

# GAME PLAN

## OVERHEARD

"I'm finally the guy so many people have wanted me to be for so many years."

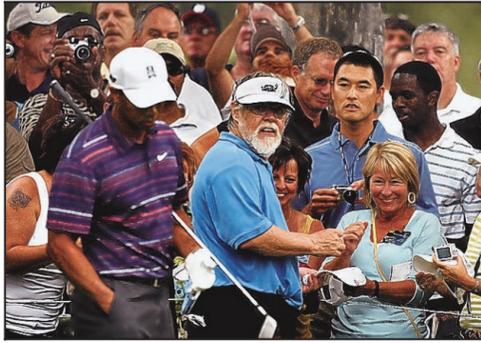
**John Daly**, who says he has lost 80 pounds and quit drinking in his efforts to rediscover his golf game. He's playing in this weekend's Buick Open.



## DON'T MISS THIS

### BUICK OPEN

Tiger Woods is playing in this tournament, which was a surprise to a few people. He tees off just before 1 p.m.; tune to the Golf Channel at 3 to see how he and the rest of the field are doing on the first day.



CARLOS OSORIO | ASSOCIATED PRESS

**Bob Seger**, right, was the main attraction for many fans at yesterday's pro-am in his native Michigan.

## In this group, Woods wasn't the rock star

By David Grant  
ASSOCIATED PRESS

GRAND BLANC TOWNSHIP, Mich. — Bob Seger stood over his ball at the very outer arc of the green, sweat soaking through his blue golf shirt. The Michigan rock 'n' roll legend narrowed his eyes, wiggled his hips and apprehensively eyed a long birdie putt on the fourth hole of the Buick Open Pro-Am tournament. When the ball hit the bottom of the cup, the crowd at Warwick Hills burst into cheers and Seger fired off a fist-punch celebration made famous by the man standing on the other side of the green. Tiger Woods smiled. Seger and Woods headlined the pro-am program, and their fivesomes finished at 8 under par. At least one member of the group paid more than \$100,000 for the opportunity to play with Woods and Seger, who were greeted after every hole by throngs of cheering fans. In many ways, Seger was the main attraction. Seger, 64, graduated from Ann Arbor High School and now makes his home in the suburban Detroit neighborhood of Orchard Lake. At the 16th hole, a home

along the course had Seger's 1978 hit *Old Time Rock 'n' Roll* playing loud and clear on a stereo system. After playing a few holes with Seger on the course a year ago, homeowner Jeff Powell said he wanted to thank Seger for signing his son's guitar. "We had to make him feel at home," said Powell. Noise on the golf course is usually taboo, but Woods was in good spirits about the rock serenade. "If I would have hit off the fairway with a bad drive, I would have blamed it on him. So I hit a good one, so he got the credit," Woods said. He finished strong on 18, but Seger faded noticeably down the stretch. "I haven't walked a golf course in 30 years," Seger said afterward. "I'm a cart guy. I've never done that, ever. So I'm very tired. I feel every 64 years." That didn't bother Sue Babcock, 50, who got Seger to sign a red tournament hat. Having worked at the tournament for several years, Babcock has seen Woods before. The autograph she really wanted was Seger's, she said: "Bob Seger is bigger than Tiger."

## SPORTS WIRE

### HOCKEY NHL board approves Reinsdorf's bid for Coyotes, but not Balsillie's

The NHL Board of Governors approved a bid yesterday by Jerry Reinsdorf to assume ownership of the financially troubled Phoenix Coyotes and unanimously rejected an application by Canadian billionaire Jim Balsillie. The group headed by Reinsdorf, owner of the Chicago White Sox and Chicago Bulls, was the only one of three applicants to gain the board's approval. That vote was unanimous, commissioner Gary Bettman said. The board convened a special meeting in Chicago to evaluate each group's applications before an eventual sale of the Coyotes, who were taken into Chapter 11 bankruptcy May 5 by current owner Jerry Moyes. Bettman said the process was necessary to comply with the NHL's constitution and bylaws, and an order by U.S. Bankruptcy Court Judge Redfield T. Baum. "We will so advise the bankruptcy court and we will move this process forward," Bettman said. An application by a third group, led by Anthony LeBlanc of Thunder Bay, Ontario, was deemed incomplete, Bettman said. That consortium, however, was encouraged by the board to continue with the application process.

**LEGAL FILE  
Ex-Jaguar Smith pleads no contest to drunken driving charges**  
Former Jacksonville Jaguars receiver Jimmy Smith pleaded no contest to three charges stemming from a drunken driving arrest in August. Duval County Court Judge Brent Shore placed Smith on 12 months probation and ordered to him serve 50 hours of community service. Shore also imposed fines and court costs of about \$1,100. Shore told Smith he wanted him to spend his community service time speaking to children and youth groups. After leaving the courtroom, Smith said he planned to follow the judges instructions. "Addiction is a disease. I am going to be the one who beats it," said Smith, who has spent 90 days in a rehabilitation center in Houston. Smith pleaded no contest to DUI, possession of marijuana and posses-



JOHN LOK | THE SEATTLE TIMES

**Spray hitter** On the hottest day in Seattle history, Nancy Hershgold engages in a friendly water fight with a co-worker. They were among the 32,000 who turned out yesterday in 102-degree heat to see the Mariners beat the Toronto Blue Jays 3-2 in Safeco Field.

sion of drug paraphernalia stemming from an arrest Aug. 28 when he tried to drive around a DUI checkpoint. • Even though he left no will, former NFL quarterback Steve McNair's entire immediate family has been provided for under instructions he left before his death. McNair's former agent, James "Bus" Cook, said that McNair's wife, Michelle, is not trying to exclude McNair's mother and two children he had with other women. McNair was killed July 4 in a murder-suicide committed by Sahel Kazemi.

**GOLF  
Lancaster's White advances at Women's Ohio Amateur**  
Allie White defeated medalist Kelsey Lindenschmidt in one of the featured second-round matches in the championship flight at the 86th Women's Ohio Amateur at O'Bannon Creek Golf Club in Loveland. White, a former standout high school golfer from Lancaster who plays at North Carolina, won 4-3. West Chester's Lindenschmidt, the 2004 winner, led the field with a 72 on Monday. Defending champion Frederique Bruell of Shaker Heights got by Hilliard's Erin Cahill 3-2. Two-time winner Emma Jandel of Dayton beat Columbus' Deb McNi-

chols 7-6. Eight matches were played in the championship flight. The quarterfinals and semifinals will be today, with the two finalists playing 36 holes Friday.

**ELSEWHERE  
Crew's Champions League schedule includes three home games**  
The Crew will play Champions League home games Aug. 18, Sept. 23 and Sept. 29 and road games Aug. 26, Sept. 16 and Oct. 20. The first and last games will be played against the winner of a preliminary-round series between Toronto FC and the Puerto Rico Islanders. The Crew will play Aug. 26 and Sept. 23 against the winner of the Cruz Azul (Mexico)-Herediano (Costa Rica) series and Aug. 18 and Sept. 16 against Saprissa (Costa Rica). Ticket information will be announced at a later date. • The USA women's basketball team crushed Japan 109-68 and reached the medal round of the FIBA Under-19 World Championship Tournament in Bangkok, Thailand. Ohio State point guard Samantha Prahals scored 12 points and had four assists. USA (5-1) plays France (3-3) in a quarterfinal Friday.

— From staff and wire reports

## ON THE AIR

SPORT	TIME	EVENT	TV	RADIO
Action sports	9 p.m.	X Games	ESPN	
Baseball	12:30 p.m.	San Diego-Cincinnati		WYTS 1230
	2 p.m.	Houston-Chicago Cubs	WGN	
	7 p.m.	Columbus-Lehigh Valley		WMNI 920
Boxing	10 p.m.	Cunningham-Adamek	Versus	
Golf	9 a.m.	European Silesia Open	Golf	
	10 a.m.	Women's British Open	TNT	
	1 p.m.	U.S. Senior Open	ESPN	
	3 p.m.	PGA Buick Open	Golf	
	6:30 p.m.	N'wide Children's Hosp. Inv.	Golf	
Tennis	3 p.m.	WTA Bank of the West	ESPN2	
	10 p.m.	ATP L.A. Open	ESPN2	

The Dispatch is not responsible for changes, preemptions or interruptions of programming.

## FIVE GAMES OUT

Team	Time	Opponent	Time	Opponent
Cincinnati Reds	12:35 p.m.	San Diego	7:05 p.m.	Lehigh Valley
Columbus Clippers	7:10 p.m.	Colorado	7:05 p.m.	Lehigh Valley
Cleveland Indians	7:10 p.m.	Colorado	7:05 p.m.	Lehigh Valley
Columbus Crew	1:10 p.m.	Colorado	7:05 p.m.	Lehigh Valley

## HOW TO REACH US

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► Schools or coaches can report game results after 6 p.m. by calling 614-461-5234.  
► Amateur Listings (college scholarship announcements, meetings, coach openings, outdoors notices) can be faxed to 614-461-8798.

## Some sites

COLLEGE BOUND ATHLETIC CONNECTION	TAKKLE	PREPCHAMPS	GOTGAME?MEDIA
► Web site: www.gocollegebound.org	► Web site: www.tackle.com	► Web site: www.prep-champs.com/dashboard	► Web site: www.gotgame-recruiting.com
► Cost: \$99, \$169, \$199	► Cost: Free	► Cost: Free	► Cost: \$24.99/month
► Launched: 1999	► Launched: 2006	► Launched: 2008	► Launched: 2009
► Based in: Columbus	► Based in: New York	► Based in: Raleigh, N.C.	► Based in: Columbus, Athens

## RECRUITS

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exposure. Many have offered services to thousands of kids. Tackle, one of the most widely used, was also one of the first to weld social media with athletic recruiting. Free to join, Tackle allows high school athletes to create profiles using photos, videos and statistics and to converse with other users. Coaches, who keep in contact with site administrators to contact recruits, can browse through profiles, aided by the site's player-ranking system. Newer startups are offering more active services than those of social networking. PrepChamps, a North Carolina-based site founded by former Ohio Northern University football player Dean Bundschu, allows athletes to upload facts and figures. The site has updated the process by organizing the data by city and school, and it also sponsors camps and scouting combines. One of the most innovative companies is GotGame?Media, which kicked off its site, gotgame-recruiting.com, in January, is based in Athens and Columbus. For \$24.99 a month, kids can work with representatives to find the right college, but the company has taken it to a new level. GotGame?Media's technology lets coaches enter the rosters from their previous 10 seasons into a pro-

"This kind of service is very useful for a kid who is not already a blue-chipper to get exposed naturally."

**RANDY EMRICH**  
College Bound Athletic Connection

gram that produces data on who their most desirable athletes are. The program then matches that information to athletes registered with the site. Soon, coaches will be able to enter that data into a cell-phone application that will spit out the names and locations of all area athletes who fit the profile and provide directions to them. "It's a combination of Monster and eHarmony," said founder MarKel Snyder, a technologist by trade. "We are eHarmony.com, except we're not matching for love; we're matching for athletic talent." The evolution raises the question: Is the Internet the only future for recruiting? Ohio University sports administration professor Heather Lawrence, who has spent most of her professional career in intercollegiate athletics, says yes and no. "Electronic communication, in one form or another, is the future of it, because even the cost of putting a stamp on a packet of information adds up so quickly for these programs," said Lawrence, who also works with GotGame?Media. "However, the one thing that you cannot duplicate is

finding out a kid's character." That's why most sites consider themselves a tool — a "good first step," as Bundschu put it — to hook up coach with player. "The main way college coaches are recruiting now, they certainly use the Internet as a supplement," Lawrence said. "For most of them, it is not their first way they go looking for student-athletes." Because the most talented athletes will get noticed on their own, the sites are most useful for athletes looking at the lower NCAA divisions or NAIA schools, as well as those playing sports that don't generate significant revenue. "This kind of service is very useful for a kid who is not already a blue-chipper to get exposed naturally," Emrich said. "Anybody can come and get us to work for them." But when the NCAA is involved, so too are its by-laws. Although the NCAA cannot regulate private companies, the sites must keep in mind its rules, which control when and how coaches can contact recruits. No NCAA rules directly address recruiting Web sites, but regulations on e-mail-

ing, text messaging and social-networking media have been tackled. Because NCAA legislation is reactive, it would take a university complaint to suggest a rule change. And because of the NCAA's complex process of enacting regulations, Lawrence said rules can often be two to five years behind where they should be. Before online recruiting, coaches had problems not with finding prospects but with having too much information on the ones they had. Online recruiting aids have simplified and accelerated that process. "Because of generational gaps, coaches just don't know how to use the Internet to recruit," Snyder said. "What we're doing is making a platform that makes it much easier to look out across the Internet, to find information that is relevant to them, and then they find the information they need." The system is not fool-proof. After one year at Concordia, Spadafore transferred last season to NCAA Division III powerhouse Mount Union College in Alliance, Ohio. His parents wanted him closer to home, and Concordia had finished 4-7. The world of online recruiting considers itself a tool, not a panacea. "I don't know if we'll ever be able to take over," Bundschu said. "The best way is still physical contact." zswartz@dispatch.com