Tiger Woods wins back-to-back Masters

AUGUSTA, Ga. (AP) — Tiger December. Woods knew the routine.

Tug the brim of the cap coming up the 18th fairway. Tap in the winning putt. Smile and wave to the gallery. Give mom and dad a big hug, as well as the new girlfriend. Head to the putting green to pick up a green jacket.

Woods, the meticulous Master of Augusta, has been planning these moments for a lifetime — and Sunday, it was time to win his third championship on one of golf's hallowed grounds.

Don't forget, Jack Nicklaus was 26 when he won his third Masters in 1966, which also made him the first to win back-to-back titles. Woods won his second title last year and turned 26 in

By winning Sunday, he could check a couple more things off his list.

best player (ever)," said runner-up Retief Goosen, a helpless bystander as Woods cruised to a three-stroke victory. "Give him a couple more years and I think Tiger will be even greater than Jack Nicklaus. It's just a matter of

For the final round of the Masters, a superb collection of players lined up to challenge Woods.

Goosen, the U.S. Open champion, was tied for the lead. Vijay Singh, Ernie Els, Phil Mickelson, Sergio Garcia and Jose Maria Olazabal were in the wings,

waiting to challenge.

Was Woods worried? Nope.

"I always felt that I had the game that "Besides Jack Nicklaus, Tiger is the was good enough to win here," Woods said. "You have to just kind of focus and bear down and you know which shots are crucial, especially those par putts. You've got to make those. I've always said it's a better feeling inside when you make a big par putt than it is a birdie."

> On this day, par was good enough. Woods shot 1-under 71 — his worst score of the tournament — but all the contenders went down hard.

Goosen dropped four strokes in the first four holes. Mickelson started with two birdies, then bogeyed the next two

holes. Els had a glimmer of hope until never to win a major. he put two balls in Rae's Creek and took triple bogey.

Singh deposited four balls in various bodies of water — including one he threw in himself after missing a frustrating putt.

Woods cruised to victory with a 12under 276 on the toughened-up, redesigned Augusta National. Goosen made a couple of late birdies for a 74 – and seemed satisfied with his posi-

'Tiger was really never in any trouble," the South African said. "It was good to finish second."

strokes back and is still the best player lenge him.

"I thought I was very lucky to be able to play the final round of the Masters ings were on the leaderboard. If there here at Augusta, play the back nine and be on the leaderboard, play this game for a living and be very fortunate," he this was it.

Is the gap as big as it looked?

"No," said Padraig Harrington, who finished six strokes behind Woods. "But I think he's good enough that he can build his game up. And he builds up for the weeks he needs it."

Like Augusta, which gave Woods his seventh major. He's 11 behind Nicklaus' career record with no one Mickelson shot 71, wound up four showing much willingness to chal-

At the start of Sunday's round, six of the seven top players in the world rankwas ever a day for someone to overtake Woods in the final round of a major,

Instead, he had the look of a champion all day, making Woods 7-for-7 when he goes to the final round with the

lead in the biggest tournaments. "The thing about Tiger, he's the only leader that you don't have any hope that he'll falter," Mickelson said. "When other guys are up there, you know that if you can just stay around, there's a good chance they might come back with two or three shots. But Ti-

ger doesn't ever seem to do that."

Top-paying team ends season

NEW YORK (AP)—A high payroll doesn't guarantee a playoff berth, it seems.

The high-priced Detroit Red Wings, Colorado Avalanche, St. Louis Blues and Philadelphia Flyers are in the playoffs, but the team with the league's top payroll — the New York Rangers — finished out of the postseason for the fifth straight year.

The Capitals and Stars, in the top 10 of league payrolls, also missed the playoffs.

Meanwhile, Vancouver and Ottawa, among the 10 teams with the lowest payrolls, made the playoffs with steady, disciplined efforts.

Calgary's Jarome Iginla won both the 52-goal and 96-point scoring race, and Montreal's Jose Theodore had the best save percentage among league starters with a .931. which carried the Canadiens to the play-

He is, arguably, the league's most valuable player.

Arizona takes four from Colorado

By John Mossman

AP Sports Writer DENVER — Four games at Coors

Field cured the defending World Series champion Arizona Diamondbacks.

After scoring only three runs in three losses in San Diego, the Diamondbacks scored 29 in sweeping four games from the Colorado Rockies, capped by Sunday's 6-3 win.

In doing so, the Diamondbacks made history. It's the first time the Rockies have been swept in a fourgame series at Coors Field, which opened in 1995.

"You certainly wouldn't have expected this, especially coming off getting swept in San Diego," Arizona first baseman Mark Grace said. "This is the biggest homefield advantage in baseball. You don't expect to come in here series at home against the Cardinals." Randy Johnson and Curt Schilling

beat the Rockies in the first two games, and the Diamondbacks got contributions from unlikely sources over the course of the series — Damian Miller, Junior Spivey, Chris Donnels, Craig

three hits and two RBIs, including his

Rockies from 1995-97, got his second straight start because of Steve Finley's back spasms and made the most of it. He had a homer, triple and single. He also scored three runs.

Cracken said. "Speed and defense is my style. It feels good to pop one out and win four. You just hope to get a every once in a while. I was able to get split. It's a good feeling going into a big a pitch I could drive, and I hit it pretty

April 10

Fourth round outs: Mark Wear (2), Christy

Most tons: Simons (9), Hanke (9), Delano (5),

Most wins: Delano (6), Hanke (6), Bracelin (4)

Standings: Just Us 307, 125; Can't Get Started

239, 193; Bad A's 209, 223; No Luck 203, 229; Silver

Powell, Tina Wilson, Paul Simons, Kevin Delano

Chris Dawdy (4), Mark Wear (4), Mel Bracelin (4)

Bad A's over Can't Get Started 10-6

No Luck over 3MATA3 11-5

Just Us over Silver Bullets 13-3

Nine dart outs: Duane Hanke (3)

Eight dart outs: Paul Simons

Bullets 192, 240; 3MATA3 146, 286

individual. If you feel an employee at an area

you, or has done an exceptional job serving

consider the nomination with others we

Wednesday, Apr. 20

receive. April deadline for nominations is

you, reward them by letting us know. We will

business has gone out of his or her way to help

"Coors Field definitely has sentimental value for me. I came up through the Rockies organization, made my major league debut here and got my first hit here. It will always be a special place for me." Arizona manager Bob Brenly said

McCracken "gives us a little shot of energy up at the top of the order. That was something we were desperately needing with as many guys as we have dinged up." Arizona had three sacrifice flies and

took advantage of defensive lapses by Colorado third baseman Greg Norton, whose two errors contributed to three

in the first, and he was called for obstruction of a baserunner in the sixth, allowing two more runs to score.

Miguel Batista (1-0), making his the final two games of the series.

first start of the season because Todd Stottlemyre was scratched with the fluallowed three runs and seven hits in five innings. Byung-Hyun Kim got four outs for his second save.

The back of Arizona's rotation won its second straight game.

Before Saturday's 7-5, 10-inning win, the Diamondbacks had been 6-0 when World Series co-MVPs Schilling and Johnson started and 0-5 the rest of the time.

John Thomson (2-1), who had won his previous four starts, gave up six runs — three earned — and eight hits in 62-3 innings as Colorado dropped to 0-7 against the NL West.

"When you come out of spring train-Norton's throwing error set up a run ing like this, it really, really eats at you," Rockies manager Buddy Bell

Colorado stranded 18 baserunners in

baseball scoreboard

By The Associated Press NATIONAL LEAGUE West Division San Francisco 1 1/2 .615 Los Angeles .500 .500 San Diego Colorado .308 **Central Division** Pct GB St. Louis .667 Cincinnati .583 Pittsburgh 1 1/2 .545 Houston Chicago

East Division

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.583

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1 1/2

Montreal Atlanta .462 Philadelphia .462 Saturday's Games Montreal 9, N.Y. Mets 8, 11 innings Pittsburgh 3, Chicago Cubs 2 St. Louis 2, Houston 1

New York

Arizona 7, Colorado 5, 10 innings San Francisco 3, Milwaukee 2 Florida 5, Atlanta 4, 14 innings Cincinnati 5, Philadelphia 2 San Diego 6, Los Angeles 4

Sunday's Games Florida 7, Atlanta 0 N.Y. Mets 6, Montreal 4 Philadelphia 3, Cincinnati 1

Houston 5, St. Louis 4

Arizona 6, Colorado 3 Milwaukee 4. San Francisco 3 Chicago Cubs 5, Pittsburgh 1, 7 1/2 innings, rain San Diego 1, Los Angeles 0

Today's Games Chicago Cubs (Wood 1-0) at Montreal (Pavano

Atlanta (Moss 0-0) at N.Y. Mets (Estes 0-1), 5:10

Pittsburgh (K.Wells 1-1) at Milwaukee (Rusch 1-Los Ángeles (Perez 0-1) at Colorado (Chacon 1-

St. Louis (Benes 0-1) at Arizona (Helling 0-2), 7:35

San Francisco (Jensen 1-0) at San Diego (Jones 1-0), 8:05 p.m.

Tuesday's Games

Chicago Cubs (Cruz 0-2) at Montreal (Yoshii 1-I), 5:05 p.m. Philadelphia (Adams 0-1) at Florida (Penny 1-1),

Atlanta (Glavine 2-0) at N.Y. Mets (Astacio 2-0), Houston (Mlicki 0-2) at Cincinnati (Acevedo 2-0),

Pittsburgh (Anderson 1-1) at Milwaukee

Neugebauer 0-1), 6:05 p.m Los Angeles (Ashby 1-0) at Colorado (Jennings

St. Louis (B.Smith 0-0) at Arizona (Johnson 3-0),

San Francisco (Rueter 0-1) at San Diego (Tomko

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exas	3	9	.250	6 1/2
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/linnesota	8	5	.615	3 1/2
Chicago	6	5	.545	4 1/2
Cansas City	4	6	.400	6
Detroit	0	11	.000	10 1/2
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Boston	6	4	.600	1/2
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ampa Bay	5	6	.455	2
Baltimore	3	8	.273	4
	Saturday	-		•
Boston 7 N				

Boston 7, N.Y. Yankees 6 Cleveland 8, Kansas City 7 Chicago White Sox 4, Baltimore 3 Toronto 5, Tampa Bay 4 Minnesota 7. Detroit 3 Seattle 9. Texas 4 Oakland 7. Anaheim 2 Sunday's Games

N.Y. Yankees 6, Boston 2 Kansas City at Cleveland, ppd

Tampa Bay 5, Toronto 4, 10 innings Minnesota 13, Detroit 7

Baltimore 9, Chicago White Sox 4 Seattle 9, Texas 7 Anaheim 4. Oakland 1 Today's Games

N.Y. Yankees (Pettitte 1-0) at Boston (Lowe 1-1),

Baltimore (Johnson 0-2) at Chicago White Sox Seattle (Baldwin 2-0) at Texas (Burba 1-0), 6:05

Tuesday's Games

1-2), 5:05 p.m.

(Rauch 0-0), 6:05 p.m.

Boston (F.Castillo 0-0) at Toronto (Lyon 0-1), 5:05

Tampa Bay (Wilson 1-0) at Detroit (Lima 0-2), 5:05 Baltimore (Ponson 0-1) at N.Y. Yankees (Clemens

Kansas City (Reichert 0-2) at Minnesota (Reed 1-Cleveland (Finley 1-0) at Chicago White Sox

Texas (Davis 2-0) at Anaheim (Sele 0-2), 8:05 p.m. Seattle (Garcia 1-2) at Oakland (Lidle 0-2), 8:05

dart results

Bad A's over No Luck 10-6 Silver Bullets over 3MATA3 10-6

Just Us over Can't Get Started 10-6

Delano (2), Mark Wear (2), Paul Simons

elano, Ricky Pummer, Tina Wilson

Goodland Dart League

April 3

Fourth round outs: Duane Hanke (2), Kevin

Hat tricks: Mark Wear (2), Rodney Corke, Kevin

Most tons: Paul Simons (8), Duane Hanke (8),

Most wins: Mel Bracelin (5), Duane Hanke (8),

Paul Simons (4), Kevin Delano (4), Tina Wilson (4)

Kevin Delano (8), Melody Abbott(4), Rodney Corke

Counsell and Ouinton McCracken.

McCracken, a former Rockie, had first home run since 1999, in Sunday's victory.

McCracken, who played for the

"I'm not a home run hitter," Mc-

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