

## A Long, Strange Day With No Clear View At PGA

SHEBOYGAN, Wis. (AP) — Tiger Woods ate breakfast three times before he teed off in the first round of the PGA Championship. It was time for dinner when his second round began Friday.

Bubba Watson walked off Whistling Straits atop the leaderboard after opening with a 68. He waited 30 hours for his next shot.

And then there's Nick Watney.

"I was talking with my caddie this afternoon, and we were talking about something that happened this morning," he said. "But we both thought it was yesterday. So it's been a long day. I'll have no trouble sleeping tonight and wake up tomorrow and see where we're at."

Not much is clear in the final major of the year.

At least not yet.

After two days — but not two full rounds — Matt Kuchar was atop the leaderboard after another rock-solid round on a soft course. He nearly holed out from the 13th fairway again during a stretch of three straight birdies that led to a 3-under 69.

Kuchar was at 8-under 136, one shot ahead of Watney, who had a 68.

"Not too much trouble to report in two rounds," said Kuchar, explaining the key to success in just about any major.

The only trouble was sleep. Kuchar woke up

at 4 a.m. to get to the course and resume his second round at 7 a.m. But while it was clear on the practice range, it was soon tough to see the clubhouse 200 yards away, and players had to wait 2 1/2 hours to start. Kuchar made birdie on his first hole — the sixth — to take the lead, finished up his 67, had a quick lunch and played the second round.

"Sitting around right now, it's nice to be done," said Kuchar, who left the course about 12 hours after he arrived.

Woods finally teed off at 5:45 p.m., leaving him enough time to play six holes and make six pars.

Only they sure weren't routine. He had to scramble for par off a cart path, out of grass up to his knees and from a grassy knoll that made it tough for him to keep his balance. After the siren sounded to suspend play, Woods opted to finish the sixth hole. He chipped out of deep grass below the green and left himself a 5-foot birdie putt that spun 270 degrees around the cup and sent him home somber.

"Had to hang in there, and did a good job with that," Woods, who remained at 1 under, told a PGA official.

The fog played havoc on the starting times. Whistling Straits delivered its own share of misery, too, starting with European Ryder Cup cap-

tain Colin Montgomerie. He played in the same group with Kuchar and was 26 shots worse over two rounds, going 78-83.

Phil Mickelson took some unusual routes from tee-to-green, although some of his misses were so big that he wound up in the gallery, where the grass had been trampled. Mickelson carries extra gloves in his bag for souvenirs when he hits a fan, and he handed one out on the 15th hole, complete with a frown sign inside the "o" in "Sorry."

No apologies were necessarily when he scrambled his way to a 69, putting him at 2-under 142 and still very much alive in his quest to move to No. 1 in the world for the first time.

"This is a penalizing golf course to not play from the fairway," Mickelson said. "And I certainly explored a lot of areas here. First 27 holes for me to keep it around par was a feat, and I drove it better the last nine holes. ... I just want to be in a position where if I play like I know I can, I can make up some ground. And I feel like I'm within striking distance."

Join the crowd.

Bryce Molder, once regarded as a can't-miss kid when he played on the same Georgia Tech team as Kuchar, made an impressive debut in his first PGA Championship. He made five birdies in a six-hole stretch and wound up with a 67.



Crofton's Mike Sturm fires a pitch during the Bluejays' quarterfinal matchup with Winner-Colome at the South Dakota State Class B Amateur Baseball Tournament Friday at Sioux Falls Stadium.

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## RED SOX

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and two runners on, Cheppenko — a pickup player from the Sioux Falls Saints who played for Tea in the South Central League last season — retired the next three batters in order, stranding the tying runs on base.

"We faced him in the districts, and we like what we saw," Sorenson said of the pickup. "We got seven (innings from the starter) and two (from the reliever), you couldn't ask for better."

Vermillion added two runs in the ninth on a fielder's choice and an error, and Cheppenko allowed two baserunners before closing the door on Pierre's season in the bottom of the ninth. Chute and Candor each had two hits and two RBI for Vermillion. Donaven also had two hits.

Benz struck out six batters in seven innings of work for the win. Cheppenko struck out four batters in two innings, including all three outs in the ninth, for the save. Decker went the distance for Pierre, striking out three.

McElhany, a pickup player from Castlewood, and Fisher each had two hits.

For Pierre, it was a story of missed opportunities.

"We had the bases loaded in



Vermillion catcher Tyler Candor, left, shows the home plate umpire the ball as the umpire calls Pierre's Jordan LaBrie safe at the plate during the sixth inning of their elimination game at the South Dakota State Class A Amateur Baseball Tournament Friday at Sioux Falls Stadium. Vermillion won 6-2, advancing to face Brandon Valley today (Saturday).

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the first and didn't score," Lindekegel said. "We had a lead-off double (in the seventh) and didn't get him in. In the eighth, we had one in and two on with no outs and didn't get any closer."

Both teams had the same number of hits in the contest.

"They didn't hit the ball exceptionally hard. They just hit it where they needed to," Lindekegel added. "And we didn't make plays."

Vermillion now faces Brandon Valley today (Saturday) at 11 a.m. The Merchants, who beat

Yankton Thursday to advance, took two from the Red Sox this season.

"They had to use some pitching yesterday. We had to use some today," Sorenson noted. "We'll both get a committee together and play."

## Offensive Improvement Key For Heralded Huskers

LINCOLN, Neb. (AP) — It's been almost a decade since Nebraska went into a football season getting this much love.

The Big Ten-bound Cornhuskers are generally expected to end their final Big 12 season in the conference championship game, the coaches put them in the top 10 in their pre-season poll and some pundits suggest they have an outside shot at the national title.

"We like that," linebacker Will Compton said of the buildup.

Offensive lineman Keith Williams said it's a sign the Cornhuskers are relevant again.

"You get that respect that Nebraska needs," he said.

The Huskers haven't been much of a factor in the national championship chatter since that quirky 2001 season in which they reached the national title Rose Bowl game against Miami — and lost — after a 26-point loss to Colorado. Frank Solich lasted two more seasons before the program really took a dive during the four-year Bill Callahan era.

Bo Pelini, with his two-year record of 19-8 and two bowl wins, has become one of the nation's hot coaches. But he pooh-poohs the 2010 Husker hype — even though he's the guy who started it.

"I don't concern myself with polls or anything else," he said. "We're going to get what we earn this fall, and if we take care of our business on the field we'll be fine."

Pelini, remember, stepped out of his brusque character after the 33-0 Holiday Bowl win over Arizona and declared: "Nebraska's back and we're here to stay." Later, he said Nebraska is at a point where it can beat anybody in the nation and that the Huskers' defense could be better this year even though Associated Press national player of the year and Heisman Trophy finalist Ndamukong Suh is gone.

A year ago, the Huskers led the nation in fewest points allowed and got to the Big 12 title game, where they nearly knocked off Texas. They finished the year 10-4.

"Suh, of course, is arguably one of the best defensive linemen to ever play in college," Compton said. "We have big shoes to fill, but the way our defense handles

things and the trust we have in our coaches, we believe we'll still get the job done."

Jared Crick, Suh's partner in the middle of the line last year and the Big 12's preseason co-defensive player of the year, will work mostly with Baker Steinkuhler this season.

Prince Amukamara, pegged as one of the top pro prospects at cornerback, leads a solid secondary that has another veteran corner in Alfonzo Dennard and a playmaking nickel back in Eric Hagg.

Nebraska plans to use two linebackers instead of three in its base defense, and Compton and Sean Fisher are among eight players vying for playing time.

But can the Huskers match the dominance they showed with Suh, their top tackler the past two seasons and the No. 2 pick in the NFL draft by the Detroit Lions?

"Obviously, one player doesn't make up an entire unit," Fisher said. "It's going to take all 11 people to really have a successful season. While he'll be missed, we're excited about the group of people we do have."

If there is any doubt about the importance of Suh and the rest of the defense's importance last year, consider the 13-12 loss to

Texas.

Nebraska mustered just 106 total yards and Zac Lee was 6 for 19 with three interceptions. Yet the Huskers led 12-10 before officials put one second back on the clock and the Longhorns' Hunter Lawrence kicked a 46-yard field goal as time ran out.

Suh made 12 tackles, with seven for losses and 4 1/2 sacks. Barry Turner had another 2 1/2 sacks, and the Huskers limited the Longhorns to 202 yards, including 18 yards rushing.

Though they are unsettled at quarterback, the Huskers are confident they'll be much improved on offense. Their 323 yards a game ranked 99th nationally and their 25-point average was 75th.

"Hopefully, we score a lot more," receiver Mike McNeill said. "I think we can be a little more dynamic. The receivers have stepped up this summer, and we can spread the ball out a little more, hopefully run a little bit deeper routes instead of just packing it in and running."

Niles Paul, Brandon Kinnie and McNeill lead a big and physical receiving corps that is being touted as one of the Huskers' best in many years.

Five players on the offensive line have combined for 53 starts,

and redshirt freshmen Jeremiah Sirles and Brent Qvale and junior-college transfer Jermarcus Hardrick will push for playing time.

Roy Helu Jr., who ran for 1,147 yards and 10 touchdowns despite a shoulder problem, and Rex Burkhead, who had 89 yards and a touchdown against Arizona, give the Huskers the makings for a strong ground game.

The big question is at quarterback. Taylor, who played with an injury to his right (throwing) elbow most of the season, was serviceable. Lee missed spring practice to recover from elbow surgery. Cody Green and Taylor Martinez did enough in the spring to make Watson and Pelini carry the competition for the starter's job into preseason practice.

"Zac's not surprised or caught off guard by anything," Watson said. "He knows he has to earn it every year. That's how we do our business. He's got a real purpose to his work right now. He has to do it over the long haul."

Nebraska opens the season Sept. 4 at home against Western Kentucky. The Big 12 schedule includes a home game against Texas on Oct. 16.

## JAYS

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The Bluejays took control in the second, taking advantage of three Pheasant errors to score four runs, all unearned.

"In all three games we played, we had some errors that hurt us," noted Winner-Colome manager Kevin Graesser. "If we don't give up four free ones there, maybe we take the lead later."

Winner-Colome dodged a bullet in the third, when the first two batters reached. After the leadoff runner was forced at third, Derek Graesser retired the next two batters to end the threat.

The first four Pheasants to bat in the fourth inning reached, with Arthur scoring on Terrell Bauld's infield single past a diving Joe Wiebelhaus. But Crofton pitcher Mike Sturm struck out the next three batters to end the threat, giving him seven strikeouts through four innings.

"We threw a lot of off-speed stuff so that we could go to the fastball in the later innings," said Sturm, who finished with 11 strikeouts. "It helps having the defense behind you. All I had to do was throw strikes."

Crofton wasted a two-out triple by Schieffer in the fifth. In the top of the sixth, Winner-Colome got a

two-run double by Derek Graesser to close within one, 5-4.

The Bluejays iced the win in the eighth, taking advantage of four walks, including three straight, to score four runs. Schieffer's two-out single was the big blow.

Mueller and Donner each had two hits for Crofton. J.J. Farmer had two hits for Winner-Colome.

Sturm went the distance, earning his second victory of the tournament.

"He had a helluva performance," Schieffer noted.

Derek Graesser took the loss, striking out three.

"Derek threw a lot of pitches," Kevin Graesser noted. "He pitched in all three games for us. He just ran out of gas."

Crofton now advances to the semifinals, drawing Madison. The game will be played at 7:30 p.m. today (Saturday).

"We need to play the game we're capable of playing, don't make things happen that aren't us," Schieffer said. "We need to play good defense and score runs when we need to."

Winner-Colome finishes its state tournament run, but boasts a young team that could make many more trips to the later rounds of state.

"We're proud of our guys. I don't think anybody expected this," Kevin Graesser said. "These are some good athletes, good ball players. If we keep them together, we can come back."



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