

SPORTS

Hodges birdies 18th, claims 2-stroke victory on Korn Ferry Tour

Morikawa delivers great shot in quiet moment to win PGA

SAN FRANCISCO, Aug 10, (AP): Collin Morikawa delivered a shot that will go down as one of the best in a major that hardly anyone witnessed, setting up an eagle on the 16th hole Sunday that carried him to the most quiet PGA Championship ever.

In the first major without spectators, Morikawa finished with a bang.

He was among seven players tied for the lead on the back nine at Harding Park, as wild as any Sunday in a major. Morikawa chipped in from 40 feet on the 14th hole to take the lead, and then he ended it with one swing. On the 294-yard 16th hole,

GOLF

Morikawa hit driver that hopped onto the green and settled 7 feet below the cup.

He made it for eagle and was on his way. Morikawa closed with a 6-under 64, the lowest final round by a PGA champion in 25 years, and took his place among the young stars taking over golf.

Just over a year ago, he was finishing up his degree at nearby California, one of several heralded college players ready to rule. Now he has



Collin Morikawa reacts as the top of the Wanamaker Trophy falls after winning the PGA Championship golf tournament at TPC Harding Park on Aug. 9, in San Francisco. (AP)

three victories, including a major, by beating a world-class lineup on the public course in San Francisco.

Dustin Johnson never got anything going. Brooks Koepka turned out to be all talk in his bid for a third straight PGA Championship. Tiger Woods was long gone before the leaders even tee off.

This major was up for grabs until one swing on a hole along the shores of Lake Merced, where the tee was moved up to tempt players to drive the green or pay the price if they missed in the trees to the right or the hazard to the left.

Morikawa never hesitated. The swing was never more pure.

Zhang wins US Women's Amateur to deny Ruffels a repeat

ROCKVILLE, Md, Aug 10, (AP): Rose Zhang thought she might need to withdraw from the U.S. Women's Amateur because of a left wrist injury. Instead, she didn't play for 10 days to have her best chance.

It turned out to be a winning decision.

Zhang won the longest U.S. Women's Amateur title match in 54 years, denying Gabriela Ruffels a repeat victory Sunday when the 20-year-old Australian missed a 3-foot par putt on the 38th hole.

"To have my name on the trophy with the best players of all-time is life-changing for me," Zhang said. "It's a dream come true."

Neither player led by more than 2 up the entire 36-hole match, and they halved the last five holes with

par to force extra holes for the first time since 2001.

Zhang, a 17-year-old Californian who has committed to play at Stanford next year, sent it to overtime with a clutch flop-and-run from the rough 95 yards away on the 18th hole to tap-in range.

On the first extra hole, Zhang missed about a 12-foot putt for the win. On the 38th hole, Ruffels went just beyond the green from the rough and hit a good pitch to about 3 feet. Zhang missed her birdie putt, and then Ruffels' par putt to extend the match spun around the cup.

"You can't take any putt for granted out here," Ruffels said. "These greens are crazy fast, and that did have a little break to it. I was playing it outside of the hole. I actually

hit it on my line, but it was heart-breaking to see it horseshoe out."

Ruffels, who plays at USC, was trying to become the first back-to-back winner of the U.S. Women's Amateur since Danielle Kang in 2011.

Ruffels, who trailed early in all her matches leading to the final, this time built a 2-up lead through three holes, only for Zhang to quickly rally. The match was particularly wild toward the end of the first 18 holes. Ruffels won the 18th to cut the deficit to 1 down. That was part of an eight-hole stretch in which only two holes were halved.

Ruffels made an 8-foot birdie on the par-3 13th in the afternoon to square the match for the last time until Zhang won it with par on the 38th hole.

Meanwhile, Lee Hodges birdied the 18th hole on the way to an even-par 71 Sunday and a two-stroke victory at the Winco Foods Portland Open on the Korn Ferry Tour.

The win on the Witch Hollow Course at Pumpkin Ridge Golf Club

was the first on the Korn Ferry Tour for the 25-year-old Hodges, who had five straight top-20 finishes entering this week.

There was a four-way tie for second place among David Lipsky, Carl Yuan, Chad Ramey and Paul Barjon.

Also, the top five players in the Korn Ferry points list after the Portland Open earned an exemption into the U.S. Open at Winged Foot. Along with Hodges, Will Zalatoris, Davis Riley, Taylor Pendrith and Paul Barjon earned a spot.

Popyrin withdraws from US Open

Ferro upsets Kontaveit to clinch Palermo Open title

PALERMO, Sicily, Aug 10, (AP): Fiona Ferro of France upset fourth-seeded Anett Kontaveit of Estonia in the Palermo Ladies Open final on Sunday to win the first tour-level tennis title in five months.

Ferro, who is ranked 53rd in the world, won 6-2, 7-5. She had lost just one set on her way to the final.

"It means a lot especially after a five tough months of practice," Ferro said. "I was already feeling so happy just to be back competing and be on the court but it's even nicer to finish the week this way."

It was Ferro's second WTA title and the 23-year-old sealed it on her second championship point when Kontaveit hit a return long.



Ferro

"I was feeling relaxed, I don't know why but I wasn't really feeling the pressure," Ferro said. "It was a tough match ... but I had a good intensity. I didn't miss a lot, I had a lot of winners. I'm really happy to have the trophy."

Kontaveit has lost five of the six finals she has contested.

It was the first official tennis event – for men or women – since March when the coronavirus pandemic shut down sports across the globe.

"I don't feel like I did too much wrong, she was just too good today," Kontaveit said. "I'm just really happy we're back playing tennis and able to compete."

"At the beginning it was terrifying but also really exciting at the same time."

There were strict health protocols, including fewer ball kids, a limited number of fans and no post-match handshakes between opponents. Players and officials for the tournament were tested every four days for COVID-19 and one player who tested positive withdrew over the weekend.

Ferro and Kontaveit wore gloves to handle their trophies.

Meanwhile, Alexei Popyrin withdrew from the US Open on Sunday, allowing 2012 champion Andy Murray to move into the main draw.

That means Murray can relinquish the wild-card invitation he received from the US Tennis Association, which now will be given to American Mitchell Krueger.

Popyrin is a 21-year-old Australian who is ranked 103rd. He joins Australians Ash Barty and Nick Kyrgios as players who are skipping the US Open, which is scheduled to be

played without spectators amid the coronavirus pandemic in New York starting on Aug 31.

The 26-year-old Krueger, who is based in Texas, is ranked 195th.

Also, Serena Williams flexed and then kissed a sinewy right bicep to show down time well spent in training even without bench pressing.

"This is God given, thank you very much," the 23-time Grand Slam champion said as she thanked her mother, Oracene.

Williams now looks to flex her muscles on a tennis court for the first time in six months.

She is preparing for the inaugural Top Seed Open that opens Monday

TENNIS

near Lexington, a recently added hard court tournament that serves as a tuneup for this month's US Open in New York.

The WTA's first event in the US since March features a spectator-free field that includes sister Venus Williams, a seven-time Grand Slam winner herself, Victoria Azarenka, Sloane Stephens and rising star Coco Gauff.

Serena Williams, ranked No. 9, is competing for the first time since playing for the US in the Fed Cup in February. The pandemic quickly shut everything down the next month, forcing an extended layoff.

Williams has a history of blood clots and pulmonary embolisms that have affected her lung capacity. She has been "super, super careful" in avoiding exposure to COVID-19. The 38-year-old acknowledged during Saturday's virtual news conference that she's been "a bit of a recluse," in addition to owning 50 face masks and taking social distancing to an extreme.

"And everyone in the Serena bubble is really protective because at the end of the day, yeah, it's cool to play tennis, but this is my life and this is my health," Williams said.

"I've been a little neurotic to an extent, but that's just what I have to be right now."

Williams and Azarenka enter the tournament with open minds, hungry to resume competition.

"You want to just start somewhere," said Azarenka, a two-time Australian Open champ ranked 58th.

"You can practice for so long, but there's nothing like playing actual matches where you know the atmosphere. I don't really know what to expect because I've only played once in Charleston without the crowd. It's going to be an adjustment."

probably generations.

"Because if our game stops, we'll need to borrow money and those monies will need to be repaid at some point."

The National Rugby League season went into hiatus after two rounds in March when Australia closed its international borders and went into lockdown to slow the spread of COVID-19. It was the first collision sport to resume competition in late May, but only after making assurances to federal, state and local governments about the strict protocols around the isolation of players and team staff.

Under the NRL's bio-security rules designed to keep the league in play during the pandemic, players and selected club officials cannot have visitors or go to pubs, cafes or restaurants.



V'landys

League boss considers tougher penalties for bubble breaches

BRISBANE, Australia, Aug 10, (AP): Rugby League power-broker Peter V'landys has warned players and coaches that those breaking the strict bio-security regulations in place for the coronavirus pandemic are putting their incomes, the game and the public at risk.

The Australian Rugby League commission chairman on Monday hinted that tougher penalties could be imposed after reports of three more NRL players breaching the so-called bio-security bubbles over the weekend.

It follows a number of high-profile rugby league identities, including seven-time premierships-winning coach Wayne Bennett, being sanctioned last week and put on quarantine holds for 14 days after leaving their teams to go out in public.

"It's extremely disappointing because they're putting at risk not only their own income but the income of a lot of people in the game," V'landys said Monday. "And not only their income now but their income for the future in the next two to three years,

Keselowski, Blaney crash as Busch remained winless

BROOKLYN, Michigan, Aug 10, (AP): Kevin Harvick won just about everything he could in a stellar weekend at Michigan International Speedway, although fittingly, Denny Hamlin was the last driver to pressure him.

Harvick held off Hamlin on Sunday to complete a doubleheader sweep in the NASCAR Cup Series. He'd also won Saturday's race, and the two victories gave him six on the season – the most of any driver.

Hamlin, who has five victories, nearly chased Harvick down at the very end, and this weekend did nothing to dispel the notion that these two are top contenders for this year's championship.

"I have tremendous respect for everyone on that team and Kevin,"

Harvick said. "As we've gotten older, we've gotten wiser and learned to really appreciate what each other does on the race track. Obviously, they're having a great season as well."

Hamlin was right behind Harvick for the final few laps and came close to passing him a couple of times, but Harvick stayed in front. Hamlin's final desperate bid came up short at the end when Harvick crossed the finish line 0.093 seconds ahead.

Harvick also won the first two stages Saturday and the second stage Sunday. Clint Bowyer won Sunday's first stage of the 156-lap, 312-mile race.

With NASCAR running an adjusted schedule because of the coronavirus, both Michigan races were held on the same weekend. That meant Harvick became the first driver since Richard Petty in 1971 to win back-to-back Cup races on consecutive days. Petty did it on

July 14 and 15 at Islip and Saratoga.

"It's been a long time since I've raced back-to-back days, let alone in the Cup car," Harvick said. "I've never accomplished that obviously, but we've done that a couple times this year, so I think for us it's worked out pretty well. We're hoping it goes the same way at Dover when we go there in a couple of weeks."

The two Michigan races were pretty similar, with no major incidents through the first two stages. Saturday's finish was more chaotic with a number of late cautions. On Sunday, there were only three cautions, not including the yellow periods at the end of the first two stages.

But one of those cautions Sunday came after a wreck that knocked out two of Team Penske's stars.

Brad Keselowski's Ford made contact with Ryan Blaney's No. 12 car shortly after the start of the final stage, sending the teammates slamming into the wall.

"It's my fault. I feel really bad for my teammate, Ryan Blaney," Keselowski said. "He didn't deserve that. ... I went to get underneath the

12 and I just slipped. I lost the back a little bit and when I went to collect it he was there and I wiped him out and myself out, so I feel terrible for everyone at Team Penske and especially Ryan Blaney."

That wasn't enough to ruin the day for Ford, which has now won six straight Cup races at Michigan. Harvick has taken four of the past five.

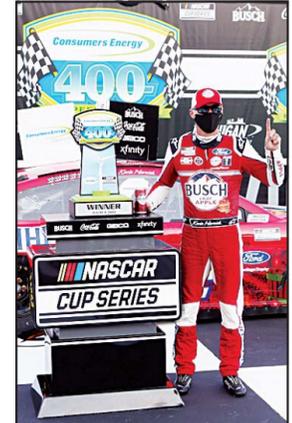
"When you start getting texts from Edsel Ford on how important the weekend is, you answer those," Harvick said. "I've been around Ford for several years now and you understand the importance of winning at Michigan. The energy and effort that they not only put into our cars, but that they put into the engines at Roush Yates. This is the place, right behind Daytona, that everybody from Ford wants to win at."

Harvick's 55th career victory moved him into a 10th-place tie with Rusty Wallace, one behind Busch.

Busch remained winless this year after a fourth-place finish, but he turned in solid performances both days. Martin Truex Jr was one spot ahead of him Sunday.

"Yesterday and today, the car drove great. The best driving car

CAR RACING



Kevin Harvick celebrates after winning a NASCAR Cup Series auto race at Michigan International Speedway in Brooklyn, Michigan, on Aug. 9. (AP)

I've had here at Michigan," Busch said. "When you have so much comfort I guess build into the car, you just don't quite have enough speed. We weren't going to change that overnight, so we stayed consistent with many of the things that we were doing from yesterday just to have a good, solid effort of it today and not screw anything up."

Aric Almirola, Kurt Busch and Kyle Busch remain the top drivers without a win in the points standings with four races left in the regular season.

Keselowski has still never won a Cup race in his home state of Michigan. He finished second Saturday in the first of the two races held without fans at MIS.