

Tiger comes up one stroke short at PGA championship

By ALAN ROBINSON

AP Sports Writer

CHASKA, Minn. (AP) — Of all the remarkable things Tiger Woods has accomplished on a golf course, this was the first time he charged from behind Arnold Palmer-style on the final day of a major.

He's also never done this before in a major: He blinked.

Despite a dramatic four-birdies-in-four holes rally Sunday in the PGA Championship, one that might have been remembered as one of the greatest finishes ever in a major, Tiger Woods went toe-to-toe, shot-for-shot — and lost.

Notto Sergio. Or Phil Mickelson. Or Ernie Els. To Rich Beem — yes, the fun-loving, fast-talking, invisible-to-most Rich Beem — a man who seven years ago wasn't playing golf, a man who less than 24 hours before openly questioned if he had the stuff to win.

Remarkably, he did.

It wasn't because Woods wasn't good enough; Woods shot a 5-under 67 that tied Tom Watson for the low round of the day. It's because, believe it or not, Beem was better.

Better than the world's best golfer, better than Beem was in winning The International a couple of weeks ago, better than even Beem knew he could be.

"I had no expectations of playing this good," Beem said after holding off Woods' frantic rally to win by one shot, becoming the most improbable PGA winner since John Daly in 1991. "I know I could, but not under the pressure and the scrutiny. I was nervous, but I found a way to control my nerves."

More importantly, the former cell phone salesman found a way to control Woods, who was trying to go 3-for-4 in majors this year and win his ninth major overall, all while leading on the final day.

This time, Woods was in the unaccustomed role of trailing by five shots going into the final round. But that big margin didn't last long and neither did third-round leader Justin Leonard, whose double bogey on No. 8 led to a 77 that dropped him into the fourth-place tie.

After playing conservatively on a wind-swept Saturday and settling for

an even-par 72, Woods came out charging, holing a pitch shot to save par on No. 1. Birdies followed on No. 4, 6 and 7 on a Hazeltine National Golf Club course that played much easier without Saturday's wicked winds.

Then came a remarkable flop shot on 8 from along the grandstand, with Woods deftly dropping the ball onto the edge of the green so it could roll within a foot of the cup.

But every time Woods threw up a birdie, and his fist in celebration, Beem answered.

Playing in the final twosome just behind Woods, Beem birdied No. 3 and 7. Contending in a major for the first time and uncertain how he would respond to it — he takes a swig of stomach medicine before every round to calm himself — Beem didn't get distracted.

"Honestly, I was too concerned with myself than I was about Tiger," Beem said.

For good reason. Beem was only 73rd in the world rankings, the lowest of any major winner in the last five years except 1999 British Open champion Paul Lawrie.

"I don't want to sound pompous, but I was trying to control what I was doing and not control what he was doing," said Beem, who led Woods by two shots as the round started and never trailed. "I didn't know if I had what it took to win it. Obviously, I found out today that I do."

He may have found out on No. 11.

Beem hit a 5-wood to within 6 feet on the par-5 and sank the putt for an eagle, moving him from 8 under to 10 under and pushing his lead over Woods from one shot to three.

Coincidence or not, Woods promptly bogeyed No. 13 and 14 in succession, as many bogeys as he had in his previous 48 holes. Suddenly, he was down by five, as Beem also birdied 13.

Still, Woods knew he wasn't out of it.

"I was on 15 and, walking down the fairway, I told Steve (Williams, his caddy), 'If we birdie in, we'll win the tournament,'" Woods said.

From then on, Tiger was Tiger — birdies on 15, 16, 17 and 18.

"I didn't miss a shot coming in," he said.

Getting ready for the new season



DARREL PATTILLO/Colby Free Press

The Colby High School volleyball worked out at a pre-season camp recently. Practice started for real today for the high school volleyball teams, cross country, tennis, golf, and football. The Colby Middle

School football teams also started today, but the volleyball players don't start until Wednesday. All practices start at 4 p.m. except for the high school football team, which has two practices a day this week.

Broncos' running back Terrell Davis announces retirement

DENVER (AP) — Terrell Davis wanted to keep playing. His knees just wouldn't cooperate.

After struggling with injuries for nearly four years, Davis announced that Monday night's preseason game against the San Francisco 49ers will be his final appearance in a Denver Broncos uniform.

"Unless some new technology comes along real soon," Davis said

Saturday, "there's a good chance I'll never see the field again."

He considered trying to work through his latest ailment — a degenerative condition in his left knee — but doctors could not guarantee further treatment would alleviate the pain and swelling.

So instead of enduring another round of rehabilitation and wondering if he will play again, the 29-year-old

Davis decided to end his career after just seven seasons. He will go on injured reserve Tuesday, allowing him to walk out in front of the fans one final time Monday.

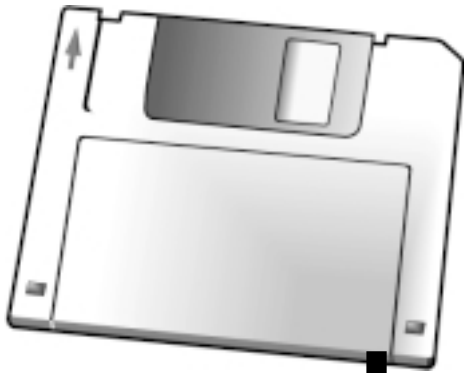
"He wanted to go out on his own terms and he wanted some finality," Davis' agent Neil Schwartz said. "It means a great deal for him to walk out of the tunnel at Mile High one last time. He would shake the hands of all 75,000

people there if he could."

Davis' longevity leaves his place in history in doubt. His 6,413 yards over his first four years in the league are the second-most in history over that span.

He finished his career with 7,607 yards, putting him ahead of five modern-day running backs already in the Hall of Fame — Leroy Kelly, Hugh McElhenny, Lenny Moore, Gale Sayers and Doak Walker

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