

101-year-old golfer hits record hole-in-one

DEERFIELD BEACH, Fla. (AP) — Harold Stilson starts his week the same way every Monday. The alarm goes off at 6:30 a.m., he reads the newspaper, eats a bowl of cereal with sugar and drives himself to the golf course to shoot 18 holes.

"It bores anybody," Stilson said. "I have a routine life and I don't want to change it." The routine did change, after Stilson set a record at age 101 as the oldest golfer to hit a hole-in-one. It made him a hit at his Boca Raton retirement home and the talk of the Deerfield Country Club, where he used a 4-iron to ace the 108-yard 16th hole. News of that May 16 shot was heard around the world. Stilson was sent clippings from foreign language newspapers, did a six-day television tour and was interviewed on dozens of radio shows. He has enjoyed the hoopla, but seems happy to be returning to his routine. He doesn't think his feat was that big a deal, especially since he has hit five

other holes-in-one — all since turning 70. His ace on the club's 15th hole Sept. 20, 1999, didn't earn a fraction of the attention.

"Why? Otto Bucher in Spain," Stilson said of the 99-year-old man whose record he broke. "He was 81 days older than me the day I made mine."

Stilson took up the game in 1921. With a 27 handicap, he golfs a round each Monday, Wednesday and Friday and plays nine holes on Sundays if he isn't happy with his Friday round. Harold Jr., 78, said the pace doesn't slow his father down one bit.

"I don't think he'd use a cart, but everyone's required to use a cart on the course," he said. "He can outwalk about any person I've seen."

Golf is not the only game Stilson has mastered, his son said.

"He also shoots a mean game of pool. And don't play poker with him or you'll lose," Harold Jr. said.

On golf days, Stilson has a warm Lite beer and cup of soup for lunch. On Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays, he works out with 10-pound dumbbells and has beer and popcorn.

"One beer. That's enough at noon," Stilson said. "Then at 4:30 I'll have another one and that's it for the day."

He jokes that beer and popcorn are the secret to long life. More seriously, he said his secret is just being happy.

Stilson and his wife, Becky, were married 76 years before she died in 1998. She was 94. The couple retired to Florida in 1969 after Stilson sold his manufacturing company in Roseville, Mich., to his daughter and son-in-law.

"We had a happy life. We traveled everywhere playing golf," he said. "She was absolutely fabulous."

He recalls his days in the Navy with a sparkle in his eyes. He enlisted in 1917 and quickly discovered he wasn't fond of marching around

with a gun on his shoulder. Stilson, who played the piano, tracked down the ship's band leader and said he wanted to join. He was asked if he could play the saxophone. He couldn't, but saw an opportunity.

"That was the end of my gun toting," he said with a smile.

Someone showed him how to play a middle C note, and he went down into the bowels of the USS Louisiana and practiced amid the stored ammunition.

"I did that for six months and became good, real good," he said.

His new skill helped earn him a living in civilian life. He played debutante balls for the Ford and Firestone families, earning \$50 and \$60 a night during the Depression years and loading up on Scotch before gigs.

"Man, we lived high on the hog," he said. "We did that all through the Depression. We didn't even know there was a depression," he

said, adding that he bought a new Pontiac each year from 1931 to 1941.

Today, he drives a 1982 Mercury Cougar he bought almost 20 years ago, although the odometer reads only 49,000 miles.

"I'm waiting for 2004, then I can renew my driver's license," he said.

The younger Stilson said his father even made his own beer and wine during Prohibition, although he "cut out the Scotch about a year ago."

At 5-foot-8 and 126 pounds, Stilson is well-tanned and has a quick step, though he said he takes his age for granted.

"Age is in the mind. I don't feel any older than 50 in my mind. I'm doing things that people in their 50s are doing," he said.

"Every time I meet a stranger, I tell them I'm 101 and they say 'For God's sake, you can't be older than 75.' It happens dozens of times and I feel even younger than that."

Royals sweep Cardinals

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP) — Mike Sweeney hit a solo homer with one out in the 13th inning Thursday night, lifting the Kansas City Royals to a 3-2 win over the St. Louis Cardinals.

Rookie Albert Pujols went 3-for-5 with a double — his National League-leading ninth three-hit game — but couldn't keep the Cardinals from being swept in the three-game series and finishing their latest road trip 1-8.

Sweeney's homer came off Gene Stechshulte (0-3), who started the 12th for St. Louis.

Doug Henry (2-0) pitched a perfect 13th, striking out two, for the win.

Pujols hit a bloop double in the ninth as the Cardinals loaded the bases with

one out against reliever Roberto Hernandez, but Joe Randa started a double play to end the inning and preserve a 2-all tie.

St. Louis turned double plays in the 10th, 11th and 12th.

Jeff Suppan, scratched from the starter's spot in the first two games of the series, shut out the Cardinals for six innings but gave up Mark McGwire's RBI double and Ray Lankford's sacrifice fly — on a foul ball outside the left-field line — in the seventh.

Suppan recovered and pitched through the eighth inning, giving up two runs on four hits in his longest outing of the season. He walked two and struck out three.

St. Louis starter Mike Matthews, still without a decision in four career interleague starts, gave up two runs and six hits in 5 2-3 innings. He walked three and struck out one.

Dave McCarty doubled and scored on A.J. Hinch's single in the fifth, and Randa's sixth-inning double gave the Royals a 2-0 lead.

McCarty doubled twice for Kansas City before being lifted for a pinch-runner in the sixth, and Carlos Beltran's sixth-inning double extended his hitting streak to nine games.

Notes: Nine St. Louis players had their hotel rooms broken into on Wednesday night, with an estimated \$10,000 in cash and property stolen.

sports briefs

Woods struggles in U.S. Open play

TULSA, Okla. (AP) — Tiger Woods got off to a slow start at the U.S. Open in his quest for a fifth straight major title. Instead, 56-year-old Hale Irwin, a three-time Open champion and the oldest player in the field, shot a 3-under 67 at Southern Hills Country Club.

Woods double-bogeyed the 9th hole to make the turn at 3 over par. With Woods on the 10th hole, play was halted because of an approaching storm, foreshadowed by gray clouds that hovered over the course all day.

Sixty-six of the 156 players completed the opening round. The remainder will return to the course Friday to complete their rounds, then get started on the second round.

Loren Roberts was in at 69. Retief Goosen, though seven holes, was also at 3 under.

Stanford, Miami to play in title game

OMAHA, Neb. (AP) — Kevin Howard and Danny Matienzo hit back-to-back home runs to spark a seven-run fourth inning, leading Miami to the College World Series championship game, 12-6 over Tennessee.

Miami will play Stanford, which won last night in Saturday's title game.

Wizards left wondering

Imagine for a moment that the Washington Wizards, who own the first pick in the upcoming NBA draft, had a list of players like Tracy McGrady, Baron Davis, Lamar Odom, Elton Brand or Larry Hughes.

If all of the above mentioned players hadn't left college early or skipped college all together, they would be eligible for this year's draft. It puts drafting a high school player like Eddie Curry or Tyson Chandler into perspective. Of course, the Wizards best off-season pick-up will probably come from the front office and goes by the name of Mr. Jordan.

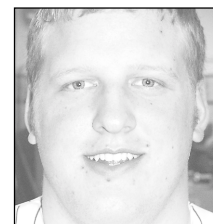
Northwestern's Damien Anderson and Nebraska's Eric Crouch are everyone's preseason Heisman winners, but don't forget about Virginia Tech's Lee Suggs. Playing in the shadow of the overrated Michael Vick last season, all Suggs did was rush for 932 yards and 19 touchdowns and lead the nation in scoring.

With a more traditional quarterback in the pocket, expect Va Tech to use Suggs early and often. A 1,500-yard season is a definite possibility.

The team's new quarterback, either Grant Noel or Dave Myer, won't have the jaw dropping athleticism that Vick possessed. However, last season in the three games that Myer played when Vick was injured he averaged 131 yards per game passing compared to 97 for the Falcon's rookie. Don't be surprised to see a 10-0 Hokies team give an undefeated Miami team a close game at home on December 1.

If I was a betting man, I wouldn't be betting on Texas.

It's a given that they are going to choke in at least one game and if they do happen to win the Big XII South they will have to face the winner of the Kansas State-Nebraska game in the championship game. The winner of the KSU-NU game could decide half of the "Granddaddy of them all" national championship game in the Rose Bowl. Oklahoma is out of the loop because of their shaky quarterback situation. The two hardest things to do in team sports are to live up to expectations and to repeat success. Expectations are sky high in Norman and last season's undefeated national championship is as



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about as successful as you can get.

As for my beloved Wildcats, the scariest thing about their team is that they have the talent to go undefeated this year and should be an early-season candidate for preseason number one next year. The winner of the Ell Roberson-Marc Dunn battle at quarterback will have a season of experience under their belt and this year's top 20 recruiting class will be ready to produce. Watch out America, because with the recruiting job that Bill Snyder is doing the Wildcats are on the verge of becoming a national dynasty. All we need is one title to get them over the hump.

What about Kansas? Well, with the schedule they have the team might be greatly improved but still only get two wins. The team plays UCLA, at Colorado, Oklahoma, at Kansas State, Nebraska, at Texas, and Iowa State, not to mention a very tough Wyoming team and a dangerous Texas Tech. The game against Missouri might be their only saving grace from a winless season.

The (yawn) U.S. Open is (yawn) underway and it's one of (ZZZZZZZZ) the most wide open fields in memory. Yeah, Right, Tiger by 12.

That's more or less my thoughts for the week. Questions? Comments? Complaints? Send e-mail to moreorlester@fan.com.

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Rockies split doubleheader

DENVER (AP) — David Bell tormented his father, Colorado manager Buddy Bell, with a two-run homer as the Seattle Mariners beat the Rockies 5-1 Thursday night to gain a split of a day-night doubleheader.

Paul Abbott (6-2) limited the Rockies to one run and six hits in seven innings to win his fourth straight start. Al Martin added a three-run double for the Mariners, who lost the opener 8-2. Seattle has won 18 of 20 and reached 50 victories in 64 games, tying the 1939 New York Yankees for the second-best record after 64 games since 1900. Only the 1912 New York Giants (53-11) were better.

Colorado rookie Shawn Chacon held Seattle to two hits in seven innings in Game 1 as the teams played the 15th

day-night doubleheader in seven seasons at Coors Field. Ben Petrick added two hits and two RBIs for the Rockies, who ended Seattle's six-game road winning streak.

The Mariners needed just six batters in the nightcap to top their first-game production.

Martin cleared the bases with a two-out double off Pedro Astacio (5-7) and Bell followed with his fifth homer of the season.

Bell, whose brother Mike is in Colorado's farm system, went 0-for-10 against the Rockies last season and was 1-for-4 on Tuesday night. Buddy Bell remained stoic as his eldest son rounded the bases in front of him.

Colorado's best chance against Abbott came in the sixth when Todd

Helton's RBI double put runners at second and third with one out. Abbott, who has allowed seven runs during his four-game winning streak then struck out Greg Norton, and Todd Walker grounded out to end the threat.

David Bell then robbed Colorado of a run in the seventh, leaping to catch an inning-ending line drive with a runner at second.

Chacon (4-3), a rookie who grew up in Greeley, about an hour northeast of Denver, got plenty of offensive support in the opener as the Rockies handed Jamie Moyer (8-2) his first loss since May 8.

Colorado built a 7-1 lead after six innings, even getting some help from Chacon, who got his first major league hit and scored in the fifth.

baseball scoreboard

The Associated Press

American League				
East Division	W	L	Pct	GB
Boston	38	26	.594	—
New York	36	28	.563	2
Toronto	31	34	.477	7 1/2
Baltimore	30	34	.469	8
Tampa Bay	21	44	.323	17 1/2
Central Division				
W	L	Pct	GB	
Minnesota	41	23	.641	—
Cleveland	40	23	.635	1/2
Chicago	30	32	.484	10
Detroit	27	35	.435	13
Kansas City	25	40	.385	16 1/2
West Division				
W	L	Pct	GB	
Seattle	50	14	.781	—
Oakland	32	32	.500	18
Anaheim	31	33	.484	19
Texas	22	42	.344	28

Kansas City 3, St. Louis 2, 13 innings	
Friday's Games	
Minnesota (Romero 1-2) at Chicago Cubs (Tavarez 3-4), 1:20 p.m.	
Toronto (Carpenter 5-4) at Montreal (Vazquez 5-7), 5:05 p.m.	
Cleveland (Burba 8-2) at Pittsburgh (Anderson 3-6), 5:05 p.m.	
Tampa Bay (Sturtz 3-5) at Florida (Burnett 4-2), 5:05 p.m.	
Baltimore (Roberts 5-5) at Philadelphia (Daal 7-1), 5:05 p.m.	
N.Y. Yankees (Petitte 7-4) at N.Y. Mets (Leiter 3-4), 5:10 p.m.	
Boston (Arrojo 1-2) at Atlanta (Maddux 6-5), 5:35 p.m.	
Texas (Helling 4-7) at Houston (Miller 7-3), 6:05 p.m.	
Kansas City (Stein 3-4) at Milwaukee (Wright 5-4), 6:05 p.m.	
Chicago White Sox (Garland 2-2) at St. Louis (Benes 5-4), 6:10 p.m.	
Los Angeles (Park 7-4) at Anaheim (Ortiz 4-4), 8:05 p.m.	
Seattle (Garcia 6-1) at San Diego (Jones 3-8), 8:05 p.m.	
Detroit (Holt 4-5) at Arizona (Batista 4-3), 8:05 p.m.	
Oakland (Lidle 1-4) at San Francisco (Estes 5-2), 8:35 p.m.	
Saturday's Games	
N.Y. Yankees (Mussina 5-7) at N.Y. Mets (Appier 4-5), 11:15 a.m.	
Chicago White Sox (K.Wells 3-2) at St. Louis (Hermanson 5-5), 11:15 a.m.	
Texas (Davis 2-5) at Houston (McKnight 0-0), 2:05 p.m.	
Minnesota (Thomas 0-0) at Chicago Cubs (Lieber 6-4), 2:05 p.m.	
Oakland (Mulder 8-3) at San Francisco (Hermanson 4-9), 2:05 p.m.	
Boston (Nomo 6-3) at Atlanta (Burkett 6-5), 5:05 p.m.	
Toronto (Loaiza 5-6) at Montreal (Vazquez 5-7), 5:05 p.m.	
Tampa Bay (Lopez 3-8) at Florida (Penny 5-1), 5:05 p.m.	
Cleveland (Wright 2-1) at Pittsburgh (Schmidt 2-2), 5:05 p.m.	
Kansas City (Byrd 0-1) at Milwaukee (D'Amico 1-1), 5:05 p.m.	

National League				
East Division	W	L	Pct	GB
Philadelphia	37	27	.578	—
Atlanta	35	29	.547	2
Florida	31	33	.484	6

New York	29	37	.439	9
Montreal	25	41	.379	13
Central Division				
W	L	Pct	GB	
Chicago	38	25	.603	—
St. Louis	33	32	.508	6
Houston	32	31	.508	6
Milwaukee	32	31	.508	6
Cincinnati	25	39	.391	13 1/2
Pittsburgh	20	43	.317	18
West Division				
W	L	Pct	GB	
Arizona	40	26	.606	—
Los Angeles	36	30	.545	4
San Francisco	34	32	.515	6
Colorado	33	32	.508	6 1/2
San Diego	30	36	.455	10
Friday's Games				
Colorado (Villone 0-2) at Cincinnati (Reitsma 3-5), 5:05 p.m.				
Kansas City (Stein 3-4) at Milwaukee (Wright 5-4), 6:05 p.m.				
Saturday's Games				
Colorado (Hampton 9-2) at Cincinnati (Dessens 5-3), 5:05 p.m.				
Kansas City (Byrd 0-1) at Milwaukee (D'Amico 1-1), 5:05 p.m.				
Sunday's Games				
Colorado at Cincinnati, 11:15 a.m.				
Kansas City at Milwaukee, 12:05 p.m.				

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