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## Brooks wins first PGA tournament in sudden death

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (AP) — The talk all week was about the great finishing hole at Valhalla Golf Club. No. 18 was absolutely perfect for Mark Brooks, who birdied it twice in 20 minutes to win the PGA Championship in a sudden-death playoff with Kenny Perry.

And the dangerous par-5 was absolute misery for Perry, the Kentucky native who stumbled through the thick bluegrass rough twice Sunday for bogeys to give away a tournament he seemed to have wrapped up.

"It was just a week of comebacks," Brooks said after he rolled in a 5-foot birdie putt to claim his first major championship and third victory of the year. "I was over par every day and came back. The end was just kind of a fairytale."

As his final putt fell Brooks thrust his hand in the air, accepted congratulations from Perry and hugged his wife and children. Then he accepted the champion's trophy, stared at it admiringly as he held it over his head and then brought it down for a gentle kiss.

"It was kind of a week of streaks for me," said Brooks, who made six birdies in a row Thursday, four in a row Friday

and three in a row Sunday.

"I felt really lucky to stand on the 17th tee and know I still had an opportunity. My caddie informed me that 11-under was then leading and I guess it gave me a little bit of life. I hit my two best drives of the week in regulation and in the playoff" on No. 18.

Brooks shot a solid 70 in the final round to finish at 11-under-par 277 while Perry leaped past such big names as Greg Norman, Steve Elkington, Nick Price and Phil Mickelson with a 68 to get to 277.

It was the second consecutive year the PGA was decided in a playoff. Last year Steve Elkington defeated Colin Montgomerie, also with a birdie on the first playoff hole.

Brooks joins golf legends Ben Hogan and Byron Nelson as Fort Worth, Texas, golfers who have won the PGA. And his victory meant that the last 16 major championships have been won by 15 different people.

Perry, who is from Franklin, Ky., just 120 miles from Valhalla, was carried along all day by a wildly supportive gallery.

When he walked off the 14th green following a 15-foot birdie putt to get to 12-under his

name sat alone on top of leader board.

And when he strode up 18th fairway on his way to a shaky bogey he was carried along by wild, whooping shouts from the home folks, responding with a wave of his hat and a satisfied smile.

When he missed the 12th par putt that would have given him a more comfortable cushion he waved his hat again and walked an aisle of high-fives from delirious fans as he trudged off to sign his score. But it was way too early to celebrate and Perry knew it.

"It's a tough way to end a day when you've played so well," Perry said. "I had that putt but I played it too high. I had a fabulous round for 17 holes."

Perry, however, walked away from his disappointing finish with his head held high.

"This was a great experience for me," he said. "I've never been in this situation before. I know that I lost it for myself and the fans of Kentucky who were rooting so hard for me this week. But this is good for my career. It'll help me down the road. I learned a good lesson, but it was a hard one."

## A&M's Sanders continues to impress Oilers

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — Houston Oilers coach Jeff Fisher plans to get serious about the running game, which has been a weak point in the team's first two exhibition games.

The Oilers have averaged just 3.5 yards a rush, including 2.6 in Saturday's 16-12 victory over Indianapolis. They had just 69 yards on 27 carries against the Colts, including 6 for 17 by first-round draft pick Eddie George.

"We didn't gameplan the Colts, but we will Detroit (Friday, AstroDome) this week, al-

though not to the extent we will in the regular season," Fisher said. "We're going to line up and see if we can run the ball. It will be our focus in practice."

"It's a combination of things, but we haven't been knocking people off the line of scrimmage like we need to."

Free agent rookies continue to be impressive. H-Back Chris Sanders from Texas A&M caught three passes while defensive end Mike Halipan from Pittsburgh was dominant despite wearing a cast on his thumb.

Sanders has starred in the preseason games.

"He's one of those guys who sees the whole picture," Fisher said. "A lot of guys take two or three weeks to learn their position."

"We switched him from wide receiver and the next day he knew everything we wanted his new positions (H-back, end). The question is whether he's physically up to the challenge. Can he be a lead-type blocker? But he continues to show he serves to play."

## TEXAS TWO-STEP

Astro's win fourth straight with offensive help of Bagwell, Biggio

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — Craig Biggio went 4-for-5 and Jeff Bagwell hit a two-run homer Sunday as the Houston Astros completed a three-game sweep of Philadelphia with a 10-5 win over the Phillies.

Biggio scored three runs and drove in two as NL West-leading Houston finished off its first sweep at Veterans Stadium since Aug. 1992 with its fourth straight win.

Darryl Kile (10-6) allowed five runs and eight hits over seven-plus innings for his 50th career victory.

Houston jumped on Phillies' starter Mike Williams (4-10) for three runs in the first. Brian Hunter led off with his third homer of

the season before Biggio singled and Bagwell walked. Both runners moved up on a wild pitch and Derek May hit an RBI groundout. Tony Eusebio's RBI single made it 3-0.

The Astros chased Williams in the second inning. Hunter singled with one out and scored on Biggio's triple. Bagwell hit Williams' next pitch off the facade of the upper deck in left for his 25th homer.

Houston made it 7-0 in the fourth inning with an unearned run, and added three more runs in the fifth on RBI doubles by James Mouton and Hunter, and Biggio's run-scoring single.

Kile left with a 10-4 lead in the eighth after giving up an RBI single to Mickey Morandini.

Kevin Stocker and pinch hitter Ruben Amaro also drove in runs for the Phillies.

Burkett wins first AL game as Rangers defeat Blue Jays, 6-0

TORONTO (AP) — John Burkett pitched a six-hitter in his American League debut Sunday as the Texas Rangers completed their first road sweep this season with a 6-0 victory over the Toronto Blue Jays.

Burkett (1-0), acquired from the Florida Marlins last Thursday, struck out eight and walked one in his second shutout this season and fourth of his career.

The Rangers have beaten the Blue Jays six straight times and are 8-1 against Toronto this year.

Juan Gonzalez drove in two runs for AL West-leading Texas, which despite the win is still a sub-.500 road team (28-29).

Texas scored an unearned in the fourth off

Erik Hanson (10-14). Blue Jays shortstop Alex Gonzalez deflected Darryl Hamilton's grounder into right-center for a two-base fielding error and Ivan Rodriguez followed with a single. Hamilton scored when Rusty Greer grounded into a double play.

Juan Gonzalez hit a sacrifice fly to give the Rangers a 2-0 lead in the seventh before Texas blew it open in the eighth with four runs.

David Valle had an RBI double, Rodriguez had a run-scoring single, and Greer was hit the bases loaded to force in a run before Gonzalez got his second sacrifice fly.

Hanson gave up six runs, five earned, and six hits in 7 1-3 innings.

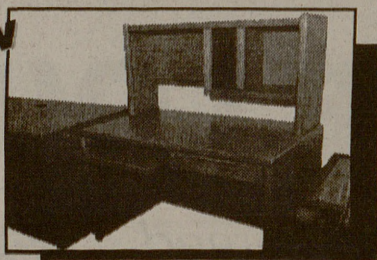
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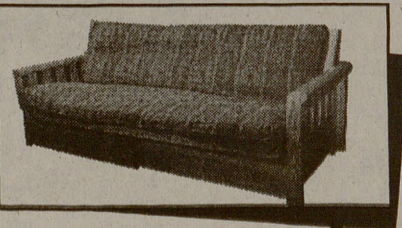
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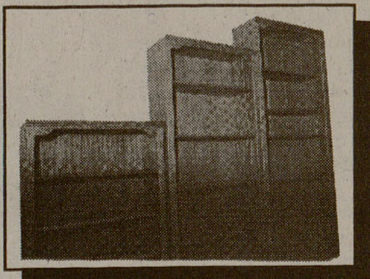
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