

Sports

Nelson nabs share of Masters lead despite bad winds

AUGUSTA, Ga. (AP) — Larry Nelson salvaged a 69 from tormenting winds and gained a share of the lead Thursday in the first round of the Masters, played in swirling autumn-like weather which players called impossible.

Robert Wrenn, making his first appearance on the Augusta National Golf Club course, birdied the 18th hole and tied for the top late in the day when the winds diminished — and the chill increased.

Wrenn got his piece of the lead with only the third birdie of the day on the 18th hole. He rolled in an eight-foot putt.

"A heck of a way to end the day," said the Wake Forest product who is in his fourth year on the tour. "The last couple of holes, I was getting numb out there."

The chilly winds, more akin to a New England fall than a Southern spring, sent spectators burrowing under blankets and scurrying for warmer clothing.

And it left the elite, international field of 90 searching for adequate words of description.

"Devilish," Ken Brown of Scotland said.

"Heartbreaking," Ben Crenshaw said.

"It was definitely one of the top four most difficult days I've seen here," said Jack Nicklaus, competing in his 30th Masters. "It may be the most difficult, actually."

Nelson only smiled.

"It wasn't windy, was it?" the 40-year-old current PGA champion said, his eyes twinkling.

"I didn't do anything really dumb. And I didn't do anything really smart. I just hit a lot of good shots and made a lot of short putts," he said.

That was an exception, too. More short putts were missed than made.

"I backed away many, many times," said Crenshaw, one of the game's finest putters. "The wind

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would rock you and you had to back off."

Seve Ballesteros, the mercurial Spaniard who has such a fascination with this event, four-putted for a double bogey on the 16th. He finished with a 73.

"In my 13 Masters, I have never seen conditions so difficult," Ballesteros said.

Nicklaus, 48, who has won this title six times, three-putted four times in a round of 75 that, he insisted, kept him in the hunt for still another green jacket.

"You cannot win the golf tournament on a day like today, but you can lose the golf tournament," he said.

That could have happened to some of the game's more celebrated performers.

Greg Norman, who has finished second in the last two Masters, struggled to a 77. Defending champion Larry Mize was one shot higher. And U.S. Open title-holder Scott Simpson had a 79.

Lee Trevino, who has won the other three major championships twice apiece but has given up hopes of ever acquiring a Masters title, took a fat 81. So did Ian Woosnam of Wales, who led the world in money-winnings last season but has had limited success in the United States.

Arnold Palmer, 58, a four-time Masters winner, strained the patience of his loyal Army with an 80.

Two shots back of the co-leaders was a mixed lot at 71.

Bernhard Langer of West Germany, the 1985 Masters champion, managed to go one under par despite an aching back. He was tied with Sandy Lyle of Scotland, a two-time winner on the American tour this season, along with Mark Calcavecchia and Don Pooley.

Apathetic Aggies should take a good, long look in the mirror

Frankly, I was shocked at most of your comments as I walked through campus interviewing Aggies for a story on student reaction on the NCAA allegations against A&M's football program.

Because of these incidents, the rest of the nation will place A&M in a category with SMU, Florida, Texas, Nebraska and Texas Tech — schools that will do anything to win a football game. Farmers in Indiana undoubtedly are thinking, "Those damn Aggies will stop at nothing to win a game of pigskin and turn a buck. Lie, cheat, steal — whatever it takes." And maybe that's the way we



Anthony Wilson
Sports viewpoint

are. A good indicator would seem to be the apathetic attitude of the student body — the same student body that is constantly harping on making this school a world-class university. I don't recall Harvard, Notre Dame or the University of California, which are supposedly world-class, ever placing athletics above academics.

I guess we're just feeling slightly insecure that the Albritton Tower didn't make us world-class, so what the heck, maybe a four-time Southwest Conference champion football team will.

How else can the students' most consistent reply of "Well, everyone else in the conference is doing it. Why shouldn't we?" be explained?

Well, not everyone in the conference is doing it. TCU Head Coach Jim Wacker put an end to the Frogs' illegal shenanigans even though it destroyed the football program.

So why did he do it? "Because Wacker wouldn't have been able to look at himself in the mirror

every morning," he said after the incident.

Even though TCU's football program was left in a shambles, Wacker's courage earned TCU the respect of the entire nation.

Arkansas and Rice have two of the cleanest programs in the country, and Rice is definitely a world-class academic university.

Other students said, "I don't see what's wrong with it. I think the athletes should be paid or compensated for spending so much time practicing and training."

Compensating athletes with cash, cars or clothing is wrong simply because it's against the rules of the NCAA which governs collegiate athletics.

Also, A&M athletes are justly compensated for playing sports. They receive free housing, meals and a quality education.

Add all that up and the sum is about \$5,000 a year — not a bad allowance for an 18-year-old.

Pointing fingers at schools that have been caught violating rules

and procedures more frequently is also a cop out.

So what if Texas had 61 violations and some other schools had 100-200 infractions.

I'm not worried about other schools. I only care and worry about Texas A&M.

If the allegations are true, we should stop pointing at others, turn our fingers around and point to ourselves.

After shouldering the blame, we should accept any penalty the NCAA decides to hand down without whining and work to correct any problems. If that includes cleaning house, so be it.

"Aggies don't lie, cheat or steal, nor do they tolerate those who do," the Aggie Code of Honor states. Most Aggies hold that ideal close to heart — when it's convenient.

But if you truly believe in the code and read it carefully, you'll notice it doesn't have an amendment that says, "Unless it is done in the name of advancing to the Cotton Bowl."

UT players pleased with new basketball coach

AUSTIN (AP) — University of Texas basketball players say they like what they've seen so far of their new coach, Tom Penders.

"So far, I'm real impressed," said center George Muller. "He seems like a real good coach. Hopefully, I can fit into his style of play."

Penders was hired Wednesday after two seasons at the University of Rhode Island, a team he took to the Sweet 16 in this year's NCAA tournament. He replaces Bob Weltlich, fired last month after six years.

Texas scoring leader Travis Mays said, "If we get a coach that everyone is happy with . . . and everybody gets excited about the program, that's all we need to really get on the road. I'm ready to run."

Forward Alvin Heggs said he thought the Longhorns and Penders would get along and that Penders' fondness of a fast-paced game would suit the Longhorns.

"He's a great personality, and I think it will fit in well with the team's personality," Heggs said. "Coach (Bob Weltlich) was more dependent on defense and liked things done his way. But I think (Penders) style will be great for the team."

Penders said he waited only a "New York minute" — or not at all — in accepting the job which the *Providence Journal* reported offers him \$1 million over five years.

Penders' base salary will be about \$85,000 a year. Some reports Thurs-

day put the total package at around \$131,000 annually.

Quoting an unidentified source, the *Providence Journal* said Penders' would earn up to \$200,000 annually with money from radio and television shows, summer camp revenue, a shoe-endorsement contract and other bonuses.

Penders will also receive an "unlimited budget" at Texas, cars for himself and staff, membership at an Austin country club and an interest-free loan to buy a house, the *Journal* reported.

UT Athletic Director DeLoss Dodds said a search committee that included former Texas football coach Darrell Royal sought a coach who could recruit nationally, not just

in Texas, who would graduate players, and who was young and dynamic.

Dodds said there had been great interest in the job, and several other coaches were interviewed, but the first offer went to Penders.

Penders, 42, said he accepted without hesitation, although his two-year stay at Rhode Island "was a happy marriage."

"Basketball will be fun and exciting here," Penders pledged.

"He seems like a players' coach," said guard Joey Wright, a transfer from Drake whose first Texas season will be next year. "With the pressure of high-level, Division I basketball, you need someone you can relate to, and a players' coach is like that."

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