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Nabisco Championships hit Houston for one last hurrah

HOUSTON (AP) — The \$2.5 million Nabisco Championships, which has been a pot of gold at the end of the PGA Tour for four years, will line the pockets of the tour's top 30 money winners for the last time this week at Champions Golf Club.

The success of the Houston Golf Association in producing the Independent Insurance Agent Open at The Woodlands helped bring the tour's richest tournament to Champions, site of the 1969 U.S. Open, for its final event.

The HGA took on the task of hosting the event before Nabisco made a business decision to cut back about 35 percent of its budget. Most of the cutback came from advertising.

"We signed on the premise that everything would be the same as it had been in the past," said Duke Butler, executive director of the HGA. "But the powers that be above sports marketing called for a cutback on the tournament."

The HGA also was stunned by the loss of Champions golf director Jimmy Burke, who died in May from injuries he suffered in an auto accident. Burke was the brother of former touring pro Jack Burke, who founded Champions in 1959 with Jimmy Demaret, another former tour great.

Although Nabisco is ending its sponsorship of the event, it will continue as a \$2 million final in 1991 and will be called the TOUR Championships and will be played at Pinehurst, N.C.

And Butler says the HGA would consider hosting the event again. But there are several "ifs" attached.

"It will be a challenge to the PGA Tour to continue the event in a similar style," Butler said. "But if they continue to rotate the event, if we feel we do a good job, if the tournament is financially successful and Champions enjoys it, I think we have a good chance of hosting it again here in five years."

The first event was played at Oak Hills Country Club in San Antonio in 1987 and filled a void at the end of the tour schedule.

"It was not a time of the year when a lot of people wanted to play golf in the United States," said Wayne Robertson, senior vice president of sports marketing for RJR Nabisco. "But now the concept has proven to be very successful."

The Nabisco finale will be played on the same course where Ben Hogan played his final round of competitive golf and where Orville Moody won his only tour event, the 1969 U.S. Open.

Jackie Burke said he's happy to see the course he helped create filled with the game's top players once again. He remembers Moody's charge to the 1969 Open title and he remembers Hogan's last round.

Hogan hit an iron off the fourth tee into a ravine and staunchly waded in trying to retrieve the ball. In doing so, Hogan reinjured a knee that had been originally hurt in a serious auto accident.

I won't tell if you won't tell Dallas, Philadelphia coaches refuse to talk

IRVING (AP) — Dallas coach Jimmy Johnson and Philadelphia coach Buddy Ryan, who developed strong personal dislikes last season during a two-games series known as the "Bounty Bowls," refused Tuesday to give each other a bulletin board ammunition in separate forums with the media.

Johnson, who was given a snowball salute by Eagles fans and accused the Eagles of trying to injure placekicker Luis Zendejas, couldn't be drawn into talking about Ryan during a weekly press conference.

"I'm not interested in talking about Buddy," Johnson said. "Buddy doesn't interest me. This is not a personal game. What's important about this game on Sunday is that the Cowboys make progress."

Johnson added, "The Eagles may be the most talented team in the NFL. Buddy said it was the best team he's had, a playoff team."

Asked if he had sympathy for the Eagles' slow start, Johnson said, "I haven't paid a lot of attention to what's happening in other parts of the country."

A reporter told Johnson there was a radio report Ryan had guaranteed

a victory on Sunday in Texas Stadium in the first meeting of the season between the two NFC Eastern Division rivals.

"Buddy makes a lot of predictions," Johnson said. "People become accustomed to them."

Ryan, in a telephone conference call to the media at Cowboys owner Jerry Jones' press luncheon, denied he said anything.

"I didn't say a word," Ryan said. "Dallas is too much of an improved team. There's no way I'd guarantee anything."

Ryan, who was called "fat" by Johnson after a game last year, was asked if he would shake hands with Johnson.

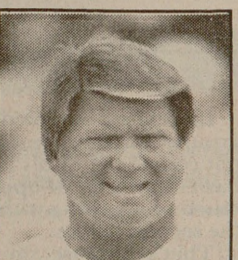
"I'll be there on the 50 watching Dallas warm up like I always do," Ryan said.

The Eagles coach complimented the 3-4 Cowboys, saying "their defense has improved a great deal and I really like (quarterback) Troy Aikman. The Cowboys are better. They have one more win than we've got."

Ryan said he does not think a loss to the Cowboys might cost him his job.

"I've done an excellent job here," he said. "I've built this team from scratch. We've been a little snakebit this year but we'll be in the playoffs."

The Cowboys lost both games to the Eagles last year. Zendejas, who is no longer a Cowboy, was injured in the first one and there were charges Philadelphia had a bounty for the player who could knock him out of the game.



Johnson

Falcons suspend Casillas

SUWANEE, Ga. (AP) — Atlanta Falcons nose tackle Tony Casillas was suspended without pay for two games on Tuesday for missing the NFL team's flight to Los Angeles and Sunday's game against the Rams.

Coach Jerry Glanville also said Casillas will not be paid for the Rams' game.

Glanville met with Casillas Tuesday morning at the Falcons' training complex, but said he would not discuss the matter.

Casillas, a five-year veteran from Oklahoma who was the Falcons' top draft choice in 1986, could not be reached for comment. He did not

return several telephone calls to his home.

Casillas was notified of the suspension in a two-paragraph letter from Glanville. The letter said he will be suspended for Sunday's game against Cincinnati and the Nov. 4 game at Pittsburgh. The suspension will end Nov. 7, when Casillas is expected to report for practice.

Casillas missed all of this year's training camp in a contract dispute, finally signing a \$1.1 million, two-year contract on Sept. 12. He missed three games before being activated and played in the next two as a backup to rookie Tory Epps, totaling 16 tackles.

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Ag spikers host SFA in G. Rollie White

The Lady Aggies want to reach .500 mark before the month of October ends.

The Texas A&M volleyball team will host Stephen F. Austin University tonight at 7 in G. Rollie White Coliseum.

A&M is 11-13 after a victory over Baylor Monday. The Aggies are 5-3 this month, being edged out by three tough conference opponents. Tonight's match against the Ladyjacks is a non-conference match.

A&M will give away free squeeze bottles to the first 300 fans.

Churchwell, Staley duo advances

The Texas A&M women's doubles team of Lynn Staley and Cindy Churchwell advanced during qualifying rounds of the Riviera All-American Championships Tuesday.

The duo defeated Utah's Jill Kempin and Susie Costa, 6-1, 6-3, to advance.

Staley and Churchwell take the court 2:30 p.m. today in the tournament known as the most prestigious women's tournament of the fall season. The Riviera is also the first leg of the ITCA Collegiate Grand Slam.

"This was sort of a revenge match for us," A&M head coach Bobby Kleimecke said. "We lost to them last season and they just kind of toyed with us. It was sweet revenge."

FREE RAINFOREST FILMFEST
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Fish Camp '91

Chairperson Applications Available Through

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*Counselor Applications Available January 1991

Questions? Call 845-1627

coffeehouse
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B O O !

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