

British Open: Johnson Still In Control At St. Andrews

ST. ANDREWS, Scotland (AP) — The grand pursuit of Jordan Spieth, redemption for Dustin Johnson, the mystery that has become Tiger Woods. It all came to a momentary halt Friday in the gloaming of St. Andrews when Tom Watson said goodbye to the British Open.

Watson, the most prolific winner of golf's oldest championship in the last century, finished his 129th round with lights from the Royal & Ancient clubhouse illuminating the 18th green. The five-time champion made bogey. The score was irrelevant.

"There were no tears," Watson said. "This is a joyous occasion. I have a lot of great, great memories. And those memories filled me up."

Everything else about this wet and wild second round remained unsettled.

A heavy downpour at dawn flooded the Old Course and disrupted the start by more than three hours. Johnson and Spieth teed off shortly before 6 p.m. and were headed in different directions when it was too dark to continue.

In swift, shifting weather — umbrellas on one hole, sunglasses on the next — Johnson made three birdies in four holes on the front nine and built a two-shot lead before he made his first bogey of the tournament. He three-putted on the par-3 11th in wind so severe he had to back off a 4-foot putt and wipe his eyes.

also

■ View The Leaderboard After Friday's Action From The British Open. **PAGE 12**

shot in the U.S. Open last month to capture the second leg of the Grand Slam.

Both were just short on the par-5 14th hole in two shots when they chose to mark their golf balls and return at 7 a.m. Saturday to resume the round.

"I'm in a good spot," Johnson

said. "Definitely got very tricky this afternoon, all day. Even the front side, the wind was howling and it was blowing straight left-to-right pretty much. It played very tough all day."

Danny Willett of England had to cope with the wind, too, and he had a 3-under 69 to walk off the 18th green with his name atop the leaderboard at 9-under 135.

"Yeah, I think it's a childhood dream and looking up there it's still a little bit surreal, but something I'm going to have to get used to," Willett said. "Otherwise, no point in being up there. We're going to try and rest up and then try and go out for another good weekend and hopefully, we can be up there in

two days' time."

Watson wasn't the only player to bid farewell to the Old Course.

Nick Faldo, the three-time Open champion regarded as Britain's greatest champion, came out of the TV tower to play St. Andrews one last time. He switched into a sweater that he wore for his first Open title in 1987 at Muirfield, thrust his arms in the air atop the Swilcan Bridge, and saved par for a 71.

And then there was Woods, headed toward the wrong kind of history. Barring a burst of birdies when he returns Saturday morning — the kind of form he has not

OPEN | PAGE 12

Legion Baseball Vermillion Moves To 3B Final



ELYSE BRIGHTMAN/VERMILLION PLAIN TALK

Vermillion's Carter Kratz slides into home during Post 1's 11-4 win over Dakota Valley in the Region 3B Legion baseball tournament Friday afternoon.

Region 4B: Tabor Routs Alexandria 18-8

TABOR — Chase Kortan scored five runs and Hunter Young had four hits as Tabor survived again, beating Alexandria 18-8 in Region 4B American Legion baseball tournament action Friday night in Tabor.

Alex Caba tripled and singled twice for Tabor, while Kortan added a pair of hits. Young pitched six innings in relief of Mace Merkwon to get the victory.

For Alexandria, which sees its season come to an end, Aaron Wenande, Jarrod Zens, Tucker Kingsbury and Josh Feiner all had two hits. Wyatt Kayser took the loss.

The second game Friday night between Platte-Geddes and Wagner was suspended in the fourth inning with Wagner leading 2-0. That game will resume today (Saturday) at 3 p.m.

Tabor will then play that game's loser at 5 p.m., followed the championship game. The if-necessary second championship game would be played Sunday at 2 p.m.

Wagner 12, Alexandria 9

TABOR — Wagner overcame a 7-2 deficit to beat Alexandria 12-9 in the Region 3B American Legion baseball tournament on Thursday in Tabor.

Zach Wynia and Drue Soukup each

had three hits and three runs scored to lead Wagner. Derek Soukup also had three hits in the victory.

Mason Meyer led Alexandria with three hits.

David Kocer tossed six innings of relief, allowing two runs on two hits, to pick up the victory. Josh Feiner took the loss.

Region 3B

Beresford 14, Canton 4

VERMILLION — Beresford topped Canton 14-4 in five innings during the consolation game during the second day of the Region 3B American Legion baseball tournament in Vermillion.

Beresford's Logan Busch had two hits in the game including an two-run double in the first inning.

Chris Keopuenske, Hunter Cotton, Oliver Doeden and Hunter Bergland all recorded RBIs for Beresford in the win including the walk-off single from Keopuenske.

Canton's Carter Dahl lined a two-run triple in the second inning, his only hit of the game. Kevin Frick had Canton's other RBI.

Hunter Ingwerson and Cotton combined on the mound for the win with a total of five hits, five strikeouts

and five walks.

Vermillion 11, Dak. Valley 4

VERMILLION — Hunter Christopherson's three RBIs led Vermillion's offense to an 11-4 win over Dakota Valley.

Carter Kratz, Joe Miller, Ethan James and Cole Anderson added one RBI each in the game.

Jack Brown and Miller had four hits each for Vermillion in the nine-inning contest, including a double off the centerfield wall by Brown.

Bryce Schroeder and Brady Dam each went 3-for-5 with an RBI for Dakota Valley's two runs.

Jake Odens earned the win by pitching five innings allowing four runs on 10 hits with four strikeouts. Christopherson replaced Odens to start the sixth and gave up three hits with three strikeouts. Austin Carter recorded the loss.

Friday night's late game between Beresford and Elk Point-Jefferson was not completed by press time. That winner will play Dakota Valley at 4 p.m. today (Saturday). Vermillion will then meet that winner at 7 p.m. for the championship.

ROUNDUP | PAGE 12

Junior Legion: S.F. West Will Play For 2A Title

Sioux Falls West advanced to the championship game and its opponent in the final is yet to be determined at the Region 2A American Legion Junior Baseball Tournament, which continued Friday at Bob Tereshinski Stadium at Riverside Field.

Sioux Falls West beat Sioux Falls East 4-1 in the day's first game, and Harrisburg then eliminated Brandon Valley 3-0. The semifinal between East and Harrisburg was suspended in the bottom of the fourth inning with East up 3-1.

That game will be completed today (Saturday), followed by the championship game at noon. The if-necessary final would be played at 2:30 p.m.

S.F. West 4, S.F. East 1

Kyle Gulbrandson allowed five hits in a complete game effort as second-seeded Sioux Falls West beat top-seeded Sioux Falls East 4-1 on Friday

JUNIORS | PAGE 12

Texas Prep CB Commits To USD

BY JEREMY HOECK

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A Texas high school cornerback, with offers from three other Division I schools, verbally committed Friday to the University of South Dakota.

Mykul Mitchell, a 2-star cornerback from Pearland, Texas (Dawson High School), has scholarship offers from Nevada, SMU and Stephen F. Austin, but decided on his first, he told the Press & Dakotan.

"They were my first offer," Mitchell said. "And you always remember your first."

Last season as a junior, Mitchell recorded 36 tackles, one forced fumble, one fumble recovery, one interception and six pass break-ups.

Also a track & field standout, Mitchell plans to eventually take an official visit to South Dakota later this year, he said.

"I've never been there, but as far as I've been seeing in videos and photos, and from what coaches have told me about it, it's a really good school," Mitchell said.

Marty Biagi, USD's new cornerbacks coach who joined the staff this spring, had previously visited Mitchell and some of his high school teammates, Mitchell said.

"I'm really grateful that they even came up and offered me," he said. "I feel like South Dakota is somewhere where I can set my mark, and hopefully help them however I can."

Mitchell said he also plans to visit other Division I schools, to "get a feel for the difference," he said.

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Future Of S.D. All-Star Games Uncertain

ABERDEEN (AP) — The future of the South Dakota All-Star Games in Aberdeen is uncertain, as organizers grapple with a number of issues.

The summer all-star games for football, basketball and volleyball involve high school graduates from the past spring. They've been played in Aberdeen for 28 of the past 29 years. But officials say interest in them has faded, and the South Dakota High School Coaches Association has decided to stop helping Aberdeen with the games, the American News reported.

"We have been battling low attendance for the last several years, and that is why All-Star games for some sports, such as golf and wrestling, have been eliminated in past years," said Jim Dorman, executive director of the coaches' group and athletic director at Sioux Falls Lincoln.

"There is no one reason why participation has been down. It is a combination of things," he said. "But in the past several years, we haven't always gotten all the true all-stars from South Dakota to participate in these games."

At this year's games, which wrapped up this week, only 26 players were found to fill the rosters of the four basketball teams. At one time, that number was 60. In football this year, there were 63 players, when once there have been as many as 90.

All-Star organizers in Aberdeen hope to meet in the coming weeks to determine whether to continue with the games and, if so, in which sports and in what format. If organizers decide to forge ahead, they would have to work with the coaches association for each individual sport, rather than with the overall coaches association.



MATT GADE/MITCHELL DAILY REPUBLIC

Yankton Post 12's Ben Cameron, front, fields a hit during a game on Friday evening against Mitchell Post 18 at Cadwell Park in Mitchell.