

Lyle wins Masters, gets green jacket

AUGUSTA, Ga. (AP) — Sandy Lyle, once teetering on the brink of collapse, extricated himself from a fairway bunker on the 72nd hole and then sank a 12-foot birdie putt for a one-shot victory Sunday in the 82nd Masters.

In addition to the famed green jacket that goes to the winner, Lyle collected \$183,800 from the total purse of \$1 million, pushing his leading money-winning total to \$591,821 for the year.

Lyle, a husky Scot who won the 1985 British Open, was tied for the lead with Mark Calcavecchia until the final stroke of the tournament sent the putt downhill and into the cup. It finished off a 1-under-par 71 and made Lyle the first British subject to win this storied tournament.

Lyle had to come out of a yawning fairway bunker on the 18th hole of the Augusta National Golf Club course. He ran hopefully onto the fairway to follow the flight of the ball, which hit beyond the cup and backed up toward the hole while the gallery howled for still more roll.

Lyle, who had blown a two-shot lead and trailed as late as the 15th hole, rolled the winning putt into the back of the cup.

It gave him a total of 281, seven shots under par.

Lyle also became the only three-time winner on the American PGA Tour this season and first man to

win consecutive tournament titles since West German Bernhard Langer won the Masters and the Heritage Classic in 1985. Lyle came into the Masters off a victory in the Greater Greensboro Open.

Calcavecchia, a man from the wrong side of golf's tracks and a caddy as recently as three years ago, finished second with a 2-under-par 70 in the bright, warm sunshine. He had a 282 total, six under par.

Craig Stadler, the 1982 Masters winner, once had a share of the lead, but dropped back with a 16th-hole bogey and finished third at 283. Stadler, who bolted into contention with a 12-foot eagle putt on the eighth hole, had a closing 68.

Another former champion, 1984 winner Ben Crenshaw, followed at 284 after a hard-won 72. He was Lyle's playing partner in the final two holes that played over the flowered hills and valleys of the course Bobby Jones built.

Greg Norman, the white-haired Australian who was runner-up in the last two Masters, started the day 11 shots back but burst into contention with a record-matching 30 over the front side.

But the putts stopped falling with the same regularity on the back nine and, although finishing with a 64 that was the best round of the tournament, he actually expressed disappointment.

"I thought if I could get it to five

under (par) the other guys might start thinking, 'How can he shoot 62 out there?' and worrying about my score instead of theirs," Norman said.

But he couldn't quite make it, finishing in a tie at 285, three under par, with Don Pooley and Fred Couples.

South African David Frost was at 286 after a 68. Tom Watson and Bernhard Langer were at 287. Watson, a two-time Masters champion, shot 71 and Langer, a West German who won here in 1985, had a 73.

Calcavecchia, Stadler, Crenshaw, Pooley, Couples and Langer all had legitimate shots at the title, one of golf's Big Four, over the back nine. They were afforded that chance only by Lyle's lapse on that string of three holes known as Amen Corner, the 11th, 12th and 13th.

Holding a three-shot advantage at the turn, Lyle three-putted the 11th for a bogey, missing an eight-foot par putt. His margin was two strokes.

The lead disappeared on his next swing. On the par-3 12th, the little horror that has swallowed the hopes of so many men over so many years, Lyle watched in dismay as his tee shot caught the bank in front of the green and trickled back into Rae's Creek.

It was a double bogey and his lead was gone.

At about the same time, Calcavecchia, winner of two career titles and a sometimes-caddy for his good friend Ken Green only three years back, was making a move.

He birdied the 11th from 20 feet and two-putted for birdie-4 on the 13th. In a stretch of three holes, he made up five shots on Lyle and took the lead at six under par.

Stadler tied him with a short putt for birdie-4 on the 15th, then fell one behind when he flirted with the water on the 16th, missed the green and made bogey.

Stadler, playing well in front of Lyle and Calcavecchia, parred home.

Lyle regained a share of the lead with a birdie putt of about 12 feet on the 16th, prompting him to perform a happy little dance.

By that time, the holes had run out on the other contenders and it was a two-man race.

Calcavecchia parred home and the gritty Lyle nailed it down with the dramatic putt on the 18th.

Seve Ballesteros of Spain, a two-time Masters winner, never really got in the hunt over the final 18 holes and finished with a 73 for 288.

Jack Nicklaus, the only six-time winner of the Masters, was at 292 after a 72. Larry Mize, who won the Masters last year with a pitch-in birdie in a playoff, struggled to a 79 for a 304.

Road not so bad for Scott, Astros

CINCINNATI (AP) — Mike Scott's split-fingered fastball and homers by Glenn Davis and Kevin Bass made the Houston Astros feel right at home Sunday.

Scott scattered seven hits, Davis hit a three-run homer and Bass added a pinch-hit grand slam as the Astros beat the Cincinnati Reds 12-3 for a happy ending to their first road series of the season.

The road was the Astros' downfall last year, when they were just 13-32 in their National League West rivals' ballparks. They won just two of nine games at Riverfront Stadium.

But the Astros' late-game hitting Sunday gave them two wins in their three-game weekend series and a good feeling about leaving home.

"It's good to get off to a good start on the road because last year we played so bad on the road," Manager Hal Lanier said. "We've just got to put that behind us."

The victory was particularly satisfying for Scott, 2-0, who was just 6-10 with a 4.26 earned run average in 19 road starts last year.

"We got beat up pretty much by these guys (the Reds) last year," he said. "Basically they're the team that made us play catch up last year."

The Astros' power made the Reds try unsuccessfully to play catch-up Sunday.

The Astros batted around for five runs in the seventh, highlighted by Davis' fourth homer, to snap a 2-2 tie.

They batted around again in the ninth for five more runs, with

Bass hitting the first pitch from Pat Perry for his second career grand slam.

"I didn't feel comfortable pitching against this team until Kevin came up and hit that one," Scott said.

The Reds' bullpen has Manager Pete Rose feeling a little uncomfortable. Cincinnati relievers allowed 12 earned runs and 15 hits in 12 1-3 innings against Houston.

Right-hander Frank Williams allowed six hits and three earned runs in three innings, appearing in all three games.

"He's going to have to throw better," Rose said. "If that's not the case, we'll have to get him out of there. We have to have those guys hold them."

Scott reached a personal milestone while holding the Reds. He struck out eight to reach 1,000 career strikeouts.

Billy Hatcher extended his hitting streak to five games with an RBI single to snap a 2-2 tie in the seventh against Ron Robinson, 0-1.

Bill Doran followed with a run-scoring single, and Davis hit his fourth homer in five games into the second deck in left field off Williams to subdue Cincinnati.

Scott's RBI single in the second gave the Astros a 1-0 lead.

Bo Diaz led off the third with a homer, his second, and the Reds went on to load the bases with one out.

That's when Scott did his best pitching of the game, striking out Eric Davis and Paul O'Neill to end the threat.

Incaviglia still a force in Texas despite slump

ARLINGTON (AP) — Texas Rangers left fielder Pete Incaviglia drew waves of jeers and boos while going hitless in the first three games of the season.

Then he was benched for the next two games.

But General Manager Tom Grieve says the 1985 college player of the year "absolutely" continues to figure prominently in the Rangers' plans.

"I don't think anyone should read anything into his sitting out a couple of days," Grieve said Saturday.

"He didn't play yesterday or today, but if you want to make a pretty safe bet, it would be that he will play 150 to 155 games this year, hit 25 to 35 home runs, knock in 80 to 100 runs, and average between .250 and .280," Grieve said.

"He's struggling a bit at the beginning of the year, but when you're a powerful hitter, you work out of it."

The fans booed Incaviglia at virtually every turn in the Rangers' season-opening 3-game series with Cleveland, when he went 0-for-12, struck out six times and got only one ball out of the infield.

Sunday, when Incaviglia reappeared for the first time since Thursday, he got a mixture of cheers and catcalls.

He finished the day 0-for-3 with two strikeouts, but drew a bases-loaded walk that scored Texas' first run in a 4-1 victory over Boston.

He also drove a ball to deep right field that probably would have been a home run except for Sunday's stiff breeze.

Incaviglia said he can tolerate the fans' boos but felt Rangers manager Bobby Valentine singled him out for the team's hitting slump by benching him Friday.

In its first five games, through Saturday, Texas was 1-of-32 with runners in scoring position.

After winning their first game, the Rangers got a total of just three runs over their next four games.

"Bobby has to hang with me when I'm going good and bad, just like he does with the others," said Incaviglia, who starred at Oklahoma State before coming to the Rangers.

He is one of only three active players to never have played a day of minor league baseball.

While Incaviglia was going 0-for-12, two other big bats in the Texas lineup — Ruben Sierra and Larry Parrish — were both 1-for-11.

After five games, Texas hitters were 1-for-32 with runners in scoring position — 0 for 25 in the last four games.

"L.P. and Ruben aren't sitting. Why am I? It seems I am the one who has to take the (blame)," Incaviglia said.

"It would be nice for someone to show a vote of confidence in me. They act like I'm a rookie. They forget what I've done my first two years."

Valentine said he took Incaviglia out of the lineup on Friday not because he lost confidence in him, but because the Boston pitcher was Dennis "Oil Can" Boyd, against whom Incaviglia is hitless in 11 at-bats.

Saturday, Valentine went with mostly left-handed batters against Boston right-handed ace Roger Clemens.

However, with Texas trailing 2-1 in the bottom of the ninth, Valentine sent Incaviglia to the on-deck circle as a pinch-hitter.

But Incaviglia never made it to the plate because Boston promptly turned a double play, ending the game.

Incaviglia set a rookie record at Texas with his 30 homers and 88 RBIs in 1986. In 1987, he set another club record with eight home runs in the month of April.

As for the hole Incaviglia has dug himself into with Rangers fans, Grieve said Incaviglia has only himself to blame.

In mid-season of last year, some fans got on Incaviglia's case when he hit a slump, striking out several times in key situations. He reacted by telling sports writers that the fans were drunk and obnoxious. An army of Incaviglia baiters soon developed.

In the future, Grieve said, "I'd like to think he would use a little more P.R. and think a little more before he says what he does."

"But at the same time, he's 23 and should be able to say what he wants. If what the fans say doesn't matter to him, then it doesn't matter what he says," Grieve said.

"But fans will respond to what a player says. If you care about what they think, you can't just pop off and hold their respect. You have to choose your words carefully," Grieve continued.

"Sometimes, that means just not saying what you feel. That doesn't mean saying what you don't feel. Sometimes it means just not saying anything at all."

Incaviglia said his batting problems this spring stem from adjustments to his swing, recommended by Rangers coaches during spring training.

Rangers take advantage of Red Sox miscues for win

ARLINGTON (AP) — Paul Kilgus pitched a four-hitter over seven innings and the Texas Rangers exploited Boston mistakes in the fourth inning for a 4-1 victory over the Red Sox on Sunday.

Kilgus, 1-0, was relieved by Mitch Williams after walking the leadoff batter in the eighth inning.

It was Williams' second save.

Boston starter Jeff Sellers, who fell to 0-1 with the loss, allowed only five hits and struck out seven but

committed two balks and issued six walks, including two with the bases loaded in Texas' three-run fourth.

Scott Fletcher and Ruben Sierra opened the inning with singles.

Sellers struck out the side and didn't allow another hit in the inning.

But a balk, three walks and a fielding error enabled the Rangers to take a 3-1 lead.

Two of the runs were unearned.

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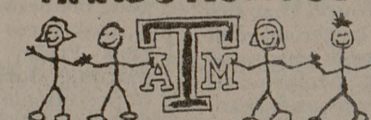
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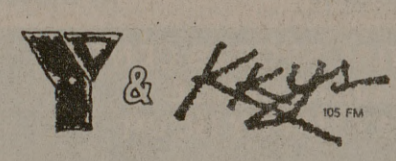


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