

## Out of Bounds

JASON SNYDER

# The highs and lows of golf's Masters



Every sport today seems to have its time to shine. Whether it be football's Super Bowl, racing's Daytona 500 or golf's Masters, there is a sense of uniqueness and excitement whenever the event draws near. But for the athletes, there is opportunity: an opportunity to stand at the top of the sport's world, receive your applause, take your bow and take pride in the fact that all eyes are on you.

Jose Maria Olazabal realized this dream for the second time in his career this past weekend by winning the Masters. Olazabal battled Davis Love III and Greg Norman in a three-man show to take golf's platform.

All this after a very trying time in Olazabal's life. After winning the Masters in 1994, he hadn't finished any higher than 12th since. After a 14th place finish in 1995, he was diagnosed with a very painful foot injury, rheumatoid arthritis. This took

Olazabal out of action with the fear of never walking again. Sunday, however, the Spaniard proved to the world he could do more than just walk, as he leaped to the top of golf's elite.

With another Masters complete, the question leaping into the minds of golf fans is, "when will Greg Norman win a Masters title?" With a third place finish that entailed much fan support, Norman once again leaves Augusta National without a green jacket in his wardrobe.

The story of Norman repeatedly falling short of a Master's title is beginning to seem like a cruel joke. His six shot lead entering the final round in 1996 appeared to have Norman on his way to ending his Masterful disappointments. But instead, a rally by Nick Faldo and a monumental choke by Norman just added to the cruelty of the story.

1999 didn't bring such a heartbreaking loss to Norman. In fact, the third place finish rebuilt "The

Shark's" confidence. He is once again a contender...but for how long?

Time is running out for Norman, 44, who has to realize by now, that in order to win the Masters, you need a little bit of luck. Lady luck hasn't fallen on the shoulders of the Shark yet, but when that day comes, the moment will be indescribable.

Just like the Super Bowl eluded John Elway and the Daytona 500 eluded Dale Earnhardt, so still does the Masters elude Greg Norman.

And just as football fans will remember, "this one's for John," and racing fans reminisce of Earnhardt's donuts on the Daytona lawn, golf's faithful await their moment when the Shark will successfully stalk his prey and the green jacket will be a perfect fit.

Snyder is the sports editor for the Beacon. Out of Bounds appears weekly on this page.

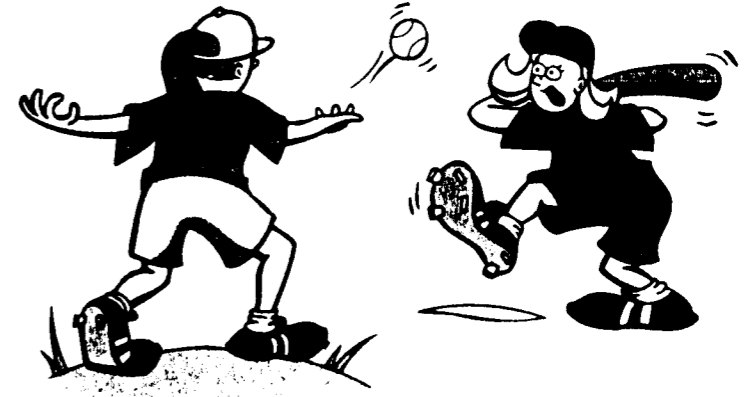
## BEHREND BRIEFS

### Behrend's Bodnor scorching AMCC

Behrend softball player Mandy Bodnor is tearing up the Allegheny Mountain Collegiate Conference (AMCC). The junior pitcher/third baseman was once again named AMCC Softball Athlete of the Week for her efforts in leading the Lions to a 4-2 week. The reward is Bodnor's third of the season and second in as many weeks.

During the week, Bodnor pitched a no-hitter against conference foe Frostburg State. In the effort, she struck out seven.

Her totals for the week include a 3-1 record to bring her season record to 15-4. She hit .375 (6-16) at the plate and scored eight runs. She added to her school record for homeruns with her eighth of the season.



SEE PAGE 12 FOR PROFILE ON MANDY BODNOR

## Down to the Wire...

### Running for the top spot; Ricky Williams makes dash for draft

By Randy Lange  
Knight-Ridder Newspapers

Ricky Williams is almost too good to be true.

Despite admitting last week that his six-cities-in-three-days, pre-draft "bridge-building" tour was taking its toll, the charismatic Texas running back began signing autographs from the moment he and his dreadlocks tumbled out of a white stretch limo at Veterans Stadium in Philadelphia.

Then, after meeting with new Eagles coach Andy Reid, Williams entered the Birds' locker room to talk to a crush of reporters. A makeshift podium was set up in the middle of the room to make it easier to videotape and hear him.

"Aw, I don't want to stand up there," Williams said softly, backing up. "I don't feel comfortable. It's like being on a pedestal."

Ricky knows pedestals. He won the Heisman Trophy and a showcase full of other awards, set or equaled 21 NCAA records - heck, he was even deified by the

state of Texas for deciding. Peyton Manning-like, to return to the Longhorns for his senior season instead of entering last year's NFL draft.

And in the past few weeks, Williams has tried to position himself on the league's most prominent off-season pedestal as its top pick in Saturday's draft.

"I want to play in Cleveland because they've got the first pick and I want to be the first pick," he said. "If I didn't feel that way, I wouldn't be a football player."

"It might sound braggadocious," said Leland Hardy, Williams' agent, "but we think Ricky can achieve record numbers on a per-carry, per-game, and per-season basis his first year. Not just rookie numbers - all-time numbers. We're very confident anyone of sound mind will pick the player who will help his organization the most and the fastest."

So why is it that in the days before the draft, some NFL personnel officials and outside analysts have spun scenarios that have the 5-foot-10 3/4, 230-pounder falling to, say, Baltimore at No. 10?

Well, that's complicated. One league personnel man said he thinks Williams

will slip "because he may get caught up in a situation where teams more than ever before are taking needs out of the draft."

By that thinking, and helped by a field that's top-heavy with quarterbacks, let's say Cleveland, Philadelphia, and Cincinnati take QBs one-two-three. Then Indianapolis, resisting "Trader" Mike Ditka's offer of draft choices into the new millennium, plucks cornerback Champ Bailey, regarded with Williams as the draft's two best athletes.

Washington could force up either wide receiver Torry Holt or cornerback Chris McAlister. St. Louis seems set on running back Edgerrin James even if Williams is there at No. 6, and Chicago, Arizona, and Detroit have more pressing needs than running back.

Voila! Crabcake City.

Williams isn't likely to fall past the Redskins, but he could fall to them (or the Saints in a trade) due to the quarterback factor. Jets coach Bill Parcells was asked whether, needs being equal, he would take a QB or a runner if he had the first pick. "Quarterback," he said immediately,

"because I'd want to keep my job."

Williams has some perceived shortcomings, but there are two sides to every story.

At the NFL combine workouts, for example, it was determined he had the smallest hands of the players in attendance and short arms, which may have led to his nine fumbles last year and 26 in his career. Texas sports information director John Bianco countered that in the final 10 minutes of games last year, Williams fumbled only once, and the 'Horns won that game.

Then there was a weightier combine matter. There was a report that he was 20 pounds overweight, but that overstated the case. At 244, he was nine to 14 pounds above his late-season playing weight. Whatever the amount, he didn't feel comfortable, declined to work out (irritating some NFL people who view the combines as a job interview), and left early. He didn't work for scouts until a week ago in his hometown of San Diego, after shedding 20 pounds.

The biggest hurdle for Williams, however, could be a gangsta image fashioned through his dreadlocks, body piercings, and tattoos, and crowned by

his hiring of rap entrepreneur Master P's No Limit Sports group to represent him.

"That throws up a major roadblock for a lot of people," said the NFL personnel source. "Three general managers have told me they won't draft certain players because of their agents, because it's a pain in the butt to get deals done."

Maybe Williams is getting a bad rap here. Friends say he saw in the self-made Master P a kindred focus and determination. And Hardy, a certified NFL agent, said Williams became P's biggest-name sports client because "Ricky feels it's incumbent on him to try to reach a broad cross section of youth, transcending race, creed, and age, and the best way to do that is with No Limit."

Hardy isn't kidding about kids. Bianco said Williams frequently visited struggling high school students in the Austin, Texas, area just on the phone call of a teacher.

One day he was getting antsy because a tuxedo fitting for an awards banquet was going slowly.

"I'm supposed to go to a birthday party for a kid I met in school today," Williams told Bianco. "I've got to

hurry. They'll probably cut the cake at 6:30, and you can't miss that."

Some fans find such stories heartwarming; some NFL people feel Williams is too image-conscious, too risky - in short, too good to be true. Perhaps to smooth the feathers he ruffled at the combines, or perhaps because he felt it was right, in his agent's words, to "build bridges" with potential employers, he undertook last week's whistlestops in St. Louis, New Orleans, Washington, Philadelphia, Cleveland, and Indianapolis.

"I don't know if I'm the best player in the draft. I haven't seen the others," he said. "But I think I showed all through college that I worked hard. It was a productive four years, so I'm just going to go out there and work my butt off."

All NFL teams have seen Williams' hard work and his awesome talent. One will see an attitude it can live with and draft him high. And if that team isn't the Browns, Hardy said, "Ricky won't be hurt. . . . He'll just exact terrible vengeance against those who didn't pick him."

## The Behrend Classifieds

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### Attention

Campus wide Semi-Formal, May 1st formal 9 p.m.-1a.m. Sponsored by the Athletic Advisory Committee. Please watch for further postings about this upcoming event.

### Furniture For Sale

Dark turquoise couch and two chairs, plus walnut coffee table and two end tables, matching lamp. Very retro! Very cool! \$325 for everything. 864-8164

Students and employees of Penn State Behrend are invited to submit a free classified ad in *The Beacon*. Types of ads may include personal messages and items for sale. Maximum classified length is 25 words. Persons who submit ads must state their affiliation with Behrend. Classifieds are meant for individual use. Official notices and group events should be submitted to the Calendar editor. Businesses must pay regular advertising rates. *The Beacon* can not guarantee the publication of all classifieds submitted for space purposes. Classifieds should be sent to the classified editor at *The Beacon*, Reed Building or dropped off at *The Beacon* offices, or sent to behrcoll4@aol.com. Deadline for submission for publication in that week's paper is Monday at 5:00PM.

## Housing and Food Service Athlete of the Week

NAME: Ryan Frederick

SPORT: Baseball

CLASS: Junior

DATE: April 5 - April 12

Ryan "Hoover" Frederick, a junior from Franklin, PA, has guided the Behrend Lions to a 16-9 overall record and a 6-2 mark in conference play.

Frederick has pitched exceptionally well as indicated by his 3-3 record and 0.88 ERA. In his last four starts, he has limited the opposition to a measly 12 hits. Although he lost at Frostburg 1-0, he limited the Bobcats to a pair of hits. This past Tuesday, he shutout LaRoche on a five-hitter.

"In each of his three seasons with us, 'Hoover' has traditionally drawn the start against our toughest opponents," said head coach Paul Benim. "He is a talented young man that is constantly working to improve his skills. He has been a bulldog for our pitching staff."

Frederick has tied Al Maki's (.75-78) school record for strikeouts with 129. He is also number two all-time with 12 victories. His name is scattered throughout the record books.

Hart is a graduate of Franklin High School.

Next up for the baseball nine are home games against Grove City on Thursday, April 15th, and Pitt-Bradford on Sunday, April 18th. Game times are 1:00 p.m.