

# SPORTS

THE BATTALION

Page 5 • Tuesday, July 16, 2002

## Armstrong rides into second after runner-up finish in trial

LORIENT, France (AP) — Lance Armstrong is not the dominating force he used to be in Tour de France time trials.

The three-time Tour winner recorded a rare second-place finish in Monday's ninth stage, taking 11 seconds more than Colombian Santiago Botero to complete a wind-swept course through Brittany.

Armstrong's performance allowed him to move up six spots into second place overall, 26 seconds behind Spain's Igor Gonzalez Galdeano. The

Spaniard finished 19 seconds behind Botero.

While the 30-year-old Texan remains the overwhelming favorite to win a fourth consecutive Tour, his rivals see the second-place finish as a dent in the Armstrong armor.

"The Tour has changed — Armstrong isn't as strong in the time trial as he was a year ago," said Gonzalez Galdeano, who finished fourth in the stage to retain the overall leader's yellow jersey. "The race has become more open."



ARMSTRONG

Here is a measure of Armstrong's dominance in individual time trials: Since his first Tour victory in 1999, he has won seven of the last nine coming into Monday's stage. Not counting two quick prologues, he was seven for seven.

"The Tour isn't monotone after all," Armstrong said. "It's

not like everybody had said it was — there are other riders out there."

Monday's stage marked the end of a flat, speedy first week full of crashes. The race now heads to the mountains, one of Armstrong's other strengths.

Armstrong dominated in the mountains last year, winning the Tour with a final advantage of more than six-and-a-half minutes.

Tuesday is a rest day, when the riders fly down to southwestern France. The race

resumes Wednesday with a 91.1-mile trek from Bazas to Pau. The Tour enters the Pyrenees on Thursday, for the first of six mountain stages this year.

"We'll now see if he's as unbeatable as he once was in the mountains," Gonzalez Galdeano said.

Botero, of the Kelme team, clocked a time of 1 hour, 2 minutes and 18 seconds for the 32.24-mile loop through Brittany from Lanester to Lorient. It was the 29-year-old's

second stage victory.

"Botero's no surprise winner," Armstrong said. His comments were relayed through Jogi Muller, spokesman for his U.S. Postal Service team.

The Colombian topped Armstrong by 42 seconds in a 25.4-mile time trial stage in the Dauphine Libere in June, although the Texan won the week-long race.

Another individual time trial is scheduled on July 27, a day before the Tour enters Paris for the finish.

## Woods doesn't own Muirfield yet

GULLANE, Scotland (AP) — Tiger Woods already met his match at the British Open.

After finishing a practice round Monday morning before the wind began to whip off the Firth of Forth, Woods headed directly to the driving range. But he ran into a security guard who did not recognize him and did not see his credentials.

She threw her arms out and blocked him from going any further until a member of Woods' entourage intervened.

If only the rest of the field at Muirfield could stop him so easily.

Woods has breezed to victory in the first two major championships of the year, winning the Masters by three strokes when no one mounted a charge, and winning the U.S. Open by the same margin despite closing with a 2-over-par 72.

That made him the first player since Jack Nicklaus in 1972 to win the first two legs of the Grand Slam, and a big favorite to win all four majors in the same year.

The next test — if one even unfolds — starts Thursday at Muirfield, the East Lothian links which is short by modern championship standards (7,034 yards) but is regarded as one of the most complete tests among courses in the British Open rotation.

"It's a fair test," said Nick Faldo, who won the silver claret jug in 1987 and 1992, the last two times the British Open was played at Muirfield. "If you play well, you'll score well."

That's what is expected from Woods, who hasn't hit a competitive shot since he tapped in a bogey putt on the 72nd hole at Bethpage Black in New York last month.

Still, there are no guarantees in golf, and Woods was taking nothing for granted.

He has spent two days at Muirfield, working on a variety of shots and paying close attention from the tee. He rarely hit a driver Monday, even on the par 5s, and concentrated on how far the ball

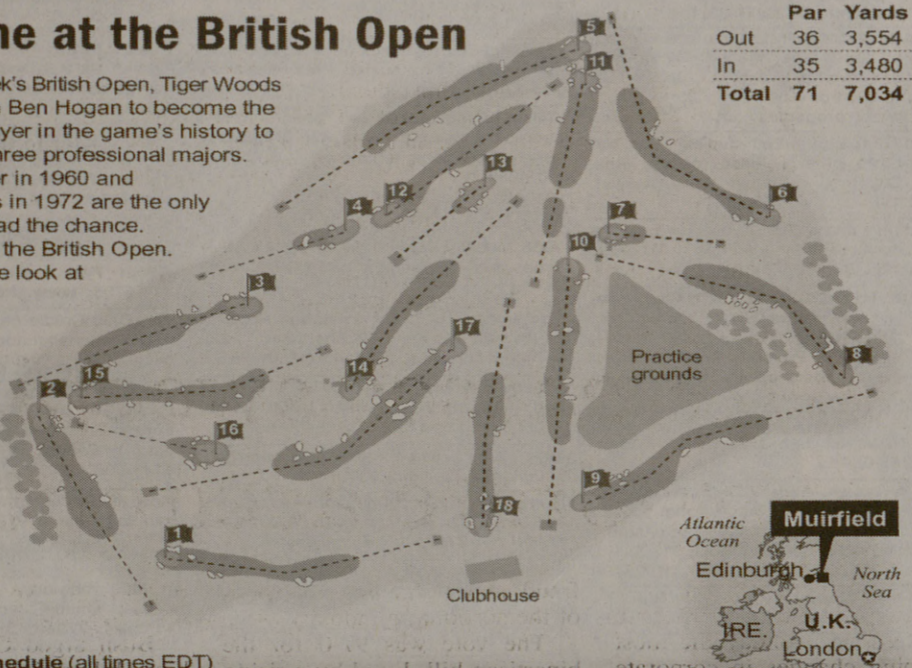
THE 131ST BRITISH OPEN GOLF CHAMPIONSHIP

Gullane, Scotland • July 18-21

### Tee time at the British Open

At next week's British Open, Tiger Woods could join Ben Hogan to become the only other player in the game's history to win the first three professional majors. Arnold Palmer in 1960 and Jack Nicklaus in 1972 are the only others who had the chance. Both failed at the British Open. A hole-by-hole look at the course.

Muirfield Golf Links



	Par	Yards
Out	36	3,554
In	35	3,480
Total	71	7,034

Television schedule (all times EDT)  
 • Thursday, July 18 and Friday, July 19, 8 a.m.-2 p.m., ESPN  
 • Saturday, July 20, 9 a.m.-2:30 p.m., ABC  
 • Sunday, July 21, 8 a.m.-1:30 p.m., ABC

Defending champion: David Duval  
 Purse: 3.8 million British pounds (\$5.3 million)  
 Winner's share: 700,000 pounds (\$980,000)

SOURCES: Muirfield Golf Links; Associated Press; ESPN

Ed DeGaspero/AP

would roll and what was required to avoid the bunkers.

Players complain about the driver being taken out of their hands at American majors. Here, they expect it. The British Open has always been more about position and course management than hitting the ball a mile for a short iron into the green.

An example of that came on the 448-yard 14th hole that played into a stiff breeze. Driver brings the deep, sodden-faced bunkers into play, so Woods hit a 2-iron off the tee and had a 3-iron for his second shot.

With a low, piercing trajectory, the ball rolled onto and through the green.

Woods dropped another ball.

"How about this time I hold

it against the wind," he said to caddy Steve Williams. The ball climbed against overcast skies and landed some 15 feet next to the hole.

As his second practice ended, Woods marveled at Muirfield.

"The bunkers here are so strategically placed," he said of a links course that first held a British Open in 1892.

He motioned to the large cross bunkers 120 yards short of the green on the 546-yard 17th hole, which didn't appear to be in play with the wind behind his back.

"They are if you hit it over there," he said, pointing to the thick rough to the right. "Then you can't just run it up to the green. And if the wind comes out of the other direction, you

might not be able to clear them with your second shot."

It is for these reasons the British Open could allow for more players to contend than at Augusta National, which had been stretched by nearly 300 yards in a massive redesign, and Bethpage Black, the longest U.S. Open course in history at 7,214 yards.

However, length isn't everything.

"I can reach the fairways. I couldn't always say that at the U.S. Open," said Jim Furyk, playing for the first time since his first child was born three weeks ago. "It's very straightforward for a links course. It gives you a lot of options. You can take as much club as you choose, but I think it eventually will bite you."

Most links have relatively flat greens, although some of the greens at Muirfield are heavily contoured.

## 76ers star to surrender for threat charge

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — Allen Iverson prepared to surrender to police on charges he burst into his cousin's apartment with a handgun and threatened two men.

The 2000-01 NBA MVP has been confined to his \$2.4 million house since prosecutors announced last week they would charge him and his uncle with assault, terroristic threats and related offenses.

Iverson also faces gun charges. The 27-year-old Philadelphia 76ers guard and his uncle were expected to turn themselves in Tuesday.

Iverson allegedly threw his wife, Tawanna, out of their suburban mansion during a fight, then barged into the cousin's Philadelphia apartment with a gun while searching for her the next night. Iverson and his uncle allegedly threatened two people inside the apartment — 21-year-old Charles Jones and 17-year-old Hakim Carey.

Police have searched Iverson's house and vehicles, but are not believed to have found a weapon.

In a court document filed Monday, police said one of the searches turned up two cell phones, a phone bill, other phone company documents and auto body repair documents. There was no mention of a gun. The police document did not say whether the search was of Iverson's house or cars.

Curiosity-seekers have been coming to Iverson's house for days, hoping to catch a glimpse of him or his wife. Reporters and photographers have been camping outside.

Iverson has not been seen outside the house since about 5 a.m. Sunday, at the end of a party with friends and relatives. The last glimpse of his wife came Wednesday. Neither spoke with reporters.

The last statement from Iverson's Virginia lawyers was July 8, when they issued a news

release confirming they had met with police. One lawyer, hired last week, has been vacationing in Europe. Another repeatedly declined to comment.

When Iverson turns himself in, he will be fingerprinted, photographed and given a booking number. Then he will wait for his preliminary arraignment.

Police say Iverson will not be moved up in line, although he will be allowed to meet with his attorney like any prisoner awaiting arraignment.

### NBA's problem child fouls out

NBA superstar Allen Iverson is expected to surrender to Philadelphia police to face multiple charges, including threatening two men with a gun. Iverson and his uncle, Gregory Iverson, are accused of barging into his cousin's apartment, as the Sixers' guard searched for his wife. The charges:

- **Allen Iverson**
- Criminal trespass, felony, two counts
- Criminal conspiracy, felony, one count
- Violation of the Uniform Firearms Act, felony, one count
- Violation of the Uniform Firearms Act, misdemeanor, one count
- Simple assault, misdemeanor, two counts
- Terroristic threats, misdemeanor, two counts
- Unlawful restraint, misdemeanor, two counts
- False imprisonment, misdemeanor, two counts
- Possession of an instrument of crime, misdemeanor, one count

- **Gregory Iverson**
- Criminal trespass, felony, two counts
- Criminal conspiracy, felony, one count
- Simple assault, misdemeanor, two counts
- Terroristic threats, misdemeanor, two counts
- Unlawful restraint, misdemeanor, two counts
- False imprisonment, misdemeanor, two counts

SOURCE: Associated Press AP

**We Are America's #1 Brake Service Company!**  
**Why do so many women shop at Midas?**

For Aggies On A Budget

**MIDAS**

Ask For Kevin  
 Store Hours: Mon-Sat 7:00am-6:00pm  
 College Station 2715 S. Texas Ave - (979) 764-1844

**AIR CONDITIONING INSPECTION \$19.95\***

- Inspect and adjust A/C belt
- Inspect hoses, fittings & compressor
- Perform system leak test
- Run performance test

**FREE BRAKE INSPECTION**  
**2 WHEEL BRAKE SPECIAL \$59.00\***

Includes: Semi-Metallic Shoes & Ceramic Pads

**LUBE, OIL & FILTER \$15.95**

- Up To 5 Qts. 10W30 Oil
- Most Cars & Light Trucks
- Diesel Cars Excluded
- Synthetic Oil Extra

Ask About Our \$99 VSD™ Special See Manager For Details

**TOTAL CAR CARE "Engine light on? We can Help!"**

**COLLEGE PARK COMMUNITIES**

**The Ridge**

**Manager's Gone Ape**

Swing on over for a wet and wild pool party  
 2:00 - 5:00

Every Tuesday throughout July  
 w/ food provided by New York Sub  
 DJ and music: Reef, SOHO Lounge, The Library

Check out our 2 bedrooms and the NO security deposit special!

Register for a chance to win a FREE trip to Jamaica

2250 Dartmouth, C.S. www.collegepark.org 694-4100