

Rahm's wild day ends with Memorial win



Jon Rahm, of Spain, hits a bunker shot during the final round of the Memorial golf tournament on July 19 in Dublin, Ohio. (Inset: Jon Rahm, of Spain, poses with the trophy after winning the Memorial golf tournament on July 19 in Dublin, Ohio. (AP))

Spaniard secures No. 1 ranking

DUBLIN, Ohio, July 20, (AP): The drama was more than Jon Rahm wanted. The result was what he always imagined.

Rahm became the No. 1 player in the world with a victory in the Memorial in which he watched an eight-shot lead at the turn shrink to three shots with three holes to play, and then hit what he called the greatest shot of his life that turned into a bogey because of a penalty.

All that mattered was that fist-bump – not a handshake – with Jack Nicklaus, and taking his place along his idol Seve Ballesteros as the only Spaniards to reach No. 1 in the world.

With a two-shot penalty for his ball moving the length of a dimple on his

under par, the fewest for the final round since this tournament began in 1976. Rahm's 75 was the highest finish by a winner since Roger Maltbie shot 76 the inaugural year.

The rough wasn't cut all week. The greens were allowed to go to the edge because they are being replaced. Crews already had stripped the entire fifth green as the leaders were on the back nine.

Rahm looked to be playing a different course. He played bogey-free on the front nine with birdies on the two par 5s. That put him eight shots clear on his way to No. 1.

And then he made bogey on the 10th. Not a problem.

He yanked his tee shot into a creek on the par-5 11th, and that was a bigger problem based on how hard he slammed the club into the ground in a pique of anger. He made double bogey. Palmer made birdie on the 12th, and then Rahm made another bogey from the bunker on the 14th.

Just like that, the lead was three shots.

Only a week ago at Muirfield Village for the Workday Charity Open, Justin Thomas had a three-shot lead with three holes to play and wound up losing in a playoff to Collin Morikawa.

Rahm was worried his tee shot might find the back bunker, though the rough was not a great option with how fast the greens were running. Rahm was thinking anything inside 10 feet would be good. This was perfect, the ball landing on the fringe and sliding down the slope into the cup.

As for the penalty?

The chip was similar – but from a different angle – to Tiger Woods chipping in from behind the 16th green when he won the Memorial for the fifth time in 2012.

Woods, in his first competition since Feb. 16 because of the COVID-19 pandemic, shot 76 and tied for 40th.

Matthew Fitzpatrick had a 68 for the low score of the final day to finish third.

GOLF

chip-in behind the 16th green, Rahm closed with 3-over 75 for a three-shot victory over Ryan Palmer.

Rahm got up-and-down on the final four greens, which made it feel even sweeter.

The fiery emotion is his hallmark. He showed it with a tee shot that sailed left into a creek on the 11th hole, Rahm slamming his club into the ground in a pique of anger. And it was evident with that ferocious fist-pump when his flop shot from deep rough behind the 16th green rolled into the cup.

Birdie or bogey, it was a winner, a shot that would have made Ballesteros proud.

With the penalty – Rahm had no idea it was an issue after his round, but accepted the penalty when he saw a video that zoomed in close on the ball – he finished at 9-under 279 for his 10th career victory, fourth on the PGA Tour.

Muirfield Village played its toughest in 42 years, with only five players

San Jose advances after 2-0 win over Chicago

Sounders down rival Whitecaps

LAKE BUENA VISTA, Florida, July 20, (AP): Nicolas Lodeiro scored from the penalty spot early in the first half, Jordan Morris added to the lead with his third goal of the season, and the Seattle Sounders beat the Vancouver Whitecaps 3-0 in the MLS is Back tournament.

Seattle (2-1-2) clinched a spot in the knockout round of the tournament, rebounding from a disappointing loss to Chicago earlier in the group stage. Seattle will finish either second or third in Group B, depending on Chicago's final group stage match. The top four third-place finishers among all the group advance to the round of 16 and Seattle has at worst clinched one of those spots.

Seattle will not play again until either July 26 or 27. The Sounders would have been the first team eliminated from the tournament had they lost.

"We're an experienced team. We understand the circumstances," Morris said. "Obviously in the championship seasons they've never been perfect. ... We understand these moments and have been through them before, so I think just that leadership that experi-

SOCCER

ence we have on the team no moment is too big for us. We kind of understand and know how to work through these big games."

Raul Ruidiaz also scored for Seattle, which dominated its Cascadia rivals yet again. The Sounders are unbeaten in their past nine matches against Vancouver with six of those victories.

But Morris was the star for Seattle. The winger drew the penalty that led to Lodeiro's opening goal in the 16th minute. Morris' shot caught the hand of Vancouver defender Jasser Khmiri, and Lodeiro sent Whitecaps goalkeeper Maxime Crepeau the wrong direction on the penalty.

Morris then got his own goal later in the first half collecting a chipped pass from Lodeiro, holding off his defender and beating Crepeau. Morris had two goals in Seattle's season opener back

in March. "Overall I thought it was a very, very good performance by Jordan. He highlighted his skills tremendously tonight," Seattle coach Brian Schmetzer said.

Ruidiaz added cushion early in the second half, scoring off a corner kick and a flicked header from Handwalla Bwana.

Seattle opened the tournament with a 0-0 draw against group winners San Jose and a 2-1 loss to Chicago. The Sounders will have to wait for the result of Thursday's group finale between Vancouver and Chicago to determine their placing and opponent in the knockout round.



Seattle Sounders defender Shane O'Neill (right), watches as defender Nuhou Tolo (left), and Vancouver Whitecaps defender Derek Cornelius (13) compete for a header during the second half of an MLS soccer match on July 20 in Kissimmee, Florida. (AP)

Vancouver (1-3-0) was already short-handed entering the tournament with a number of key players opting out, and now may be without its goalkeeper. Crepeau had to be subbed out early in the second half after his hand was inadvertently stepped on. Backup goalkeeper Bryan Meredith previously left the Whitecaps in Florida due to family reasons, leaving 21-year-old Thomas Hasal to make his Vancouver debut. Hasal finished with one save.

Vancouver coach Marc Dos Santos did not have an update on Crepeau's injury after the match.

"We weren't able to get in, we weren't able to find a player that could have made the difference," Dos Santos said.

NFL urged to address health, safety concerns

WASHINGTON, July 20, (AP): NFL players are publicly pleading with the league to address several health and safety concerns on the eve of training camp.

The league informed teams that training camps will open on time even though discussions with the players' union regarding testing for the coronavirus and other health and safety protocols are ongoing.

Rookies for Houston and Kansas City are set to report Monday and rookies for other teams are due on Tuesday. Players for all teams are scheduled to report by July 28.

Many prominent players expressed their thoughts in a social media blitz Sunday.

"We need Football! We need sports! We need hope!" Saints quarterback Drew Brees wrote on Twitter. "The NFL's unwillingness to follow the rec-

FOOTBALL

ommendations of their own medical experts will prevent that. If the NFL doesn't do their part to keep players healthy there is no football in 2020. It's that simple. Get it done @NFL."

Seahawks quarterback Russell Wilson said he is concerned because his wife, Ciara, is pregnant.

He wrote: "My wife is pregnant. @NFL Training camp is about to start. And there's still No Clear Plan on Player Health & Family Safety. ??? We want to play football but we also want to protect our loved ones. (hashtag)WeWantToPlay."

NFL Players Association executive director DeMaurice Smith and President JC Tretter addressed the union's concerns in a 90-minute videoconference call with reporters on Friday.

They want players tested daily for the virus. A joint committee of doctors, trainers and strength coaches formed by the NFL and NFLPA recommended testing every other day.

Other outstanding issues include number of preseason games. The league has planned to cut the exhibition schedule from four games to two while the union wants none.



In this July 29, 2019 file photo, Dallas Cowboys practice at the NFL football team's training camp in Oxnard, California. (AP)

Fast bowler Amir to join team after child's birth

ISLAMABAD, July 20, (AP): Fast bowler Mohammad Amir will join the Pakistan team for its tour in England after the birth of his second child, the Pakistan Cricket Board.

Amir had pulled out of the tour because the dates clashed with his child's pending birth. The PCB said the child was born last week.

The PCB also decided to fly out masseur Mohammad Imran on the request of team management.

Both Amir and Imran underwent COVID-19 tests on Monday and will need a second test to be eligible to fly to England. They are expected to make the trip this weekend if both tests come back negative.

Reserve wicket-keeper Rohail Nazir will be released from the squad once Amir joins the team.

Pakistan is scheduled to play three Test matches and three Twenty20s against England. The first Test starts on Aug 5.

Players also wanted a 45-day acclimation period to help avoid injuries. The league asked them to report early but the union declined. Questions remain on protections for players who want to opt out of playing.

All 32 teams have sent the union their Infectious Disease Emergency Response that have been approved by

joint infectious disease experts and NFL chief medical officer Dr. Allen Sills, according to a person familiar with the details.

The person, speaking to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity because protocols haven't been finalized, said the union has approved several and continues to review them.

CLASSIFIEDS

What ever you need!



To advertise in this page please call: (+965) 24813566 Ext.: 513 or E-mail: advt@arabtimesonline.com

NAME CHANGE

Abubakr I. Basheer Ahamed
Liyakath Ali Holder of
Indian Passport T0709942
Residing in Kuwait, Khaitan
Block-6, Street-34, Bldg-23A,
Floor-2, Flat-4 Changing my
Son Name from **ABUBAKR**
Passport no. R8277121 to
Given Name **ABUBAKR**
and Surname **BASHEER**
AHAMED full Name read
as **ABUBAKR BASHEER**
AHAMED for all future
purposes

NAME CHANGE

Maryam I. Basheer Ahamed
Liyakath Ali Holder of Indian
Passport T0709942 Residing
in Kuwait, Khaitan Block-6,
Street-34, Bldg-23A, Floor-2,
Flat-4 Changing my Daughter
Name from **MARYAM**
Passport no. R8278971 to
Given Name **MARYAM**
and Surname **BASHEER**
AHAMED full Name read
as **MARYAM BASHEER**
AHAMED for all future
purposes

You want to
rent your house?



You want to sell your used car?

TODAY you have the opportunity to reach
more than 80,000 daily readers for your **ADVERTISEMENT**

Please call: 1838281 Ext.: 175 or Fax: 24911307
E-mail: advt@arabtimesonline.com



www.arabtimesonline.com