Woods Dominates PGA Tour

PHOTO COURTESY OF NETTAVISEN

Tiger Woods celebrates after making the winning putt in the 2005 Masters. This was Wood's fourth Masters win in 9 years.

Kellen Seaton
Staff Writer

Golf experts have been debating for years whether or not Tiger Woods is the best golfer ever, but for the past few years Tiger has started to prove to all of his skeptics that he is indeed the best golfer of all time. However, throughout his career as a professional golfer, there has been a debate between Jack Nicklaus and Tiger Woods as to who is the better golfer.

Woods has dominated the Professional Golf Association over his 12 year career, but he really turned up the heat in the last three years. In those three years Woods won 18 of the 35 tournaments he entered, with five of those tournaments being major championships, and the most important tournaments in the PGA schedule.

With only four opportunities to win a major championship per year, Woods has been able to take control of the tour by winning a majority of the majors. Woods has won the PGA of America player of the year nine times over the span of his 12 year career. The last time he did not win was in 2004. This overall consistency shows how dominating he really is.

Loy Norrix sophomore and varsity golfer Clinton Buell said, "Tiger is going to win the grand slam [all four majors] this year. There is no doubt he is the best golfer in the field when he steps onto the course on Thursdays."

Buell has been a player and fan of golf ever since his father introduced him to the game at the age of five.

Woods has won 13 major championships throughout his 12 year career, which is five behind the all-time leader in major championships, Jack Nicklaus with 18 wins.

Many experts like David Feherty and Peter Kostis believe that Woods will break Nicklaus' record since Woods has many years of golf left in him. Also, in the last two years Woods has had a streak of five, six, and seven PGA Tour wins in a row.

LN senior varsity golfer Andy Subacz said, "Tiger is the best golfer there ever was and that there ever will be. He is going to go on to win more majors than anyone else."

Subacz has been a golf fan for most of his life, starting at a young age watching with his family.

Woods is also currently ranked number one in the world. The margin of point differential is greater between Woods and Phil Mickelson, who is second, than the margin of point differential between Phil Mickelson and the number 1000 ranked player in golf.

Woods spent 264 weeks atop the world rankings from August 15, 1999 to August 29, 2004 before Vijay Singh took the number one spot. From March 13th, 2005 and June 12th, 2005 Woods and Singh went back and forth, but Woods grabbed the number one spot on June 12th, 2005 and has spent the last 92 weeks at the top of the World Golf Standings.

Many believe that if Woods can stay on the path that he is following, he will become the best golfer of all time, surpassing Jack Nicklaus.

Coach Tom Barnum has followed golf for over 40 years and has coached golf for over 10 years.

Barnum said, "I have been watching professional golf for over 40 years, and Tiger Woods is the best golfer I have ever watched play the game of golf."

Versatility and Hard Work Increases Track Team's Success

RUDI BURNS/ KNIGHT LIFE

Jacquese Steele goes for first while running the 100 meter dash at the Don Lukens Invitational Friday April, 25th. " I was going to kick butt in that race but my legs were tense," said Steele. Steele got fourth in this race which won her a place in the semi finals.

Sarah Mills
Copy Editor

Endless laps around the track. Five or more miles a day. Five days a week. This is the exhausting life of the members on the Loy Norrix track team.

In the past few years, the LN track team has struggled with low participation. This was especially true last year when the women's team had only 12 members and the men's team had only 15 for the 2007 season.

"Last year was really hard because with only 12 people [on the women's team] it was hard to perform well in all the events, especially in relays," said senior captain Addie Drillock.

This year, LN's women's team has 28 members and the men's team has 31 members which is helping the team's performance. In the their meet against Kalamazoo Central on April 15th, the women's team scored a total of 60 points, which is more than they have scored in quite awhile according to Drillock.

"We have a lot more people this year that are versatile and can do a variety of events," Drillock said.

Senior Jacob Tanner is also impressed with the amount of new members on the track team and how hard everyone is working to improve this season.

"I think we'll be better this year. We have a lot of people with natural talent and they all work hard. No one ever quits," said Tanner.

The women's team has always had a hard time getting people to participate in the field events such as shot put, pole vault, high jump, and long jump; but, this year, Josie Fuller and Elexis Buchanan are competing in the shot put event.

The increase in members and versatility of the LN track team is not the only change the team is undergoing this season.

"We have fewer meets because they moved the dates of Conference and Regionals up. We also can't go to some meets we usually go to because they are on the same days as other meets," said Tanner.

With fewer meets in the season, members of the LN team have less time to improve and shorten their running times. Many members of the track team have goals of making it to the State meet at the end of the year. Because of the meet changes it is a lot harder to improve and meet these goals.

"This year it is going to be more difficult to improve on times and goals for the season because they have combined meets and the District and State meets are earlier. The State meet is at the end of May instead of the beginning of June like it usually is," said Drillock.

Because the team now has less time to improve, the team is working extra hard in practice. The sprinters and distance runners each have their own workouts. The sprinters are directed by Coach Duckett and Coach Savicke directs the distance runner's workouts.

"We started conditioning for track in the middle of winter. Now the distance runners run anywhere from 5-7 miles everyday in practice," said senior Derek Kusa.

Through all the changes the team has experienced, they have managed to maintain a strong team atmosphere. The sprinters and distance runners don't always practice together, but when it comes time for a meet they all cheer each other on and support each other.

"We all mesh together really well," Tanner said.