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# Sports

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THE BATTALION

Tuesday, December 5, 2006

## Teen earns PGA card Final-round 66 puts Tryon on Tour

WEST PALM BEACH, Fla. (AP) — The PGA Tour is about to get some peach fuzz.

Ty Tryon, the 17-year-old golfer with a man-sized game, became the youngest player in history to earn a PGA Tour card Monday when he closed with a bogey-free 66 to easily finish in the top 35 at qualifying school.

How to celebrate such a feat?

"Shirley Temples!" said his father, Bill Tryon, who groomed the boy to be a pro from the time he sent him to swing guru David Leadbetter at age 7.

Tryon started the final round at breezy Bear Lakes Country Club three strokes out of the top 35 and needing his best score of the six-day tournament to get his card. He had a 66 in mind and delivered, making the most gut-wrenching day in golf look like child's play.

"It's just unbelievable," said Tryon, who finished at 18-under 414 and in a tie for 23rd, nine strokes behind winner Pat Perez. "Tonight when I go to sleep, I'll know that I'm on the PGA Tour." He'll have to wait seven months.

The PGA Tour adopted a new policy in September that players be 18 before they can become members. Tryon turns 18 on June 2.

Until then, he can accept sponsor's exemptions to seven tournaments and play no more than 12. He will not show up on the PGA Tour money list until June.

That can wait. Next up is rookie orientation, followed by a more pressing concern. The junior at Dr. Phillips High School in Orlando has an English paper due Friday on "To Kill a Mockingbird."

"Yeah, I've read so much," Tryon said, rolling his eyes.

He has proved to be a quick study in the art of professional golf.

Tryon was playing junior golf a year ago when he burst onto the stage at the Honda Classic in March. A Monday qualifier, he became the youngest player in 44 years to make the cut on the PGA Tour. He was 16 at the time, and won in a tie for 39th.

In July, he was tied for the lead after one round of the B.C. Open and finished tied for 37th.

"After the first round of the B.C. Open, I was like, 'This is doable.' I didn't know it would be this smooth, right through Q-school on the PGA Tour," he said.

Tryon made it through all three stages of the qualifying school, with 12 of his 14 rounds under par.

The only pressure he faced was on Monday's final round with as much at stake as the backing of a major championship. Only the top 35 can get their PGA Tour cards, while the rest go to the developmental Buy.com Tour.

Tryon was cool from the start, ripping a 135-yard drive down the middle of the fairway and hitting a wedge into 6 feet for birdie. He stalled on the next five holes, then was informed that a threesome was being timed.

It was only fitting the way Tryon responded since he has been in a hurry to get to the next league all year. He birdied the next two holes then sealed his spot on the Tour by hitting a long shot from 227 yards into a stiff breeze to 12 feet, making the putt for eagle on No. 3, his 12th hole.

He gave himself breathing room on another hole, 5, his 15th hole, when his 2-iron from 240 yards sailed over the flag and stopped 20 feet away from a two-putt birdie.

### BCS

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With an LSU victory, there is also a possibility that No. 5 Oregon could also have a claim to the national title.

If Oregon (10-1) wins its BCS bowl game, which was given to them as PAC-10 champions, and Nebraska upsets Miami in the Rose Bowl, then Oregon will have a decent argument to be co-champions.

The BCS was put into effect after the 1997 season, when Nebraska and Michigan finished the year undefeated and shared the national title.

So, if the Volunteers are upset by the Tigers Saturday, BCS opponents will rejoice and BCS officials will prepare themselves for a whirlwind of problems.

Brian Ruff is a junior sports management major.

### JORDAN

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tendinitis he has felt in both knees since he resumed workouts earlier this year.

At 38, Jordan has barely been able to practice for more than a week. When he does, he can't make it through the entire session.

Jordan is averaging 24.8 points and 38 minutes per game and is shooting just 40 percent, well below his career average. He leads the league in shots taken and shots missed.

"We're pleased with the results of Michael's examination," said Wizards general manager Wes Unseld. "Michael will rest the knee for a few days and continue his treatment so that he can return as soon as possible."

Unseld said that "Michael wants to play every minute of every game," but that coach Doug Collins "will manage Michael's

minutes in an effort to minimize the soreness in the knee."

Jordan last missed an NBA game because of injury on March 5, 1993, against the San Antonio Spurs. It was the second of two games he missed while hospitalized with a foot infection.

The wear and tear of an NBA schedule on Jordan's body seemed the biggest obstacle in his second career year. He was slowed by spasms and two cracked ribs, as well as the knee tendinitis workouts over the summer. He has also been playing with a sore right wrist.

The good news for Jordan is that the MRI apparently showed no ligament or cartilage damage, which would have sidelined him much longer.

Jordan had the knee examined in Chicago by Dr. James Hefferson, the Bulls' former team physician.

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- ❄️ Keep your thermostat on a low setting
- ❄️ Cancel all newspaper deliveries
- ❄️ Put lights on a timer



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