



Phil gives playoff performance in front of Tiger



AP photo

Phil Mickelson withstood a charge from Tiger Woods (background) to win.

Woods takes FedEx Cup points lead as tour heads to Chicago

The Associated Press

NORTON, Mass. — Phil Mickelson is back on his game, and it was good enough to take down Tiger Woods.

Going head-to-head with Woods for the first time in 18 months, Mickelson buried the world's No. 1 player on the front nine and held him off down the stretch Monday to close with a 5-under 66 and win the Deutsche Bank Championship by two shots.

It was the first victory for Mickelson since The Players Championship in May,



when he looked ready to make another run at Woods. Then came a wrist injury that cost him his summer, and only recently has Mickelson been able to swing without flinching.

The pain on this Labor Day belonged to Woods.

He couldn't make a putt on the front nine, and couldn't make enough when he was trying to make up ground. Woods had four putts for eagle on the TPC Boston, and picked up only three shots. He wound up with a 67 — despite taking 32 putts — and tied for second with Arron Oberholser (69) and Brett Wetterich (70), who were afterthoughts while playing in the final group.

The buzz outside Beantown was clearly on the two biggest names in golf, and Mickelson relished this victory.

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Roddick now lone American man left

Federer survives threat from Lopez

The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Roger Federer was scuffling against a Spanish lefty — no, not that one — at the U.S. Open on Monday night. He lost the first set to Feliciano Lopez, barely won the second, then trailed love-10 to start the third.

And then Federer did the sort of remarkable thing that only Federer does: He won the next 35 points he served.

Answering every question Lopez posed with an exclamation point, Federer took control of the third set and the match, coming back to win 3-6, 6-4, 6-1, 6-4 in the fourth round at Flushing Meadows.

Asked about that 35-point run, Lopez rolled his eyes and said, "I mean, it's tough. I'm playing against Roger Federer." His voice then trailed off, as if that should be explanation enough.

Next up for the No. 1-ranked Federer, bidding to become the first man to win four consecutive U.S. Open titles since the 1920s: a quarterfinal against No. 5 Andy Roddick, the 2003 champion and the runner-up last year.

Federer is 13-1 against Roddick.

"It's a great record, but it doesn't help me," Federer said. "We'll see how it goes. Andy's always tough at the U.S. Open."

With No. 6 James Blake losing to No. 10 Tommy Haas in five sets earlier Monday, Roddick is the only American

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AP photo

Andy Roddick won his match against No. 9 Tomas Berdych after Berdych stopped the match.

SOUR SEASON



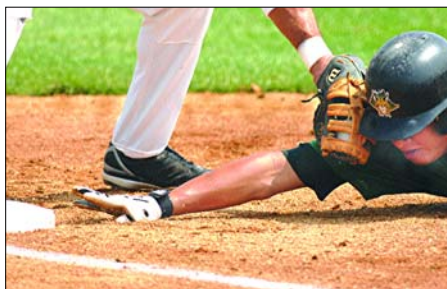
SALEM 2, HILLCATS 0:

TOP: Hillcats third baseman Victor Alvarez reacts to an Eric King single in the seventh inning to break a no-hitter.

LEFT: Pedro Powell squares to bunt early in the third inning.

RIGHT: Lynchburg's Denny Nino gets tagged out by Salem first baseman Mark Ori after overshooting first base.

Photos by Lee Luther Jr.



Game recap on Page D3

Johnson cools off hot night as Junior starts last effort

One event remains in race for the championship cut-off

The Associated Press

FONTANA, Calif. — A few accidents and some bad luck since his last win had Jimmie Johnson worried he might not get a chance to defending his NASCAR Nextel Cup championship.

But a late-season surge, culminated by a victory in Sunday's night's race at California Speedway, has guaranteed Johnson a spot in the 12-man Chase for the championship and no worse than a tie for the top seed in the 10-race stock car play-off.



"I was certainly concerned," Johnson said after winning the Sharp Aquos 500, his series-leading fifth win of the season and the 28th of his career. "We had great race cars and bad luck. If you get four or five bad races in a row, you can get behind."

But, now, Johnson has joined Hendrick Motorsports teammates Jeff Gordon and Kyle Busch among the eight drivers who have clinched spots in the Chase with one more race left in the "regular season."

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AP photo

Jimmie Johnson will at least be tied for first when the Chase begins.

INGE'S DAY
NO GAME MONDAY

NEXT GAME:
► TODAY vs WHITE SOX

SEASON STATS
AVG. HR RBI
.234 12 60

Detroit Tigers third baseman Brandon Inge is a Brookville High School graduate.

WHAT'S IN THIS SECTION

College Football

Liberty running back Zach Terrell is named Big South Offensive Player of the Week
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NFL

The battle for the backup quarterback position is heating up for the Redskins
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Today's TOP TV games

MLB: Orioles @ Devil Rays
7 p.m., MASN
Tennis: U.S. Open
11 a.m., 7 p.m., USA