

Strange Skins Faldo to cap slumping 1990 tour season

LA QUINTA, Calif. (AP) - Nick Faldo got wet. Jack Nicklaus got an injury. And, finally, Curtis Strange got a victory.

"It's always great to beat the best player in the world," Strange said after he'd gone four extra holes Sunday to subdue Nick Faldo of England in golf's Skins Game.

Strange, whose last official victory came in the 1989 U.S. Open, assured himself of another appearance in the four-man, two-day, made-for-television 18-hole event.

He defended his Skins Game title with \$220,000 in earnings, almost as much as Strange made in a slumping season that had him finishing a distant 53rd on the 1990 money-winning list.

Perhaps more important, he came out of a six-month slump with some of his best golf of the year.

"Now I can relax, get ready for '91 and have something positive to think about," Strange said.

He also has some good fortune to think about: a fairway shot that nestled in close to the flag while Strange was scolding a photo-

grapher for snapping his camera during the golfer's backswing; a bare foot shot from the rocks that set up a critical birdie; and in the end, Faldo's mistake on the fourth playoff hole.

With \$70,000 at stake and Nicklaus and Norman eliminated from the playoff, Faldo hit a 6-iron second shot in the water on the 18th hole.

That set it up for Strange to play safely to the middle of the green and two-putt from long range for a winning par.

Norman, like Faldo making his first appearance in this event, won a total of four skins and \$90,000.

Nicklaus, the only man to play in all eight Skins Games, was shut out in Saturday's first nine holes. He won two skins and \$70,000 with a 2-putt par on the 14th hole when Strange missed a 6-footer for par.

"I played a little better, but nothing stellar," Nicklaus said. "I won when the other guys messed up."

He also had a chance to pick up another \$35,000 with a 4-foot birdie putt on the 17th hole. But Nicklaus

backed away from the putt when an ant crawled on his ball, marked it, removed the insect and then missed the putt.

Faldo, winner of the Masters and British Open this season, won \$70,000 Saturday but did not win a skin over the last day's play. He said he had stomach flu overnight.

Norman opened up birdie-birdie Sunday, winning \$25,000 with a 10-foot putt on the 10th hole. His birdie on the 11th was matched by Strange and the \$25,000 prize was carried over to the 12th.

Strange won there, collecting \$50,000 with an 8-foot birdie putt.

Nicklaus was the next winner, on the 14th.

Strange won the next hole with a 12-foot putt and Norman won the next with a 15-footer.

The 17th and 18th were tied, setting up the playoff, and Strange's adventures in and on the rocks.

His drive on the next hole came to rest among some boulders fronting the water on the left.

"I thought it was all over," he said.

Blazers launch assault on Spurs to stay unbeaten

PORTLAND, Ore. (AP) - Clyde Drexler and Kevin Duckworth hit a combined 13 of 14 shots as the Portland Trail Blazers shot a blistering 88 percent in the first period and remained the NBA's only unbeaten team by defeating the San Antonio Spurs 117-103 Sunday night for a club-record 11th consecutive victory.

Drexler was 7-of-8 for 15 points, plus four blocks, and Duckworth 6-of-6 for 12 points as the Trail Blazers (11-0) bolted to a 49-18 lead by sinking 22 of 25 shots and tied the club record for points in a period. Terry Porter had 10 of his 16 assists in the period.

Duckworth wound up with 22 points, Porter 21 and Drexler 20, plus a season-high 14 rebounds. David Robinson led San Antonio, which had won four in a row, with 26 points. He scored 9 in the third period when the Spurs rallied to 68-61.

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touchdowns (16 total).

He needs 101 yards against Texas this week to pass Oklahoma State's Gerald Hudson of Waxahachie to lead the NCAA in rushing this year. More importantly, with 138 yards he will top 5,000 yards. Tony Dorsett, Archie Griffin, Herschel Walker and Charles White are the only other Division I backs to have topped the mark.

A&M played all three of its quarterbacks, and all turned in stellar performances with no interceptions.

Junior starter Bucky Richardson scored two touchdowns and threw for another, a 24-yard scoring strike to senior wideout Cornelius Patterson. For the day, Richardson completed six-of-10 passes for 127 yards and he rushed for 56 yards on 11 carries.

Senior quarterback Lance Pavlas completed eight-of-10 for 118 yards and sophomore Kent Petty was two-of-four, including a 34-yard touchdown pass to senior Felton Ransby. The pass provided the game's final 56-10 margin and the most controversy.

The touchdown came on a fourth-and-14 from the TCU 34-yard line with only 43 seconds remaining in the game. Horned Frog head coach

Jim Wacker was not pleased with the Aggies' decision to air it out with a big lead.

"I'm real glad they scored that last touchdown," Wacker said. "That was a very important call. Each coach has to do what he feels he has to do. But let me tell you—those things are remembered. There'll be another day in the sun."

Slocum said he wasn't trying to run up the score, especially since he turned Richardson and tailback Darren Lewis out of the game in the third quarter.

"I had the third-team quarterback, a walk on receiver, our third-team tailback and linemen who had never played in a game before," Slocum said. "It's the first time some of those guys have even got to play, so to say don't try to score is kind of hard to do."

Wacker's complaints about running up the score were hard to believe, Slocum said.

"We were playing walk on players in the fourth quarter," he said. "I'd be embarrassed to complain about someone running the score up on me when they're playing their third team."

Lewis, playing in his last home

game, said he was happy with the way the team played, and that they were getting ready for Texas.

"We came out very focused," Lewis said. "We worked hard this week in practice this week and it's nice to go out with a bang."

"We're going to have to practice hard this week and play some hard-nosed football because Texas is playing on a higher level this year."

The Longhorns clinched their first Cotton Bowl berth in seven years with a 23-13 victory over the Baylor Bears on Saturday. Even though both teams' postseason tilts are already locked up, the rivalry between the two schools will lend itself to providing a hard-fought game.

Slocum said he was pleased with his team's overall performance against TCU and he awaits the Texas game with great anticipation.

"We had a good performance from the entire team," Slocum said. "I'm especially proud of the seniors. They've provided great thrills and memories throughout their careers. We'll miss them."

"Texas has a very good football team," Slocum said. "They're playing with a lot of confidence and motion. It'll be a big challenge, but we're looking forward to it."

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