

GOLF



AP PHOTO

Phil Mickelson tees off on the fifth hole during the second round of the Ford Championship at Doral in Doral, Fla., on Friday.

DORAL, Fla.

Woods, Mickelson join two others in Doral lead

Tiger Woods and Phil Mickelson have been leaving their footprints on the Blue Monster for two days, their paths only running parallel on the few holes at Doral where the front nine meets the back.

That won't be the case today. Mickelson birdied two of his final three holes Friday for a 6-under 66, while Woods settled for pars on his final four holes for a 5-under 67. It left them in a four-way tie for the lead with Scott Verplank and Camilo Villegas in the Ford Championship at Doral and in the final pairing for the third round.

This isn't eyeball-to-eyeball golf as it was last year at Doral, even if there will be thousands of eyeballs on them. It isn't the final round, for one thing, and there are nine players within three shots of the lead.

"There are guys that are right there that are going to go out and make a lot of birdies, and it will be easy for them. They will have no pressure on them," Mickelson said.

BASKETBALL

NEW YORK

Spurs' Horry suspended; Dallas' Stackhouse fined

San Antonio forward Robert Horry was suspended two games by the NBA on Friday for intentionally making contact with an official and his actions during an altercation with Dallas guard Jerry Stackhouse.

Stackhouse was fined \$30,000 by the league for criticizing the officials after the Spurs' win on Thursday.

Horry and Stackhouse were each given personal and technical fouls for their altercation with 1:02 left in San Antonio's 98-89 victory. Stackhouse's foul was upgraded to flagrant foul by the league.

Horry will miss the Spurs' home game against Portland on Saturday and their visit to the Lakers on Monday night.

BASEBALL

JUPITER, Fla.

Marlins' Reese surfaces after two-day absence

Florida Marlins second baseman Pokey Reese failed to show up for two days of spring training without explanation, briefly raising concerns regarding his whereabouts before he contacted his agent, the team said Friday.

General manager Larry Beinfest said Reese gave no indication that he was taking time off, and for two days the team had no idea where he was.

Worries were allayed Friday evening by Reese's agent, Mike Nicotera, though he did not indicate where Reese had been.

Reese spent all of last season on the disabled list.

TENNIS

STOCKHOLM, Sweden

Borg needs money, will sell trophies, rackets

Swedish tennis great Bjorn Borg will auction off his five Wimbledon trophies and two of his rackets to achieve financial security, officials of an auction house said Friday.

Borg, the only player to win five consecutive Wimbledon titles, will put his trophies on the block at the Bonhams auction house in London on June 21. The trophies, which will be sold together, are expected to fetch between \$350,000 and \$525,000, Bonhams said.

Borg, who was voted Sweden's greatest athlete of the 20th century in his home country, said he is selling the memorabilia to improve his personal economy.

# Classic stars playing for pride

## Team USA gets together for first workout

By BOB BAUM  
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

PHOENIX

America might be taking a blase attitude toward the inaugural World Baseball Classic. The players on the star-studded U.S. team certainly aren't.

Team USA was focused on patriotism, pride and performance in its first workout Friday at Chase Field, formerly known as Bank One Ballpark.

In their squeaky-clean white uniforms, with "USA" on their chest and an American flag on their caps, the players posed for a team picture, then talked about the competition that will begin next Tuesday with a game against Mexico.

"To me, I got a little bumps and chills when I saw my uniform, No. 13, Rodriguez," Alex Rodriguez said, "and I saw the USA, the red, white and blue, as corny as that sounds."

The players initially gathered Thursday night and were shown a video of the emotional, gold-medal triumph of the U.S. baseball team under Tommy Lasorda at the 2002 Sydney Olympics. Baseball is to be eliminated from the Olympics after the 2008 Beijing Games, and the World Baseball Classic is sort of a substitute.

"This is an enormous deal," Rodriguez said. "I have a brother who has 30 years in the U.S. Air Force and is a very high-ranking officer and has been in two wars.



AP PHOTO

Team USA pitcher Roger Clemens answers reporters' questions before practice Friday for the World Baseball Classic at Chase Field in Phoenix. Team USA's first game in the tournament will be against Mexico on Tuesday.

When you wear this uniform, you have the opportunity to represent 400 or 500 million Americans."

Rodriguez and his New York Yankees teammates Derek Jeter and Johnny Damon said team owner George Steinbrenner, an opponent of the tournament, never tried to dissuade them from volunteering for the team.

Rodriguez initially was a reluctant participant, acknowledging concern about disturbing his cherished spring routine and bringing his family from Florida to the West for what should be a three-week stay. He also considered playing for the Dominican Republic. But once he got to the Phoenix ballpark, he knew he had made the right choice.

"I'm changing my tune a little bit," Rodriguez said. "Winning a world championship with the New York Yankees is the No. 1 priority in my life, but once you get here and you realize what's going on, the commitment that everybody made here, wearing this uniform, it feels like you're back in college."

"Nobody's here for money. You're here for pride, and to represent the U.S., and I like that part of it."

For 43-year-old Roger Clemens, it is the first chance to represent his country in a competition.

"When I was given the opportunity a month or so ago, it was not only very exciting for me, but a challenge," he said. "I think that's

why I waited so long to give (manager) Buck (Martinez) my word that I'd be here. I wanted to see how my body was."

Martinez said Clemens will start Sunday's exhibition game against the San Francisco Giants in Scottsdale. San Diego's Jake Peavy will start against Mexico. On Wednesday, left-hander Dontrelle Willis of the Florida Marlins will go against a Canada team dominated by left-handed hitters.

Clemens is scheduled to start the final game of the first round Friday against South Africa.

The top two squads in the four-team pool advance to Round 2 in Anaheim, Calif. The semifinals and finals are scheduled for March 18 and 20 in San Diego.

### WHEN THEY PLAY

The World Baseball Classic began late Thursday night. But the United States won't start tournament play until Tuesday. Here's a look at when the Americans play:

- Pool play At Phoenix**
- 4 p.m. Tuesday** — United States vs. Mexico
- 4 p.m. Wednesday** — United States vs. Canada
- 3 p.m. Friday** — United States vs. South Africa

The second round will start March 12 in Anaheim, Calif., and San Juan, Puerto Rico. The finals will be March 18 and 20 in San Diego.

The tournament is a pet project for commissioner Bud Selig and is supported by the Major League Baseball Players Association. Sixteen nations are participating.

"Baseball in the past has taken a back seat to some of the other sports in terms of expansion," Jeter said. "This is a huge step. You've got the players' association and the owners coming together on this. I think it's a great idea."

"People have questioned the timing of it, but when you think about it, when else are you going to have it?"

The tournament comes less than a month into spring training, which makes Martinez's job tricky, especially with the pitchers. Starters will not go longer than three innings, he said. None of the relievers are expected to throw more than an inning.

The starting lineup will vary from game to game.

"We're going to start everybody in the first round for sure," Martinez said. "We're going to try to get as many at-bats for everybody as possible."

# Rangers' Young becoming big star

By STEPHEN HAWKINS  
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

SURPRISE, Ariz.

Michael Young wasn't a grand acquisition for the Texas Rangers, and they certainly didn't plan on him being their shortstop, or team leader, nearly six years ago.

Young was a minor-league second baseman and the second player the Rangers got behind pitcher Darwin Cubillan when they traded pitcher Esteban Loaiza to Toronto midway through the 2000 season.

Even after Young became a regular the following year and had a solid rookie season, there were still some people in the Texas organization who didn't have any real expectations for him.

"I had to learn to kind of let things go in one ear and out the other. It was kind of tough as a young player," Young said. "I

"For anybody to sit back today and say that they forecast he was going to be the player he is now, that's just impossible."

Jon Daniels  
Texas Rangers general manager on shortstop Michael Young

knew what I was capable of. Once '03 came around, I was tired of it. I wanted to shut some people up, and I wanted to have a big year."

That's exactly what he did. Then he did it again and again after taking over at shortstop when AL MVP Alex Rodriguez was traded two springs ago.

Young has been an All-Star shortstop each of the past two

seasons, and last year he won the AL batting title with a .331 average, 10 points higher than runner-up Rodriguez.

The Rangers couldn't imagine where they'd be without Young at shortstop.

"For anybody to sit back today and say that they forecast he was going to be the player he is now, that's just impossible," new Rangers general manager Jon Daniels said. "If that was the case, there's no way Toronto ever would have dealt him."

"He's become a superstar. He's unbelievable."

On a Texas team that during the past few years has lost A-Rod, perennial All-Star catcher Ivan Rodriguez, two-time MVP Juan Gonzalez and 500-home run hitter Rafael Palmeiro, Young has emerged as the unofficial captain and a fan favorite.

Since hitting .249 as a rookie in 2001, when he started 104 games at second base after being recalled May 25, Young's batting average has gotten better each season. He hit .262 in 156 games in 2002, the final season before Buck Showalter became the Texas manager.

"I have so much respect for Michael because he's never satisfied," said All-Star first baseman Mark Teixeira, a Gold Glove and Silver Slugger winner. "He always wants to be better, not only for himself, but for the team."

"He's stepped up as a team leader who wants to be a Gold Glove-caliber shortstop as well as being an MVP-caliber hitter. He does it all, and he's never going to stop working."

Young had a team-record 221 hits last season, when he led the majors with 65 multihit games.

# Encouraging sign: silence during NFL labor talks

By DAVE GOLDBERG  
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NEW YORK

Talks between the NFL and its players union resumed Friday afternoon, minus the rhetoric that has characterized earlier discussions.

That was perhaps a sign that the sides take seriously the ramifications of beginning free agency without a new deal, something that was seven hours away from happening before the league and the union agreed Thursday to extend by three days the start of the NFL's new calendar year.

It now begins at 12:01 a.m. Monday.

The two sides were not talking publicly Friday and wouldn't even reveal the location of the talks. But they were believed to be in New York, where they broke off Tuesday after three days.

Owners were under the threat of fines for talking to the media, and Gene Upshaw, executive director of the NFL Players Association, and other union officials were equally silent.

But silence sometimes signals hope in labor negotiations. And the best sign may be the decision to resume talks, which came a day after commissioner Paul Tagliabue suggested the picture for any agreement was grim.

Another good sign was that Dan

Rooney of Pittsburgh and Jerry Richardson of Carolina, two owners who are considered moderates, stayed in New York after Thursday's league meeting to help with the talks. Rooney has helped settle labor disputes and is one of the owners Upshaw trusts.

The contract between the players and the league doesn't expire for another two seasons.

But this would be the final year of the salary cap, which will be about \$94.5 million this year if there is no labor agreement. That would leave many teams well over the cap, which could be \$10 million more if there is a contract extension, forcing them to cut many veterans.

If there is no deal and the cap doesn't increase, it would leave a glut of players on the free-agent market and many teams without much money to sign them.

Next year, the final season of the contract, would be without a cap, and that would contain limitations that could hurt the players, such as raising the number of years of eligibility for free agency from four to six.

Both sides appear to have reached the brink of that situation and then realized it was better to try again to reach agreement than to face it.

In fact, there were reports that a number of players called the union urging officials to reconsid-

er their position to avoid a scenario that would most likely have its biggest impact on high-salaried veterans, players such as New York Jets center Kevin Mawae, Kansas City guard Will Shields and Tampa Bay linebacker Derrick Brooks, all multi-time Pro Bowlers in danger of being cut.

On the other hand, those players are often in danger of being cut. Dallas, for example, announced Friday it has released La'Roi Glover, who is second in career sacks among defensive tackles.

The dispute is over percentage points; the union says it wants 60-plus percent of league revenues earmarked for the players; the owners are offering 56.2 percent.

# Moorehead, Freitas latest players to get 1-year offer from Colts

By MICHAEL MAROT  
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

INDIANAPOLIS

The Indianapolis Colts offered one-year tenders of \$712,000 to restricted free agents Aaron Moorehead and Makoia Freitas on Friday.

Freitas has been a useful player in the Colts' offensive line rotation, primarily as a backup during his first two NFL seasons.

Freitas missed all of last season after injuring his right foot during training camp, an injury that required surgery.

"He is working like a dog to get healthy and get back out there as soon as possible but not rushing it so he reinjures it," said his agent, Leo Goetas.

Moorehead has been a backup receiver for the Colts the past three seasons after making the team as an undrafted free agent.

He is the tallest receiver on the team, listed at 6-foot-3, but has struggled to get much playing time among the Colts' deep receiving corps. In 2004, Marvin Harrison, Reggie Wayne and Brandon Stokley became the first trio to each top 1,000 yards and have at least 10 touchdowns.

Moorehead has caught 15 passes for 183 yards in three seasons, but Friday's decision was an indication the Colts like his skills.

"He's lined up behind some great receivers," agent Buddy Baker said. "But every time he's had an opportunity, he's done well."

The offers leave the Colts with two remaining restricted free agents: safety Jerome Sapp and kick returner Brad Pyatt. Sapp's agent, Scott Smith, said he has not been contacted by the Colts. A message was left at the office of Pyatt's agent, Frank Bauer.

Restricted free agents can still

sign with other teams, but the Colts will have the right to either match the deal or receive compensation. The low tenders for Moorehead and Freitas mean they would receive a pick equivalent to where the player was drafted.

Freitas was a sixth round pick in 2003. The Colts would not be compensated if Moorehead left.

Indianapolis still has 11 unrestricted free agents scheduled to hit the open market Monday.

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