



Racing Father Time

Rogers wanting to be the best of the old-timers

BOSTON (AP) — Bill Rodgers no longer runs the Boston Marathon to win. Like Lee Trevino and Jack Nicklaus, he just wants to be the best of the old-timers.

Rogers, 43, a four-time winner of the race, is one of the favorites in the Masters Division, which starts at age 40 — 10 years younger than the seniors limit for golfers like Trevino and Nicklaus.

But like seniors golf, Rodgers says running in the Masters Division "is like starting my career over."

"I can compete against my peers; I don't have to worry about open running," said Rodgers, who makes his 14th appearance in the Boston Marathon on Monday.

"I had some good peers during my 20s and 30s. But I'm not intimidated by any of them now. I hope I can run well. ... And I would like to break the American record for a Masters runner."

Rogers' best time in the Masters division was 2 hours 18 minutes 17 seconds, when he was second in the

1988 Boston Marathon.

His best time as an open runner was 2:09:27 in winning in 1979. His other Boston victories came in 1976, 1978 and 1980. He also has won the New York City Marathon four times (1976-79).

Overall, Rodgers has run 54 marathons and won 21. He has 28 sub-2:15 clockings.

"I need one more," he said, knowing the American Masters record is Barry Brown's 2:15:15. "I would love to do it at Boston. If not, I will try at New York (in November)."

"If I get the American record, maybe I will stop marathoning."

It is not likely that Rodgers will get the record Monday, but if he does, it's not likely he will end his marathon career, either.

He admittedly is not in top shape, not having done the hard, gruelling work he did when he was the king of the marathoners from the mid-1970s to the early 1980s.

"I like Masters running," the still boyish-looking Rodgers said. "I

don't have to push it. Before, my whole life evolved around running. I didn't do anything else."

"Now, I like it, because I don't have to keep pushing. I can just go at my own pace. If I don't feel like running one day, I don't. I didn't do that in the past."

The joy that Rodgers gets out of running may keep him in the sport.

"Masters running is the nice side of the sport," he said. "It's like when I started running nearly 20 years ago. We don't have all the negative things, like drugs and steroids, that have hit our sport in recent years."

"It's fun running in the Masters. It's more normal."

One runner who could step to the forefront is John Campbell, 41, of New Zealand. Campbell never has lost to a Masters runner, and last year, he swept the Masters divisions in the Los Angeles, Boston and New York City marathons. In finishing fifth overall at Boston, he set the course record of 2:14:19 for a Masters runner.

Stewart claims second straight Heritage title

HILTON HEAD ISLAND, S.C. (AP) — Payne Stewart birdied two playoff holes to beat Larry Mize and Steve Jones on Sunday and become the first winner of consecutive Heritage Classics.

Stewart, who started the day two strokes in front, nearly had a hole-in-one on No. 17, the first playoff hole. Mize made an eight-foot birdie putt before Stewart tapped in.

Jones fell out of the playoff when he pushed his tee shot into the crowd on the right of the green and had no chance for a birdie.

Stewart, who struggled to an even-par 71, won the tournament with a 30-foot birdie putt on the par-4, 484-yard 18th. Mize just missed a 20-foot putt for birdie, giving Stewart his first playoff victory in six tries. Mize is 1-2 in playoffs.

Stewart, Mize and Jones finished regulation at 8-under 276 at the 6,557-yard Town Golf Links.

"It's very special," Stewart said. "I'm very pleased with the way I played. I didn't make any putts all day long and then, all of a sudden, boom, boom."

Stewart picked up \$180,000 for his first PGA Tour victory this year and sixth overall.

Stewart and Jones, playing in the final twosome, had a chance to win on the 18th, but they missed birdie opportunities. Stewart's 17-foot putt slid by the hole, then Jones pulled his four-footer.

Nets have shooting woes

EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J. (AP) — Chris Dudley should have watched the halftime show during New Jersey's game with Indiana on Saturday.

He might have learned something.

A halftime, a fan was blindfolded, spun around three times, and stationed at the foul line. He made one of seven free throws.

Dudley, the NBA's worst foul shooter, was one for 18 in the Nets' 124-113 loss to the Pacers. He also missed his final 13 free throws.

"It's the worst I've ever done," Dudley said after what might be the worst free-throw performance in the 54-year history of the NBA. "I was just thinking about too many things. I've been working on a lot of things and I'm not confident yet."

According to the NBA record book, the worst performance is 0-for-10 by Wilt Chamberlain in 1960.

Concentration is among the theories put forth to explain Dudley's horrific free-throw shooting. But Dudley is currently

the only Ivy Leaguer in the NBA, having been drafted in 1987 from Yale by Cleveland.

"I'd shoot one and it would come up short," Dudley, whose free-throw percentage dropped from .378 to .342 (55-of-161), said. "The next time I'd think about it and it would hit off the back of the rim."

In missing his last 13 attempts, Dudley had one airball — it brushed the bottom of the net — and four bricks that left the backboard shaking.

Dudley's problems got so bad that referee Dick Bavetta once handed the ball to the 6-foot-11 center and offered words of encouragement.

Chris Morris, a 71 percent free-throw shooter for the Nets, was seen clapping his hands as if to pray for his teammate. At another point, teammate Purvis Short tried to sneak to the foul line after Dudley was fouled, but Bavetta caught him.

Coach Bill Fitch, using Dudley to replace the injured Sam Bowie, diplomatically stressed Dudley's defense against the 7-4 Rik Smits, who had 14 points.

Ag-Gee golf team takes fifth place

Texas A&M's Bobby Gee posted a final-round 72 Saturday to clinch individual honors as well as help the Aggie men's golf team finish fifth at the Southwest Conference Post-Season Golf Tournament.

The Hills of Lakeway golf course in Austin was the setting for the 54-hole tournament that included all nine SWC schools.

The Aggies finished above conference rivals Arkansas, Southern Methodist, Texas Tech and Rice. A&M shot combined rounds of 311-302-297 for a tournament 910, 17 strokes behind winner Texas.

Gee's rounds of 76-70-72—218 dominated the Aggie team, 14 strokes over teammate Mark Miller's 82-79-71—232.

Ags

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Dressendorfer said.

Dressendorfer was in command throughout the entire ballgame. He had chalked up nine strikeouts after six innings, and got his 13th when Thomas went down looking for the first out in the ninth.

Dressendorfer could have gotten more. Williams and Rollen each fouled off a two-strike pitch before flying out.

Still, Dressendorfer said he wasn't trying to keep the total to 13.

"I didn't really know how many strikeouts I had," he said. "I thought that I had eight or nine."

A&M pitcher Ronnie Allen must have crossed paths with a black cat after the third inning.

Up until the fourth frame, Allen matched Dressendorfer pitch-for-pitch, retiring the first nine Longhorns in order.

Then Lance Jones led off the fourth with a lined single into left field. Murray's sinking looper got away from Witte, sending runners to first and second with no outs.

Texas third baseman Clay King came to the plate and failed to get the bunt down the first time. Williams and Pyle charged, expecting the bunt while Marshall shifted to

cover third.

King's second bunt attempt was well placed, dribbling between Williams and Allen. Although both were within easy reach of the ball, neither touched it and it rolled through the vacated shortstop spot into short left field.

Jones scored and the throw to the plate got away from Wood, allowing Murray to go to third and King to second.

Tollison followed with a single to score Murray. Mike Moreland's double down the right field line brought home both runners and made the score 4-0.

A&M managed a run in the fifth inning.

The Aggies took advantage of two Longhorn errors. Pyle reached on one of them and scored when Broussard's grounder got past shortstop Kyle Moody. Marshall followed with a single, but the rally ended when he was picked off by Texas catcher Roger Luce.

"We had some baserunning mistakes, but Texas played some good defense in places," Johnson said. "It was frustrating to have the pickoff, because we had talked before the game about Luce liking to throw like that."

The Aggies never threatened again, as Dressendorfer retired 12 of the next 13 Aggies.

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