



The Hinkle Hop

Texas A&M's Ferol Hinkle appears to be jumping from the ball in practice. The Aggies will be kept hopping as they take on the TCU Horned Frogs today in Fort Worth. The Aggie Ladies go into the match with a 9-5 season record.

Battalion photo by Hurlie Collier

Masters tees off today at Augusta

United Press International
AUGUSTA, Ga. — The way Hubert Green sees it, it's not so much how many good shots you make over the spacious Augusta National, but rather how many bad shots you avoid.

"That's where experience comes in and why you are not likely to see a first-timer winning at the Masters," said Green, who came mighty close to winning last year in his eighth appearance at Augusta.

"The experienced Masters golfer knows what spots he must avoid. Wind up in the wrong one a couple of times and there goes your chance of breaking par."

Green was three feet away from a sudden-death playoff in last year's Masters. He claimed he had his concentration broken by a nearby television commentator. But whatever the reason, he missed the putt and had to settle for a three-way tie for second with Tom Watson and Rod Funseth, one stroke behind Gary Player.

"I've been playing pretty well this year," said Green, who won the Hawaiian Open and is ninth on this year's PGA money list with more than \$67,000. "I usually fare pretty well here at Augusta because I'm a good chipper and this is one of the few courses we play where that shot can be a factor."

And Green says he considers his chipping as "crucial, since you have to get close to the cup if you want to make your putts here."

The 43rd Masters begins today with a field of 72 golfers, including six amateurs and a dozen foreign professionals. The 7,000-yard Augusta National is playing a bit long this year and if the prediction for rain is accurate, it will play even

longer for the opening round.

Watson, top golfer on the tour in both 1977 and 1978 and the leading money winner so far this year, rates as the favorite.

But Watson, while agreeing that his game appears in good shape, isn't all that confident. "There are only a couple of weeks each summer when I feel everything is just right," said Watson. "I'm not there now. I don't have that gut feeling I've had before some of my other victories."

Defending champion Player, insisting at 43 that he can play winning golf for at least seven more years, got off to a bad start this year when he returned to the United States after a six-month absence. But the South African's game appeared to be rounding into shape last week when he finished second to Ray Floyd in the Greater Greensboro Open with four straight sub-par rounds.

Five-time champion Jack Nicklaus usually is the Masters' favorite. But he has not been playing up to his former form so far this year.

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Rangers, Astros victorious

United Press International
ARLINGTON — Steve Comer and Sparky Lyle, making his first appearance in a Texas uniform, allowed only one hit — Ted Cox's third inning single — Wednesday night in keeping the Rangers unbeaten with a 4-0 victory over the Cleveland Indians.

It was the second straight shutout for the Rangers' pitching staff, which has established an early-season streak of 23 consecutive scoreless innings. Lyle, obtained in an off-season trade with the New York Yankees, did not allow a hit

during his two innings of work. Comer, 1-0, fanned six in seven innings.

Texas scored two unearned runs in the second inning against Eric Wilkins, who was making his major-league debut. Wilkins hit Buddy Bell with a pitch, Oscar Gamble reached on an error by first baseman Andre Thornton and Jim Sundberg walked to load the bases. Pat Putnam drove in one run with a sacrifice fly and rookie Nelson Norman singled in another.

Meanwhile in Houston, Cesar Cedeno's three-run homer snapped

a fifth-inning tie Wednesday night and lifted Ken Forsch and the Houston Astros to a 10-3 victory over the Los Angeles Dodgers.

Forsch, in his first outing since his Saturday night no-hitter, got off to a shaky start, allowing six hits and three runs in the first three innings, but settled down to shutout the Dodgers the rest of the way for his second complete-game victory.

Cedeno broke a 3-3 tie with two out in the fifth when he connected on a 1-0 pitch from losing pitcher Don Sutton, 1-1, sending it over the left-field wall and scoring Alan Ashby and Forsch ahead of him.



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