

SPORTS

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Newest Buckeye

Northland's Weatherspoon commits in basketball | C2



The Columbus Dispatch

WEDNESDAY

AUGUST 12, 2009

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91st PGA Championship



- When: Thursday through Sunday
- Where: Hazeltine National Golf Club, Chaska, Minn.
- TV: TNT, CBS

Sergio Garcia



PHIL LONG | ASSOCIATED PRESS

10 years later, still no major for Garcia

Golfer hasn't lived up to 1999 expectations

By Rob Oller
THE COLUMBUS DISPATCH

The 19-year-old Spaniard closed his eyes, turned his head and ripped a 6-iron from the rough. As the ball sailed over a rise, Sergio Garcia sprint-hopped up the 16th fairway at Medinah Country Club near Chicago, site of the 1999 PGA Championship.

Did the ball make the green? The shouts and applause from the gallery pulling for Garcia to try to chase down Tiger Woods signaled for the teen to grab his putter.

Ten years later, the former kick-hop kid is still chasing his shot at a major championship. The potential foil for Woods is 0-39 in majors since finishing second at Medinah. Woods, meanwhile, has won 12 majors since collecting his second

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Bengals hope youth can lead to success

By Zach Swartz
THE COLUMBUS DISPATCH

GEORGETOWN, Ky. — The last time the Cincinnati Bengals were this young, they made the playoffs.

With 20 rookies in camp, not counting unsigned first-round pick Andre Smith, the Bengals resemble, in terms of age, the team that reached the postseason in 2005.

They drafted 11 players this year, then signed 10 more as undrafted free agents. Those players enter camp opposite the veterans of today, who were the young stars of '05.

Starting quarterback Carson Palmer had been drafted just two years earlier. Running back Rudi Johnson and receiver T.J. Houshamzadeh had just four years of experience each. Receiver Chris Henry was a rookie. Chad Ochocinco's last name was still Johnson.

Palmer threw for 3,836 yards and 32 touchdowns, Rudi Johnson rushed for 1,458 yards and 12 touchdowns, and the trio of receivers combined for 2,810 yards and 22 TDs. Fans were thrilled as the Bengals made the playoffs for the first time in 15 years.

Only eight players from that team are in camp, including

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OHIO STATE FOOTBALL

Summer projects fill Tressel's plate

Coach must replace Moeller, complete rebuilding of offensive line

By Tim May
THE COLUMBUS DISPATCH

Coach Jim Tressel invited the media to watch Ohio State's second preseason football practice yesterday. When it was done, he seemed to be asked as much about who wasn't on the field as who was.

He confirmed that linebacker Tyler Moeller is out for the season — but his football career might not be over — after suffering a head injury two weeks ago, reportedly while on vacation with his family in Florida. And two seniors, receiver Ray Small and defensive end Robert Rose, remain in limbo wrangling with academic issues that has kept them from being part of the start

of fall camp.

But as yesterday's practice in sweltering heat proved, the beat goes on with the Buckeyes. Tressel and his assistants have a number of projects in this camp, but none more important than the offensive line, whose improvement might be the most pertinent factor in the 2009 team's success.

The first unit picked up the way it left spring practice, with veteran Jim Cordle at right tackle, last year's right tackle Bryant Brown-

ing at right guard, Michael Brewster at center, Michigan transfer Justin Boren at left guard and Andy Miller and Mike Adams fighting it out at left tackle.

"But that doesn't mean if someone looks good at right tackle, that's they're buried there behind Jim Cordle, who is a senior," Tressel said. "If the (backup) right tackle looks better than the two left tackles, you still have a little bit of time" to

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Ohio State coach Jim Tressel keeps a focused eye on the players during an option drill.

KYLE ROBERTSON | DISPATCH

COMMENTARY

ON THE WEB

 To watch a video of Coach Jim Tressel thoughts about yesterday's practice, quarterback Terrelle Pryor and injured linebacker Tyler Moeller, go to www.dispatch.com/multimedia

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Closing practice is probably necessary

The first Ohio State football practice I attended probably drew three or four media people. I say "probably" because I don't remember it.

Woody Hayes was the coach and practices were almost always open to reporters, except during Michigan week. The daily media contingent included at most a half-dozen writers, and on any given day, any or all of them might not show. A lot of people went to bed in



BOB HUNTER

those days not knowing whether Jim Savoca had a bad day of practice on the offensive line. Ignorance was bliss.

Yesterday, coach Jim Tressel let the media in for the entire morning practice, and I stopped counting at 40 media types. That doesn't include the small army of people there from the Big Ten Network, which apparently can't do a show without all of their wives, girlfriends, grandparents, cousins, friends, neighbors and favorite bartenders in attendance. Or maybe it takes all of those people to produce bad TV.

As much as it pains me to say this, I can see now why Tressel might want to close practices. Whether all of those notebooks, cameras, microphones and fringe-media/gawkers are a distraction to the players is debatable, but it is hard not to wonder what kind of information left there and exactly where it was headed.

Coaches tend to be control freaks, and the flow of information can't possibly be controlled. When freshman Duron Carter made a nice grab, I had the urge to whip out my cell phone and fire off a text — "Cris

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Better than Yankee Stadium? Apparently so

By Jim Massie
THE COLUMBUS DISPATCH

BaseballParks.com cast the latest vote that dream matched reality in Huntington Park. The Web site announced yesterday that it had chosen the home of the Clippers as its Ballpark of the Year over 11 other new or renovated facilities.

Size and expense apparently didn't matter because the list included two new major-league ballparks — Yankee Stadium and Citi Field in New York — and the renovated Kauffman Stadium in Kansas City.

The news surprised Clippers president and general manager Ken Schnacke, to say the least.

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