



Then and now: Former OU running back Mike Gaddis enjoying fatherhood. **B2**

THE OPEN CHAMPIONSHIP **BRITISH OPEN: DAY ONE**

Watson wows Turnberry



Tom Watson putts on the eighth green, as Ailsa Craig Island is seen in the background, during the opening round of the British Open on Thursday at the Turnberry golf course in Scotland. JON SUPER/Associated Press

59-year-old tied for second, revives memories of '77 duel

BY DOUG FERGUSON
Associated Press

TURNBERRY, Scotland — Tom Watson, famous for winning the “Duel in the Sun” that forever links him with Turnberry, is at the stage in his career where the British Open should be a ceremonial stroll into the sunset.

This is the era of Tiger Woods. This is the title defense of Padraig Harrington.

Yet at age 59, with wrinkles framing his gap-tooth grin, Watson poured in birdie after birdie, reviving his spiritual connection on Scottish links with a bogey-free round of 5-under 65.

“There’s certain shots on the golf course that I remember how to play,” Watson said.

His name was atop the leaderboard Thursday for six hours, giving Turnberry the buzz that Woods couldn’t deliver, until Miguel Angel Jimenez came through with a 66-foot birdie putt on the final hole for a 64 and his

LEADERBOARD

1.	Miguel Angel Jimenez	-6	64
2.	Tom Watson	-5	65
	Ben Curtis	-5	65
	Kenichi Kuboya	-5	65
5.	John Senden	-4	66
	Steve Stricker	-4	66
	Camilo Villegas	-4	66
	Stewart Cink	-4	66
	Mathew Goggin	-4	66

first lead in a major.

Even then, the 45-year-old Spaniard knew the moment belonged to Watson.

“What a legend,” Jimenez said.

Watson might have been the only one who saw this

coming.

He said two weeks ago that his primary objective was to play well to “compete against the kids,” some of whom were not even born when he won his epic duel against Jack Nicklaus in 1977.

Watson, though, couldn’t help but embrace the memories himself on the eve of the British Open. He told of receiving a text message from Nicklaus’ wife, Barbara, wishing him luck at Turnberry.

“I texted her back and said, ‘You know, we really miss you over here,’” Watson said. “And I really meant it. It’s not the same without Jack playing in the tournament.”

At times, it sure looked the same.

Dressed in an argyle sweater, Watson fired a 9-iron into 8 feet for a bird-

SEE OPEN B3



<<< Ben Curtis is tied for second.

For more

Tiger Woods puts himself in a hole with a pedestrian first round.
British Open at a glance >>>> Scoreboard >>>> Tee times
A look at how golfers with local ties fared >>>> **B3**



Ryan Dirteater attempts to ride Teague’s Chance during the championship round of the 2009 Oklahoma City Built Ford Tough PBR.

ANDY WATSON/Courtesy

Bullrider is eager for Tulsa PBR event

RYAN DIRTEATER SAID “those guys were too big for me” in high school football. But, he apparently has no problem whatsoever in tangling with a 2,000-pound bull.

“Well, the point is to stay on the back of that bull so he can’t get to you,” said Dirteater.

Dirteater, a 20-year-old cowboy from Hulbert, is one of the best

young riders in the Professional Bullriders Association and will ride in the PBR U.S. Border Patrol Invitational opening Friday at the BOK Center.

The event continues through Sunday and marks the return of Dirteater, a 2008 graduate of Hulbert High School, to the series after an injury forced him to the sidelines.

“It’s been a while since I’ve been on one of those bulls,” said Dirteater. “I’ve been sitting around and watching a lot of television. About all I could do at first was work out

PBR U.S. Border Patrol Invitational

BOK Center
8 p.m. Friday
7:30 p.m. Saturday
2 p.m. Sunday

my upper body. I was walking like a duck.

“I’ve been able to start doing some jogging. It feels pretty good.”

Dirteater has been at home in Hulbert for four months since a freak accident with a bull at a PBR event in Tacoma. A bull stumbled

SEE KLEIN B6



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Marlins risk losing ex-Jenks standout

BY JUAN C. RODRIGUEZ
Sun Sentinel

FORT LAUDERDALE, Fla. — From somewhere on that parcel of flattened land in Little Havana, a 10½-inch high mound will rise. And from that mound in just more than two seasons, someone will throw the first pitch at the Marlins’ new ballpark.

No need for manager Fredi Gonzalez to name his 2012 Opening Day starter just yet, but he would receive no complaints from Marlins fans if he gave Josh Johnson the nod forthwith. Johnson was in St. Louis, an All-Star representing the Marlins along with shortstop Hanley Ramirez at the All-Star Game.

While the Marlins last season took care of one franchise player, giving Ramirez a six-year, \$70 million contract, Johnson is under their control for two more seasons. It’s a little premature to assume Johnson will be in Dodger blue or Yankee pinstripes by

SEE JOHNSON B4



OSU defensive coordinator Bill Young addresses supporters during an OSU caravan stop Thursday at St. John Catholic School in Bartlesville.

STEPHEN HOLMAN/Tulsa World

OSU coaches confident about upcoming season

BY BILL HAISTEN
World Sports Writer

BARTLESVILLE — Oklahoma State football fans seem to view new defensive coordinator Bill Young as the potential difference-maker in a possible Cowboy surge to sustained national relevance.

On Thursday, during a Cowboy Caravan program presented by the Washington County chapter of the OSU Alumni Association, Young and linebackers coach Glenn Spencer addressed an orange-clad audience at the St. John Catholic School.

Greeted with a rousing ovation, Young said, “We feel really confident. It’s time to tee it high and let

it fly.”

It was Spencer, however, who provided the punchiest quote.

Sharing his message to recruits, Spencer said, “You’re going to have a chance to play at the highest level, and you’re going to have a chance to win the national championship.”

“It’s pretty exciting stuff,” Spencer added. “There aren’t many (Division I-A programs) that can honestly say that. I am very proud, very fortunate and blessed to be at a place where we have that chance, and hold on because it might be sooner than later.”

Thursday’s Cowboy Caravan, the first such event conducted in

SEE OSU B2

Courtney Paris adjusting to Sacramento’s system

■ Former OU star got off to a slow start but is learning her role.

BY LYNN JACOBSEN
World Sports Writer

Courtney Paris readily admits she has yet to take the WNBA by storm.

The four-time consensus All-America center, who set numerous records at the University of Oklahoma, has found herself in unfamiliar territory — sitting the bench rather than as a starter for the 3-11 Sacramento Monarchs.

In 12 games this season, Paris is averaging 5.0 points and 3.9 rebounds per game.

But in her last four games, her numbers have taken a dramatic rise, averaging 10.5 points and 6.0 rebounds, registering season highs in points (16) and rebounds (9) in back-to-back games with the Phoenix Mercury.

“I think I’m starting to figure things out,” Paris said in phone interview. “I’m learning the system more each day and I’m feeling more comfortable with each game. Sure, this is a different role for me but I think with each game I am taking a step in the right direction for my career. I didn’t expect to start. I knew that coming in. I also knew I needed time to learn the Monarchs’ system.”

Still, she admits it isn’t as easy a transition as she expected.

“It’s a lot easier said than done,” she said. “I remember thinking it



Monarchs center and former OU star Courtney Paris battles the Mercury’s Le’coe Willingham during a WNBA game last month.

RICH PEDRONCELLI/Associated Press

can’t be that hard to watch from the bench. But it’s a lot harder than I thought.”

General manager John Whisenant took over as head coach this week with the firing of Jenny Boucek.

“I thought Courtney ought to be getting more minutes,” Whisenant said. “We have some nice posts but

SEE PARIS B6