Chicago White Sox	

<b>Tuesday's Games</b>	
Baltimore (Ponson 0-1) at Boston (Castillo 0-0), 4:05 p.m.	
Tampa Bay (Rekar 0-1) at Toronto (Carpenter 1-0), 5:05 p.m.	
Detroit (Undecided) at Minnesota (Milton 0-0), 6:05 p.m.	
Cleveland (Drew 0-0) at Chicago White Sox (Buehrle 0-0), 6:05 p.m.	
<b>N.Y. Yankees (Mussina 1-0) at Kansas City (Reichert 0-1), 6:05 p.m.</b>	
Texas (Oliver 1-0) at Anaheim (Rapp 0-1), 8:05 p.m.	
Seattle (Sele 1-0) at Oakland (Mulder 0-1), 8:05 p.m.	
<b>NATIONAL LEAGUE</b> <b>Saturday's Games</b>	
Chicago Cubs 8, Philadelphia 4	
Montreal 10, N.Y. Mets 0	
Milwaukee 6, Cincinnati 1	
Pittsburgh 5, Houston 3	
<b>San Diego 14, Colorado 10</b>	
St. Louis 8, Arizona 4	
Florida 8, Atlanta 0	
Los Angeles 10, San Francisco 4	
<b>Sunday's Games</b>	
Florida 6, Atlanta 1	

Montreal 5, N.Y. Mets 2	
Philadelphia 3, Chicago Cubs 1	
Milwaukee 8, Cincinnati 4	
Pittsburgh 9, Houston 3	
<b>San Diego 11, Colorado 3</b>	
St. Louis 9, Arizona 4	
San Francisco 8, Los Angeles 3	
<b>Today's Games</b>	
Atlanta (Millwood 0-0) at N.Y. Mets (Appier 0-0), 11:10 a.m.	
Cincinnati (Reitsma 0-0) at Pittsburgh (Ritchie 0-0), 11:35 a.m.	
<b>Colorado (Neagle 1-0) at St. Louis (Benes 0-1), 1:10 p.m.</b>	
Chicago Cubs (Wood 0-1) at Montreal (Reames 1-0), 5:05 p.m.	
Florida (Penny 0-0) at Philadelphia (Chen 0-0), 5:05 p.m.	
<b>Tuesday's Games</b>	
San Francisco (Ortiz 1-0) at San Diego (Jarvis 0-0), 4:05 p.m.	
Chicago Cubs (Tapani 1-0) at Montreal (Armas Jr. 0-1), 5:05 p.m.	
Florida (Nunez 0-1) at Philadelphia (Telemaco 1-0), 5:05 p.m.	
Houston (Miller 1-0) at Milwaukee (Sheets 0-1),	

6:05 p.m.	
Los Angeles (Brown 0-0) at Arizona (Schilling 1-0), 7:35 p.m.	

## Avs win final game, ready for Stanley Cup


ST. PAUL, Minn. (AP) — Ray Bourque has waited 22 years for a Stanley Cup, and he isn’t about to let his back prevent him from hoisting it in the air.

Bourque strained his back in the first period Sunday, but was content to sit out and watch his Colorado teammates hold off Minnesota 4-2.

Asked if he would be ready to go Thursday when Colorado hosts Vancouver in the playoffs, he smiled.

“I’m expecting to skate this week and everything is going fine,” he said.

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