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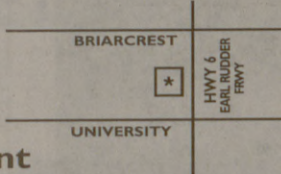
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12th MAN STUDENT FOUNDATION

Welcomes you to the
9th Annual Baseball BBQ!



When: Friday, April 12
@ 5:00

Where: Olsen Pavilion

Kickoff Parents Weekend
with the 12th Man
Student Foundation!

Food is free to all
members, cost is \$5 for

We encourage all family members to come out to
the BBQ before the Aggies take on KState!
There will be games and prizes for all.

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2B

Wednesday, April 10, 2002

SPORTS
THE BATTALION

2002 Masters at Augusta

In the biggest overhaul in the 68-year history, Augusta National lengthened nine of the 18 holes, adding a maximum of 285 yards, turning the Masters into the ultimate test of major-championship golf.

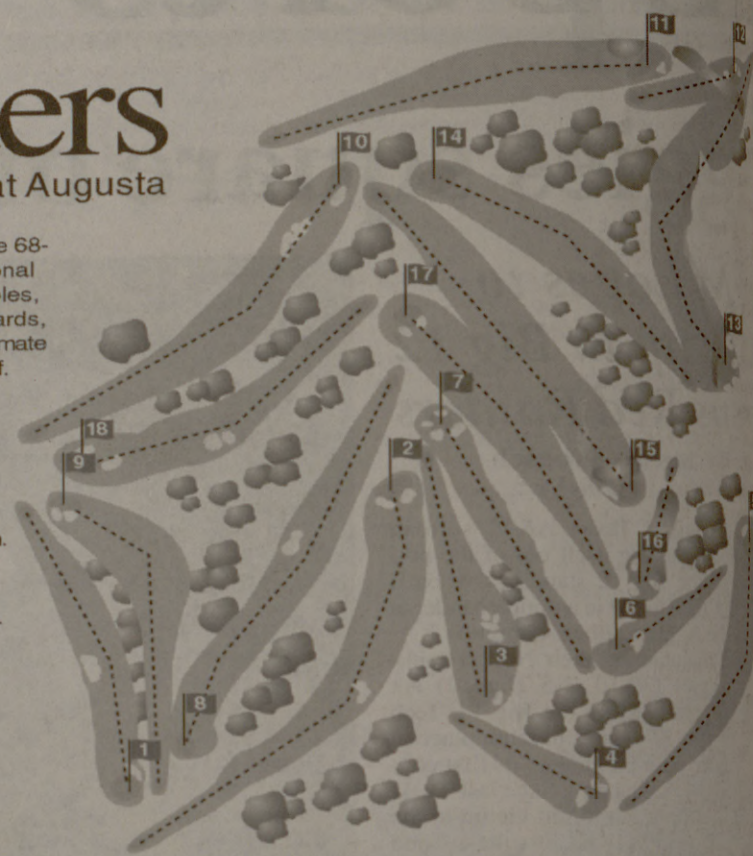
Television • April 11-14 (all times EDT)

- Thursday-Friday, 4 p.m. to 6:30 p.m., 8 p.m. to 10:30 p.m. (replay), USA Network
- Saturday, 3:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.; Sunday, 2:30 p.m. to 7 p.m., CBS

	Par	Yards
Out	36	3,620
In	36	3,650
Total	72	7,270

Format: 72 holes of stroke play, sudden death playoff if necessary.
Purse: to be determined (\$5.6 million in 2001).
Field: 89 players, including five amateurs.
Defending champion: Tiger Woods

SOURCE: Augusta National G.C.



Last year: Woods held off his two chief rivals, David Duval and Phil Mickelson, to win his second green jacket and become the first man in history to sweep the four professional major championships. Woods closed with a 3-under 69 and finished at 272.

New look at Augusta

Despite new changes to golf course, Tiger Woods still odds-on favorite to win at the Masters

AUGUSTA, Ga. (AP) — Tiger Woods walked briskly out of the Augusta National clubhouse Tuesday morning and was headed for the first tee, unaware of a small problem his caddie had already solved.

A wooden clock at the tee box told golfers the course would open at 8, but it was only 7:25.

Steve Williams simply moved the hands back a half-hour, and when Woods arrived at 7:28, the defending champion flicked the big hand back two more minutes. Then he teed up his ball and launched a drive that landed safely just left of the massive fairway bunker.

Yes, it is always Tiger Time at the Masters.

Most of the focus at the 66th Masters is the renovation of Augusta National, which stretched the course by 285 yards and changed half of the holes.

What has not changed is the man to beat.

"The player to look at is the No. 1 player ranked in the world — Tiger," Phil Mickelson said. "He's the guy that everybody has got to watch out for. And given his length and accuracy and distance control, he's going to be the guy to beat."

So, what else is new? Woods set 20 records when he won the Masters in his professional debut in 1997, including the 72-hole scoring record (270) and the margin of victory (12 strokes).

Even more stunning was his performance last year, when he became the first player to sweep the four professional majors by holding off David Duval and Mickelson on the back nine for a two-stroke victory.

When the Masters begins Thursday, Woods will try to join Jack Nicklaus and Nick Faldo as the only repeat winners at

Augusta National.

A repeat victory will not be the same as a repeat performance. Woods figured that out Tuesday morning when he hit an 8-iron into the first green; in past years, a drive that pure on the opening hole would have left him only a sand wedge.

Is it harder? Certainly. Some players believe the scores will be as many as three strokes higher a round because of the longer clubs required to hit into greens that are just as slick and contoured as ever.

"It puts a huge premium on driving the ball, and no matter who wins this tournament, their short game is going to be tested."

— Tiger Woods

Does that make it easier for the big hitters such as Woods, Mickelson and Duval?

"The golf course definitely favors a guy that hits the ball farther," Woods said. "But you have to hit the ball straight, too. It puts a huge premium on driving the ball, and no matter who wins this tournament, their short game is going to be tested."

That is an area that has held Woods back this year.

When he won the Masters a year ago, it was his 19th victory on the PGA Tour in 38 tournaments, an astounding rate of success.

Woods now comes into the first major championship of the year with last month's Bay Hill

Invitational his only victory in 10 events dating to the World Golf Championship at Firestone in August.

The problem? Woods is ranked 138th in putting on the PGA Tour. All those putts that kept falling during his record run through the majors suddenly began missing the edge of the cup.

Still, Woods is far from concerned. He took two weeks off before the Masters to attend the wedding of a good friend in Southern California and put the finishing touches on his game.

"I felt the practice sessions I had at home were very, very positive," Woods said.

His swing coach, Butch Harmon, could attest to that.

Harmon walked the practice round with Woods on Tuesday. After watching him hit two delicate pitches to one of the toughest pin placements on No. 3, Harmon turned and said, "This kid is going to be tough to beat this week."

Woods might have some company. For all his daring shots and unpredictable outcomes, Mickelson has been a factor the last three times he has played.

He pushed Woods at Bay Hill, led at The Players Championship until a five-putt took him out of contention, and led during the weekend in Atlanta until a four-putt on Saturday and a few sloppy mistakes in the final round.

Regarded as the best player who has never won a major, Mickelson seems poised to put himself in position again.

"It's not as though my desire is going to increase," he said. "My confidence has increased because I feel as though the golf course is suited to the style of play that I enjoy, and that I should have an opportunity on Sunday."

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