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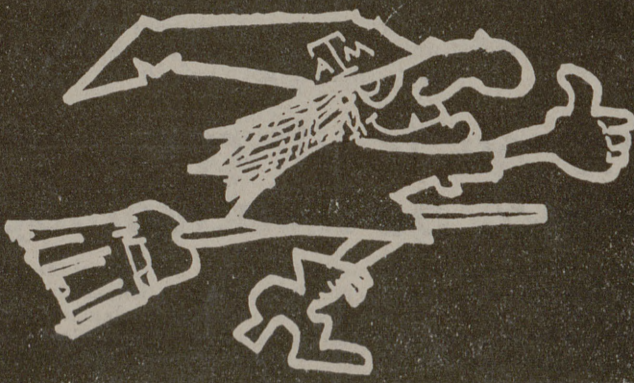
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Watson breaks 3-year dry spell with Nabisco Championship win

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — It was, Tom Watson said, the most difficult victory of his career.

"Winning your first tournament is tough. The comeback is tougher," Watson said Sunday after he battled quivering nerves and an elite, 30-man field of golf's greatest players for his first victory in more than three years.

It came with a last-hole birdie flourish in the Nabisco Championships of Golf, the richest tournament the sport has ever seen.

"Walking up 18, I'm thinking two things — wondering what kind of putt I have, and can I get it down in two," Watson said.

Then he saw the 8-footer and "I'm thinking, what the hell are you doing trying to two-putt from 8 feet. Knock it in."

He did. And he was a winner again, ending one of the most puzzling slumps in the game's history.

Watson, a five-time British Open champion and holder of a record six Player of the Year titles, had not won since July 1984.

"Desire, talent, putting, all were tied together" in that slump, he said. "But I never gave up on myself. I knew I'd win."

Then he flashed that boyish grin. "Well, maybe I had some doubts about a year ago," he said. Then he

was called to a telephone for a call from wife, Linda.

"Whaddaya think?" Watson said. "We did it. Yeah, we did it."

But it wasn't easy. Although he led all the way and was armed with a four-shot lead on the back nine, he admitted he felt the pressure.

"The nerves took hold," he said. "When I was winning all the time, I'd be expecting to win in that position. Today, I was hoping to win."

"I was nervous. I was pacing, like a leopard in some hunter's gun-sights."

The victory was the 32nd of Watson's PGA Tour career, a total that does not include his five British Open titles.

"I'm about the happiest guy in the whole world," he said.

"After three years of frustration, three years of questions, three years of dealing with the questions and frustrations, dealing with the internal questions . . ."

They all ended with his hard-won, final-round 2-under-par 68 and a 268 winning total, 12 shots under par, for a two-stroke victory over Chip Beck.

It was worth \$360,000 from the enormous purse, plus \$24,000 from the Grand Prix.

"The money never was a factor. The victory is much more impor-

tant. That's what I'm out here trying to do, win golf tournaments," Watson said.

The tournament carried a \$2 million purse, plus another \$1 million for the Nabisco Grand Prix of Golf, which also ended in this tournament.

Despite finishing dead last, Curtis Strange took the season's money-winning title with a record \$925,941.

But the honor he wanted — Player of the Year — eluded him. That went to Paul Azinger, a three-time winner like Strange this season.

In a tournament that offered almost 10 percent of the total tour purse for 1987, the Player of the Year title turned on scoring average. Strange's 293 total for this event knocked him out of the Top 10 in scoring average and handed the title to Azinger.

No one handed the title to Watson, however. He was never headed, never tied. But it was not easy. It was a grim, tight-lipped struggle with himself over the last few holes at the Oak Hills Country Club course.

Armed with a four-shot lead, Watson began to struggle on the 14th hole.

He missed the green on the next four holes, bogeying the 16th. On the 14th, 15th and 17th he put his new-found confidence in his putter to the test. And it was not wanting.

Spurs' Robertson, Berry exchange blows when practice confrontation escalates

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — San Antonio Spurs players Alvin Robertson and Walter Berry fought on the way to a road game after a squabble erupted into violence, the San Antonio Express-News reported Sunday.

Neither player was hurt seriously and both were expected to play Sunday in the team's final exhibition game against the Sacramento Kings in Shelby, Mont., General Manager Bob Bass said.

Witnesses said that during the fight at the Red Lion Village Inn in Missoula, Mont., Berry picked up a kitchen knife and reportedly threatened Robertson with it.

The fight was fueled Saturday morning when Robertson, a 6-foot-4, 190-pound guard, chided Berry for sitting out the practice. Berry, a 6-8, 215-pound forward, iced down his right knee during the workout.

The kidding later erupted into violence in Berry's room and out into the second-floor corridor about 15 minutes before the team bus was scheduled to depart for Great Falls.

The players were pulled apart by another team member.

The tension between Berry and Robertson was evident as the players boarded the team bus, the San Antonio Express-News reported.

Bass had to stand between Robertson and Berry on the bus as the two players exchanged further remarks.

"He pulled a knife on me," Robertson said.

"My face is all right. I'm still pretty," Berry said.

Bass said he calmed both players by warning them that they could be fined or suspended if the incident was escalated.

The newspaper reported that Bass held all the players on the bus for about six minutes at Great Falls and warned them about making any comments to the media.

"This was a major incident," said Bass. "It was a token type thing until it escalated into a real problem. I don't know how many punches were thrown."

"The knife was not a weapon, a switchblade, it was just a kitchen knife that was on the table. This can be a very divisive incident, but I still believe the two can play together," Bass said.

The pair will be assessed minor fines for "horseplay," Bass said.

Spurs coach Bob Weiss said he did not plan to investigate the incident. "I don't want to know any of the gory details," Weiss said. "I just want it over with."

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IM GAMEPLAN

ENTRIES CLOSE: NOVEMBER 3

BADMINTON DOUBLES: ENTRY FEE: FREE!! PLAY BEGINS: Nov. 9. LOCATION: 351 G. Rollie White. SCHEDULES: Will be posted Thur., Nov. 5 after 3 PM. Check the bulletin boards outside the IM Office to see when you play. RULES: USBA rules apply. Matches consist of the best two out of three games. TOURNAMENT: Classes A, B and C will play in a single elimination tournament. EQUIPMENT: Participants are asked to provide their own racquets, but a limited number may be checked out from the Sport Supervisor.

CROSS COUNTRY: ENTRY FEE: FREE!! RACE DATE: Sat., Nov. 7 at 10 AM. COURSE: The Cross Country Course will be on East Campus. COMPETITION: Individuals only. AWARDS: Male and Female winners in the following age categories will receive champion t-shirts: 18/19, 20/21, 22/23, 24/25, 26-35, 36-45, 46-55, 56+. LATE ENTRIES: will be accepted at the site only on a space available basis.

ENTRIES OPEN: NOVEMBER 2 ENTRIES CLOSE: NOVEMBER 10

WEIGHTLIFTING: EVENT DATE: Wed., Nov. 11. LOCATION: 255 G. Rollie White. CLASSES: Men's Divisions: 150 lbs. and under, 151-175 lbs, 176-200 lbs., 201 lbs. and up. Winner will be determined by Schwartz Formula; Women's Division: 125 lbs. and under, 126-149 lbs., 150 lbs. and up. Winner will be determined by Malone Formula. RULES: Weigh-ins will be conducted prior to competition. TAMU Powerlifters are ineligible for competition. Bench Press is the only event; contestants will be scored by their best lift. Once a name is called, the lifter will have one minute to start the lift. Each lifter will be allowed 3 attempts in the competition.

HANDBALL SINGLES: PLAY BEGINS: Tue., Nov. 17. ENTRY FEE: FREE!! CLASSES: Classes A, B and C will play in single elimination tournaments. SCHEDULES: Will be posted outside the Intramural Office after 3 PM on Thur., Nov. 12. Check to see when you play. RULES: USHA Rules will apply. Matches consist of 2 games to 21 and an 11 point tiebreaker, if necessary. COURT RESERVATIONS: Courts may be reserved for practice by calling the IM reservation number 845-2624.

REMINDERS

-The CROSS COUNTRY MEET will be held Sat., Nov. 7 at 10 AM. Participants should meet at the Zachry Parking lot near the rugby field.

-FLICKERBALL PLAYOFFS will be posted on Mon., Nov. 9. Play begins on Tue., Nov. 12.

-VOLLEYBALL PLAYOFFS will be posted on Tue., Nov. 10. Play will begin on Thur., Nov. 12.

SPORT CLUB NEWS

-SPORT CLUB MEETING will be held on Tue., Nov. 3 at 7 PM in 167 Read Building. Each club should have a representative present.

-The LACROSSE TEAM will be holding a tournament this weekend, Sat., Nov. 7 and Sun., Nov. 8 on the Drill Field. Some of the teams attending are Texas Tech, TCU, SMU, Rice, Southwest Texas State, Northwestern, and Baylor. In case of rain, the tournament will be moved to East Campus Fields.

-The MEN'S SOCCER TEAM will play SFA on Sat., Nov. 7 at 2 PM on the East Campus Soccer Field.

-The RACQUETBALL CLUB will be holding an Open/Intercollegiate Tournament on Nov. 6, 7 and 8. Entry forms are available in the Intramural Office, 159 Read Building. All entries must be received on or before Wed., Nov. 4. Entry fees are as follows: Open-\$33.00, Amateur-\$22.50, Intercollegiate-\$22.50, Club Members-\$15.00. For more information contact Curtis Acheson at 693-8791.

Weightlifting Contest entries open today. Muscle up the the IM Office to enter.

OFFICIALS WANTED

OUTDOOR SOCCER official's training begins on Nov. 30. Any interested students should contact Chris Koperniak if they have any questions or attend the orientation meeting on Mon., Nov. 30 at 6 PM in 164 Read.

TAMU OUTDOORS

Registration for the following trips and clinics continues in the Intramural-Recreational sports office, 159 Read Building.

KAYAK ROLL CLINIC Registration for the fourth and final kayak roll session of the semester begins on October 26 and continues through Nov. 9. The roll session will be held on Wed., Nov. 11 from 6:30-8:30 PM in Cain Pool. The fee for this clinic is \$5.00 for A&M affiliates and \$8.00 for nonaffiliates. This clinic is limited to 10 participants.

BACKPACKING IN LOST MAPLES STATE PARK Enjoy the beauty of bigtooth male trees in autumn. The park is a combination of rugged limestone canyons, springs, plateau grasslands, wooded slopes and clear streams. Registration will be held from Oct. 19 to Nov. 2 in the IM Office, 159 Read for this backpacking trip which is scheduled for November 6-8. Cost for this trip is \$35 for A&M affiliates and \$40 for nonaffiliates. The fee includes rental of camping gear, backpacks, camping permits, food and an experienced guide. This trip is limited to 14 participants.

FRIESDAY

No one answered the Friesday question correctly on Friesday, October 23. The question was submitted by Mike Forbes who will receive free french fries from McDonald's. Last week's question was: What NBA player set the record for the most consecutive free throws made during the season and how many did he make? The correct answer is: Calvin Murphy of the Houston rockets made 78 free throws during the 80-81 season.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

McDonald's Intramural Highlights is sponsored in the Battalion by your local McDonald's Restaurants at University Drive, Manor East Mall on Hwy 21 and on Texas Avenue. Stories are written by P.J. Nadeau, graphics are by Paul Irwin and photos are by Mark Figart and Sarah Cowan.