SPORTS/TOONS Woods wins first PGA title Ewe Hall

LAS VEGAS (AP) — Tiger Woods, staking his first claim to greatness as a pro that he enjoyed as an amateur, parred the first playoff hole Sunday to beat Davis Love III and win the Las Vegas Invitational in only his fifth tournament as a pro.

Woods watched with arms folded as Love missed a six-foot putt on the first playoff hole to give him the win and the \$297,000 first prize.

Playing with the confidence of a veteran before thousands of screaming fans, Woods overpowered the par-5s to shoot 64 and take the lead in the clubhouse.

The three-time U.S. Amateur champion then went straight to the driving range to hit practice shots in anticipation of a playoff that came after Love made eagle on 15 and birdie on 16.

Then it became match play, and Woods, who proved himself a master of the art in winning his three Amateurs, was up to the task. Instead of hitting 2-iron off the

tee as he had during regulation, Woods pulled out a 3-wood and then hit a 9-iron within 20 feet. Love, hitting driver off the tee, followed Woods' second shot by pulling an 8iron into the left bunker.

Woods just missed his birdie putt and tapped in for par, then watched as Love missed.

"I didn't play match play too long ago," Woods said. "Now (in the playoff) it's match play and you got to try to make three. It was fortunate I could hit first and put some pressure on him. He knew I was in position for birdie and he just came over an 8-iron a bit.'

"Tiger, Tiger," the crowd chanted as Woods embraced Love and quietly celebrated his first victory. "He's obviously the next great player and we're all going to have to work to beat him," said Love, also a loser in a five-man playoff last week in the Buick Challenge. "As disappointed as I am, I'm that much happy for him. He's a great player and he's great for the tour."

Love, playing four groups behind, had followed an eagle on the par-4 15th with a birdie on 16 to tie the rookie sensation.

The cheers that swept over the 18th green after Woods finished with a 64 had barely subsided when Love, by then a stroke behind, hit a wedge within six feet on the 16th hole and made the putt to tie for the lead.

Love then stepped up on the 196-yard 17th hole and carved a brilliant iron shot just right of the water to about 12 feet. The putt just slid by on the right, however, and Love headed to 18 needing birdie to win.

Love could manage only par, and the two golfers went back to the 18th tee for the first playoff hole.

"It's been an unbelievable experience," Woods said. "Especialy after starting out with a 70 and being so far back.

Woods earned \$297,000, bringing his earnings to \$437,000. Undecided previously about playing in the final two tournaments of the year, Woods indicated he might play in the hopes of getting in the top 30 and a spot in the Tour Championship. The victory also gave Woods a two-year exemption on the PGA Tour and a guaranteed spot in the Masters.

the U.S. Amateur Championship. knocked a 6-iron to 22 feet on 16 and two putted for birdie. He missed birdie putts of about 20 feet on the final two holes.

AP Photo

Love, who was a shot behind Ronnie Black going into the final round, double bogeyed the 10th hole and appeared out of it.

Tiger Woods celebrates after ty-

ing Steve Scott on the 35th hole of

But he birdied 12 and then made eagle on 15 after driving the green and birdie on 16 to get back

day," Love said. "I made some

A&M Cross country places fourth

STAFF AND WIRE REPORTS

The Texas A&M Men's and Women's Cross Country Teams continued its steady improvement placing fourth this weekend at the University of North Texas Invitational.

The men were led by sophomore Scott Lengefeld, who placed third with a time of 25:09. Sophomore Stephen Erath finished 18th with a time of 26:12 in the men's individual race.

A&M Head Coach Greg Hinze said the men showed a lot of improvement in their running.

"Overall I was extremely pleased," Hinze said. "Particularly coming off of two hard weeks of

training, that's about as well as we can run.

"Scott Lengefeld, if he can do it again on this course at regionals, will qualify for NCAA's running like he did today.

Sophomore Amy Stanberry was the only woman to break the top 20 with a sixth place finish and a time of 17:58 in the women's individual race

'We didn't run very smart, but we ran hard," Hinze said. "Realistically, we finished about where we should considering the number of freshmen I'm running. Beating Oklahoma was a pleasant surprise.

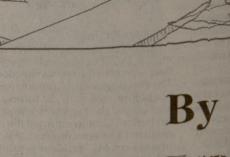
"Amy Stanberry ran very well and has, at least, put herself in position to be a factor for a NCAA bid.

The Aggie harriers will host the Texas A&M Invitational Oct. 12 at the A&M Golf Course

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into contention. "I just didn't hit it as good toaranteed spot in the Masters. Woods parred the 15th, then n't make them coming in."

By Michae Peeps JON DIVORCE

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