Lagergren wins Sicilian play-off for first Tour title

Simpson marches to four-stroke, wire-to-wire Players triumph

PONTE VEDRA BEACH, United States, May 14, (AFP): Former US Open champion Webb Simpson finished a four-stroke, wire-to-wire triumph at the Players Championship on Sunday to end a four-year victory drought.

A double-bogey at the final hole was just a blip for the 32-year-old Simpson, who signed for a final-round 73 and an 18-under par total of 270 at TPC Sawgrass.

GOLF

"Man, it means everything to me," Simpson, who won the US Open in 2012, said. "I feel like it's my first win. I feel so similar to how I felt in Greensboro back in 2011.

"To win a major championship and a few other Tour events and then go — I guess it's over four years without a win, I never doubted myself, but at the same time, that's a long time."

The North Carolina native was never headed since sharing the lead on day one and then storming five shots clear of his rivals on day two in shooting a course record-equalling 63.

Simpson took a tournament-record seven-shot lead into the final round and marched to the victory as would-be challengers, including 14-time major champion Tiger Woods fell by the wayside.

Playing partner Danny Lee of New Zealand quickly cut Simpson's lead to five with birdies at the second and third.

Simpson stalled with six straight pars before a first birdie of his round at the par-four seventh that took him to 20-under.

Simpson gave the shot straight back in finding a greenside bunker at the par-three eighth, and as he headed to his final nine holes his biggest threat wasn't Lee but two-time Players winner Woods.

Woods had produced his best ever round at TPC Sawgrass with a 65 on Saturday, and was 14-under through 12 and sharing second place thanks to six birdies.

It would, however, be the highwater mark of Woods's challenge.

Webb Simpson of the United States celebrates with the trophy and PGA Commissioner Jay Monahan after the final round of the Players Championship on the Stadium Course at TPC Sawgrass on May 13 in Ponte Vedra Beach, Florida. (AFP)

He dropped a shot at 14 then took a double bogey at the 17th where he was in the water surrounding the famed island green.

His three-under 69 left him with a share of 11th place on 11-under par.

Joining Woods in the group on 11-under was Justin Thomas — whose final-round 66 for 277 was good enough to dethrone Dustin Johnson atop the world rankings.

Thomas, who came into the week ranked second, becomes the 21st different player to hold the top spot, ending Johnson's 64-week reign.

Simpson finished four shots in front of a trio of players: South African Charl Schwartzel and Americans Jimmy Walker and Xander Schauffele who all fired final-round 67s to finish on 14-under 274.

Simpson's lead was down to four shots when he bogeyed the 10th, but he moved to 20-under for the tournament with birdies at the two par-fives on the back nine, the 11th and 16th.

Having holed a par putt from the fringe at the treacherous 17th he arrived at the last leading by six shots — only to find the water with his approach en route to a double-bogey six.

The late stumble couldn't dim his joy in the victory, his fifth on the US PGA Tour and his first since 2013.

"There's been some tough moments along the way," said Simpson, whose father died in November. "It's been a tough few months for my mom, my brothers and sisters. This is a little beacon of light for my mom, to get this done on Mother's Day."

Also:

AGRIGENTO, Italy: **Joakim Lagergren** opened his European Tour account when the Swede beat **Mike Lorenzo-Vera** in a play-off at the Sicilian Open on Sunday.

Lagergren

France's Lorenzo-Vera held a two shot lead going into the fourth round but four birdies in the opening nine holes left Lagergren in front by two.

He signed for a 68 to put him level with Lorenzo-Vera on 16 under and a superb approach to eight feet set up a birdie and his first title at the first extra hole.

England's Andy Sullivan and Australian **Lucas Herbert** tied for third, one shot behind Lorenzo-Vera.

MLB Scoreboard

WASHINGTON, May 14, (Agencies): Results and standings from the MLB games on Sunday:

NY Yankees	6	Oakland	2
Baltimore	17	Tampa Bay	1
Boston	5	Toronto	3
Atlanta	4	Miami	3
Cleveland	11	Kansas City	2
Detroit	5	Seattle	4
Philadelphia	4	NY Mets	2
San Francisco	5	Pittsburgh	0
Houston	6	Texas	1
Chic W. Sox	5	Chicago Cubs	3
Milwaukee	7	Colorado	3
LA Angels	2	Minnesota	1
Cincinnati	5	LA Dodgers	3
San Diego	5	St Louis	3
Washington	6	Arizona	4

American League

American League — East

	W	L	PCT	GB
Boston	28	12	.700	-
NY Yankees	28	12	.700	-
Toronto	21	20	.512	7-1/2
Tampa Bay	16	22	.421	11
Baltimore	13	28	.317	15-1/2

American League — Central

	W	L	PCT	GB
Cleveland	20	19	.513	-
Minnesota	17	19	.472	1-1/2
Detroit	17	22	.436	3
Kansas City	13	27	.325	7-1/2
Chic W. Sox	10	27	.270	9

American League — West

	W	L	PCT	GB
Houston	26	16	.619	-
LA Angels	24	16	.600	1
Seattle	22	17	.564	2-1/2
Oakland	19	21	.475	6
Texas	16	26	.381	10

National League

National League — East

	W	L	PCT	GB
Atlanta	24	15	.615	-
Philadelphia	23	16	.590	1
Washington	24	18	.571	1-1/2
NY Mets	19	18	.514	4
Miami	14	26	.350	10-1/2

National League — Central

	W	L	PCT	GB
Milwaukee	24	17	.585	-
St Louis	22	16	.579	0-1/2
Pittsburgh	23	17	.575	0-1/2
Chicago Cubs	21	16	.568	1
Cincinnati	14	27	.341	10

National League — West

	W	L	PCT	GB
Arizona	24	16	.600	-
Colorado	22	19	.537	2-1/2
San Francisco	20	21	.488	4-1/2
LA Dodgers	16	24	.400	8
San Diego	16	26	.381	9

MLB Linescores

American League

Kansas City 000 002 0002 9 0
Cleveland 051 300 20x11 15 2
D.Duffy, Flynn (4), B.Smith (7) and Butera; Kluber, Drake (8), A.Miller (9) and Gomes. W-Kluber 6-2. L-D.Duffy 1-5. HRs-Cleveland, Ramirez (12), Gomes (5), Brantley (5).

Tampa Bay 000 000 0101 5 1
Baltimore 031 700 60x17 19 1
Snell, Kittredge (4), Pruitt (4), Roe (7), Field (8) and W.Ramos; Bundy, Hart (8), Wright Jr. (9) and Joseph, Sisco. W-Bundy 2-5. L-Snell 4-3. HRs-Baltimore, Rickard 2 (2), Valencia (5), Mancini (6).

Seattle 010 100 0204 11 0
Detroit 002 010 1015 10 1
Paxton, Bradford (7), Vincent (8), Nicasio (9) and Zunino; Hardy, Saupold (5), B.Farmer (7), Jimenez (8), Greene (9) and McCann. W-Greene 2-2. L-Nicasio 1-2. HRs-Seattle, Seager (7). Detroit, Goodrum (2).

Oakland 000 010 0012 8 0
New York 300 010 11x6 12 1
B.Anderson, Casilla (6), Font (8) and Lucroy; L.Severino, Green (7), Betances (8), Shreve (9) and G.Sanchez. W-L. Severino 6-1. L-B.Anderson 0-2. HRs-Oakland, Canha (6). New York, Stanton (10).

Boston 201 010 0105 8 0
Toronto 000 030 0003 10 0
Pomeranz, Velazquez (5), M.Barnes (7), Hembree (8), J.Kelly (9) and Vazquez; Biagini, Axford (5), Gaviglio (7), Clippard (8) and Martin. W-Velazquez 5-0. L-Biagini 0-2. Sv-J.Kelly (2). HRs-Boston, Martinez (10).

Texas 000 000 0101 6 2
Houston 003 000 30x6 9 0
Moore, Chavez (4), Jepsen (7), Mann (7) and C.Perez; Keuchel, Rondon (8), Sipp (8), Peacock (9) and Stassi. W-Keuchel 3-5. L-Moore 1-5. HRs-Texas, Perez (1). Houston, Correa (7), Gattis (3).

Harrison Bader #48 of the St Louis Cardinals hits a solo home run during the ninth inning of a baseball game against the San Diego Padres at PETCO Park on May 13 in San Diego. (AFP)

Minnesota 000 000 1001 7 1
Los Angeles 000 010 0012 7 0
Romero, Rogers (6), Pressly (7), Reed (8), Duke (9) and Wilson; Ohtani, Bedrosian (7), Middleton (8), Parker (9) and Maldonado. W-Parker 1-1. L-Duke 2-2.

Interleague

Chicago 011 002 1005 7 0
Chicago 200 100 0003 3 1
Giolito, Fry (6), N.Jones (8), B.Rondon (9) and Narvaez; Hendricks, Duensing (7), Cishek (7), Montgomery (9) and Contreras. W-Giolito 2-4. L-Hendricks 3-3. Sv-B.Rondon (1). HRs-Chicago, Davidson (11).

National League

Atlanta 100 002 0014 8 1
Miami 000 000 0033 4 1
Newcomb, S.Freeman (7), Winkler (8), Biddle (9), Vizcaino (9) and Suzuki; J.Urena, Wittgren (7), Barraclough (8), E.Hernandez (9) and Realmuto. W-Newcomb 4-1. L-J.Urena 0-6. Sv-Vizcaino (7). HRs-Atlanta, Inciarte (3). Miami, Bour (8).

San Francisco 000 005 0005 13 0
Pittsburgh 000 000 0000 7 0
Holland, Moronta (7), W.Smith (8), Strickland (9) and Hundley; Nova, Rodriguez (6), Glasnow (8) and Cervelli. W-Holland 2-4. L-Nova 2-3. HRs-San Francisco, Hundley (4), Hernandez (2).

New York 000 001 1002 11 0
Philadelphia 000 003 01x4 8 0
deGrom, Gsellman (2), Sewald (5), A.Ramos (7), Familia (8) and Mesoraco; Nola, Hunter (7), Garcia (7), Dominguez (8), E.Ramos (9) and Alfaro. W-Nola 6-1. L-Sewald 0-3. Sv-E.Ramos (1). HRs-New York, Cespedes (8). Philadelphia, Santana (7), Williams (2).

Milwaukee 031 003 0007 13 1
Colorado 000 000 1203 6 0
F.Peralta, Albers (6), Jennings (8), Jeffress (8), Knebel (9) and Pina; Gray, Musgrave (6), Pounders (8) and Wolters. W-F.Peralta 1-0. L-Gray 4-5. HRs-Milwaukee, Aguilar (3), Shaw (9). Colorado, Wolters (2), Dahl (2).

St Louis 000 002 0013 6 1
San Diego 002 200 01x5 8 0
Wainwright, Gant (3), Cecil (7), Bowman (8) and C.Kelly; Richard, Hand (9) and Lopez. W-Richard 2-5. L-Wainwright 1-3. Sv-Hand (11). HRs-St Louis, Bader (3).

Cincinnati 002 102 0005 9 2
Los Angeles 001 000 2003 5 2
Castillo, Brice (7), Garrett (7), R.Iglesias (9) and T.Cruz; Hill, Venditte (6), Hudson (7), Jansen (9) and Grandal. W-Castillo 3-4. L-Hill 1-2. Sv-R.Iglesias (7). HRs-Cincinnati, Suarez (6), Votto (6). Los Angeles, Puig (1), Grandal (6).

Washington 101 011 0206 9 2
Arizona 001 000 3004 9 0
Hellickson, Solis (6), Gott (6), Kintzler (7), Madson (7), Doolittle (9) and P.Severino; Godley, De La Rosa (7), Bradley (8), Sherfy (9) and Avila. W-Madson 1-2. L-Bradley 0-1. Sv-Doolittle (9). HRs-Washington, Turner (5), Reynolds 2 (2), Harper (13).

Mariners fall 4-5 to Tigers, lose Cano to fractured hand

Votto, Suarez homer as Reds sweep Dodgers

DETROIT, May 14, (AP): Robinson Cano broke his right hand when hit by a pitch from left-hander Blaine Hardy in the third inning of the Seattle Mariners' 5-4 loss to the Detroit Tigers on Sunday.

The Seattle star, who has played in at least 150 in 11 straight years, said he might need surgery.

Jose Iglesias hit a game-ending single off Juan Nicasio (1-2), and Niko Goodrum homered and had three hits for the Tigers.

Shane Greene (2-2) pitched a scoreless ninth. Seattle lost a road series for the first time all season.

Angels 2, Twins 1

In Anaheim, Calif, Shohei Ohtani struck out 11 while pitching three-hit ball into the seventh inning, and Zack Cozart got a walk-off RBI single.

BASEBALL

Ohtani allowed one run and three hits over 6-1/3 innings in his sixth big league start, leaving with a 2-1 lead after Logan Morrison's walk. Joe Mauer hit a tying single off Cam Bedrosian.

Chris Young was hit by a pitch from Zach Duke (2-2) leading off the ninth, Martin Maldonado sacrificed and Cozart singled to left. Blake Parker (1-1) stranded the bases loaded in the top half when Brian Dozier popped out.

Nationals 6, Diamondbacks 4

In Phoenix, Mark Reynolds homered twice in his first game with Washington, helping the Nationals complete a four-game sweep.

Reynolds had his contract selected from Triple-A Syracuse on Saturday. He homered off Zack Godley in the sixth inning, then broke a 4-4 tie with a two-run shot off Archie Bradley (0-1) in the eighth after the Diamondbacks rallied with a three-run seventh.

Bryce Harper and Trea Turner also homered for the Nationals, winners of 13 of 15. Ryan Madson (1-2) went 1-1/3 innings in relief. Sean Doolittle pitched a scoreless ninth for his ninth save

Reds 5, Dodgers 3

In Los Angeles, Eugenio Suarez and Joey Votto homered, and last-place Cincinnati swept a four-game series from the Dodgers for the first time since the Big Red Machine accomplished the feat in August 1976.

Brian Dozier #2 of the Minnesota Twins throws to first base after getting the force out at second base on Zack Cozart #7 of the Los Angeles Angels in the fifth inning of the MLB game at Angel Stadium on May 13 in Anaheim, California. (AFP)

Luis Castillo (3-4) allowed three runs two earned and four hits in six innings with eight strikeouts. Raisel Iglesias got three straight outs for his seventh save, finishing a four-hitter.

The defending NL champion Dodgers finished a 1-5 homestand and have lost seven of eight. At 16-23 they are fourth in the NL West, just one game ahead of San Diego. Rich Hill (1-2) gave up three runs two earned six hits and four walks over 5-2/3 innings.

Cincinnati has won six straight games following an 8-27 start yet remains last in the NL Central.

White Sox 5, Cubs 3

In Chicago, Matt Davidson hit a solo homer and a tiebreaking sacrifice fly off Kyle Hendricks (3-3).

Lucas Giolito (2-4) matched a career high with seven walks, tossed three wild pitches and hit a batter, but pitched two-hit ball for 5-2/3 innings in his first victory since April 26. Bruce Rondon got his first save as the White Sox (10-27) stopped a seven-game slide and became the last major league team to reach 10 wins.

The Cubs (21-16) had won five in a row.

Yankees 6, Athletics 2

In New York, Giancarlo Stanton went 4 for 4 with a home run and three RBIs in a game that started after a 2-hour, 45-minute rain delay.

Luis Severino (6-1) struck out seven in six innings as New York won for the 19th time in 22 games to remain tied with rival Boston for the best record in the majors at 28-12. Aaron Hicks drove in two runs, Aaron Judge extended his RBI streak to seven games and the Yankees took two of three from Oakland to win their seventh consecutive series.

After a 7-2 homestand, New York plays 19 of its next 25 games on the road. Brett Anderson (0-2) was charged with four runs and eight hits in five innings.

Red Sox 5, Blue Jays 3

In Toronto, J.D. Martinez hit his 10th homer, a two-run drive in the first off Joe Biagini (0-2), and a run-scoring single against John Axford in the fifth.

Mookie Betts had two hits, two steals and slid into foul territory down the right-field line to catch Richard Urena's sinking liner in the fourth.

Hector Velazquez (5-0) pitched two scoreless innings, and Joe Kelly got three outs for his second save.

Russell Martin had three hits for the Blue Jays, who lost for the eighth time in 11 home games.

Phillies 4, Mets 2

In Philadelphia, New York's Jacob deGrom was removed after a 45-pitch scoreless and hitless first inning as a precaution in his first start after a stint on the disabled list caused by a hyper-extended right elbow.

Pinch-hitter Nick Williams hit a go-ahead, three-run homer off Paul Seward (0-3) in the sixth.

Aaron Nola (6-1) worked out of a bases-loaded, one-out jam in the first and allowed one run and nine hits in six innings. Edubray Ramos worked around a walk in the ninth for his first big league save.

New York has lost 17 of 25 after an 11-1 start.

Orioles 17, Rays 1

In Baltimore, Joey Rickard had his first big league multihomer game and drove in four runs following his recall from the minor leagues, and Baltimore scored its most runs since an 18-2 win over Oakland on Aug 16, 2015. Tampa Bay gave up its most runs since a 17-11 defeat at Toronto on Aug. 7, 2010.

Danny Valencia and Trey Mancini also homered for the Orioles, who have scored 58 runs in their last seven games. Valencia tied career highs with four hits and four RBIs.

Dylan Bundy (2-5) allowed two hits and four walks in seven scoreless innings.

Blake Snell (4-3) gave up five runs and six hits in 5-1/3 innings, and reliever Andrew Kittredge was sent to the minors after allowing six runs, six hits and one walk while failing to get an out.

Indians 11, Royals 2

In Cleveland, Corey Kluber (6-2) gave up two unearned runs in seven innings, scattering eight hits.

Yan Gomes had four hits, including a three-run homer. Jose Ramirez also hit a three-run shot and Michael Brantley had a two-run homer as the Indians had 15 hits.

Detroit Tigers pitcher Blaine Hardy throws against the Seattle Mariners in the first inning of a baseball game in Detroit on May 13. (AP)

Danny Duffy (1-5) allowed nine runs in 3-1/3 innings.

Braves 4, Marlins 3

In Miami, Sean Newcomb (4-1) allowed one hit in six innings and stretched his scoreless streak to 20 innings. Brian Anderson's double in the second was the lone hit off the left-hander.

Arodys Vizcaino gave up a three-run pinch-hit homer to Justin Bour with one out in the ninth, then retired the next two batters for his seventh save, completing a four-hitter.

Ender Inciarte hit his third homer of the year and his second in two games. Jose Urena (0-6) allowed three runs in six innings.

Giants 5, Pirates 0

In Pittsburgh, Gorkys Hernandez homered off Ivan Nova (2-3) to spark a five-run sixth inning, Nick Hundley added a three-run drive against Richard Rodriguez and San Francisco stopped a season-high six game-losing streak.

Derek Holland (2-4) allowed four hits and five walks in 6-1/3 innings.

Astros 6, Rangers 1

In Houston, Dallas Keuchel (3-5) allowed three hits in seven shutout innings, struck out eight and walked one.

Evan Gattis and Carlos Correa homered for the second straight game.

Matt Moore (1-5) allowed three runs and six hits in three innings.

Brewers 7, Rockies 3

In Denver, Freddy Peralta (1-0) took a no-bid into the sixth inning of his major league debut and set a Milwaukee rookie record with 13 strikeouts. Peralta allowed one hit and two walks in 5-2/3 innings.

Jon Gray (4-5) gave up six runs and 10 hits in 5-1/3 innings.

Shaw and Jesus Aguilar homered for the Brewers, who opened a 7-0 lead by the sixth.

Padres 5, Cardinals 3

In San Diego, Clayton Richard (2-5) matched his career high with 10 strikeouts in eight innings for his first win since April 9.

Brad Hand got his 11th save, allowing Harrison Bader's leadoff homer in the ninth, loading the bases with one out on two walks and a hit batter, then striking out Carson Kelly and Kolten Wong. Bader also had an RBI triple.

Adam Wainwright (1-3) re-aggravated an elbow injury that had landed him on the disabled list and left after 2-1/3 innings. Cory Spangenberg hit a go-ahead single in the third and Freddy Galvis followed with a sacrifice fly off John Gant.

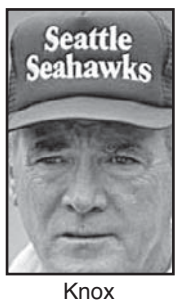
Seahawks waive QB Morris

Longtime NFL coach Knox dies

LOS ANGELES, May 14, (RTRS): Chuck Knox, a longtime NFL coach who won 186 regular-season games, died Sunday at age 86, the Seattle Seahawks confirmed.

Knox reportedly was suffering from dementia and recently entered hospice care.

Knox coached for the Los Angeles Rams (twice), Buffalo Bills and Seattle Seahawks during his 22 seasons as a head coach. His regular-season record was 186-147-1, and he went 7-11 in postseason play. He guided four teams to conference championship games – the Rams three times in the 1970s and the Seahawks in 1983 – but never reached a Super Bowl.



Knox

Knox was selected NFL Coach of the Year three times (1973, 1980 and 1984) and was nicknamed "Ground Chuck" for his run-first offenses. Knox was an offensive line coach before landing the Rams' job in 1973 and going 12-2, the first of five straight 10-win seasons with the franchise.

❑ ❑ ❑

The **Seahawks** waived **Stephen Morris** less than a month after signing him as a potential backup to quarterback **Russell Wilson.**

While Morris has never taken a regular-season NFL snap, he has logged time with the **Washington Redskins, Philadelphia Eagles, Indianapolis Colts** and **Jacksonville Jaguars**, who signed him as an undrafted free agent in 2014.

FOOTBALL

The Seahawks now have three quarterbacks on the roster, Wilson, backup **Austin Davis** and 2018 seventh-round pick **Alex McGough.**

❑ ❑ ❑

The nephew of NFL great **Junior Seau** is at **New York Giants** rookie minicamp in a bid to follow his uncle's legacy.

Ian Seau, a linebacker, went undrafted out of Nevada before spending training camp with the Rams in 2016 and then spending time on the Bills' practice squad last season. Junior Seau played 20 years in the NFL but took his own life in 2012 and was posthumously found to have the degenerative brain disease CTE. He was inducted into the Pro Football Hall of Fame in 2015.

❑ ❑ ❑

Former **Carolina Panthers** and **Dallas Cowboys** defensive end **Greg Hardy** is set to make his MMA debut as part of the "Dana White Tuesday Night Contender Series" in a heavyweight fight June 12.

He will be facing another former NFL player, **Austen Lane**, a defensive end who was drafted in the fifth round by the **Jacksonville Jaguars** in 2010. Lane also played for the **Detroit Lions** and spent time with the **Chicago Bears** in a career that spanned from 2010-14.

Lane, 30, is 4-0 as a professional fighter. The fight was announced during the broadcast of UFC 224 Saturday night in Brazil. Hardy has gone 3-0 in his amateur fights since his last game in the NFL with the Cowboys in 2015.