

Masters gather for tourney

AUGUSTA, Ga. (AP) — Nick Faldo, the tall Englishman with the elegant swing, will be seeking an unprecedented third consecutive Masters title and the famed green jacket that goes to the winner of the first of the year's four major golf championships.

Faldo has completed his final practice session for the tournament that begins Thursday on the flowered, rolling hills of the Augusta National Golf Club course.

"I'm not thinking of defending or repeating," he said. "I'm just thinking of playing 72 holes of good golf."

"Of course I want to win. That's what I'll be trying to do. But to do that, I have to play good golf. That's what I was trying to do last year. My approach this year is the same."

Faldo, now recognized as the best

player in the world, pointed to five men as the major stumbling blocks in his quest for a replacement.

"Woosie," he said. That's Ian Woosnam, the 5-foot, 4 1/2-inch fireplug Welshman who scored a recent victory in New Orleans.

"Jose Maria Olazabal," Faldo continued, naming the young Spaniard who put together a record-breaking scoring performance last fall in the World Series of Golf.

"Curtis and Watson have been playing better lately," he said. "And (Steve) Elkington. He played awfully well in the Players Championship."

"There's bound to be more," Faldo said. "Some new guys, some young guys."

"This is Augusta. There's always some of those, the guys who have you looking at the leaderboard and saying

"Who?"

No such question is necessary about some other likely contenders: Seve Ballesteros of Spain, Greg Norman of Australia and, possibly, Jack Nicklaus, the only other man to win consecutive Masters titles.

Nicklaus, the only six-time winner of the Masters, comes into Augusta fresh off a repeat victory in a Senior Tour event in Scottsdale, Ariz.

Although he's now 51, Nicklaus is convinced he can become the first man to win on both the regular tour and the Seniors in the same season.

"If I didn't think I could win, I wouldn't bother to play," he said.

Watson recently has offered glimpses of the form and flair that helped him to five British Open titles and made him a six-time player of the year.

"I think I'm playing well enough to win," Watson said.

And Ballesteros, like Watson, trying to climb out of slump, was exuding the old confidence he showed in two Masters and three British Open victories.

"I feel better about my game, about myself, about the week, than I have in a long, long time," the Spanish star said.

Among the leading home-grown products are Rocco Mediate and Paul Azinger, who led the American tour through the early part of the season.

Mediate, who uses a 49-inch putter, scored his first tour event victory and hasn't finished lower than 15th this season. Azinger has one victory, a second-place and a third-place finish.

Stewart stays April-perfect

OAKLAND, Calif. (AP) — Dave Stewart arrived in training camp in February ready to pitch a regular season game and by Opening Day he is ready to dominate hitters.

Twenty victories without a loss in his last 21 April starts, makes the Oakland A's pitcher baseball's best headstarter. It has helped carry him to four consecutive 20-victory seasons.

"It's conditioning, run production, good defense, all the factors you need to win," Stewart said after recording his first win of 1991 Tuesday night, 7-2 over the Minnesota Twins.

"I've been getting all of them in April... I arrive at spring training ready to pitch. I'm getting older, or

so I'm told, so I adjust accordingly, and I get myself ready."

Stewart arrived in Arizona two weeks before the A's were to open camp. He was throwing long and hard off the mound, several days before the other pitchers and catchers arrived.

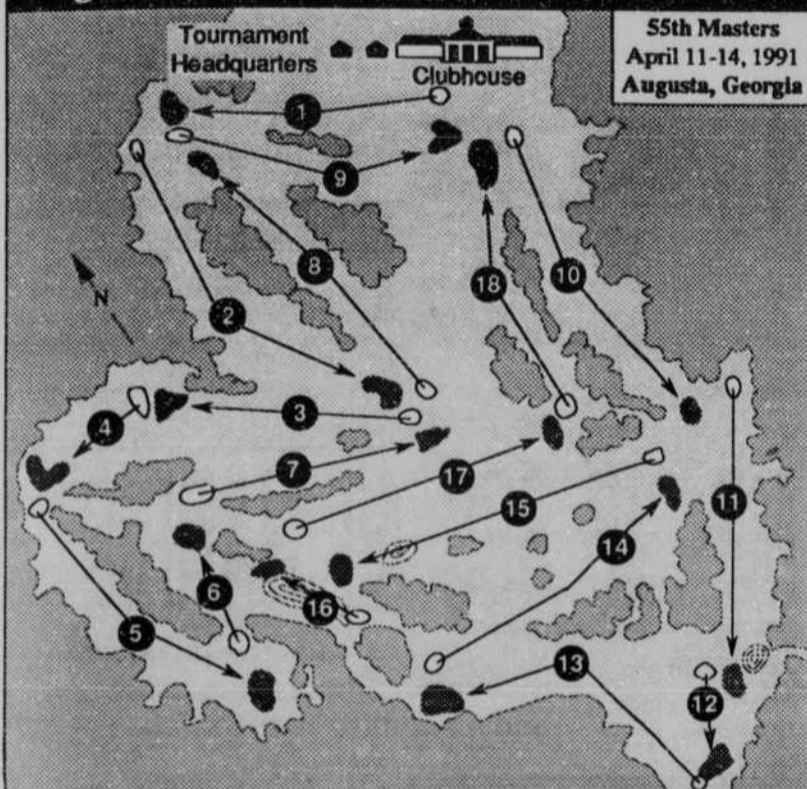
Stewart's fourth consecutive Opening Day victory ran his April streak to 20-0, with a 2.61 ERA since April 15, 1987. He has allowed just 127 hits in 152 innings.

Stewart said he could not remember the last time he lost a game in April. He guessed 1985.

When told by reporters that his last April loss came in 1987, Stewart said: "God, that's a pretty good little streak."

The 55th Masters 1991

Augusta National Golf Club



Hole	Par	Yards	Hole	Par	Yards
1	4	400	10	4	485
2	5	555	11	4	455
3	4	360	12	3	155
4	3	205	13	5	465
5	4	435	14	4	405
6	3	180	15	5	500
7	4	360	16	3	170
8	5	535	17	4	400
9	4	435	18	4	405
OUT	36	3,465	IN	36	3,440
		TOTAL	72	6,905	

Royals win behind Appier, Tartabull

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP) — Kevin Appier pitched eight shutout innings and Danny Tartabull drove in the only run Wednesday as the Kansas City Royals beat the Cleveland Indians 1-0.

Appier struck out four and walked one. Jeff Montgomery pitched a hitless ninth for the save, his second this

season. Charles Nagy, the loser, allowed seven hits in eight innings, the longest outing of his career.

The Royals scored in the third when Kevin Seitzer walked with one out, took second on George Brett's single and scored on Tartabull's single. The Royals are 2-1 this season.

Rec Scoreboard

Results from Tuesday's games.

Co-rec softball

AB

Gamma Phi Beta 15, Alpha Gamma Sigma/AZD 1; LCA/Alpha Chi Omega 13, FCA 0; Chi Phi 16, Triangle 9; Pure

Athletes 10, Prichard's dry riders 8; Volleybatters 5, Beta Sigma Psi 4; Delta Tau Delta by forfeit over Bad Habit.

BC

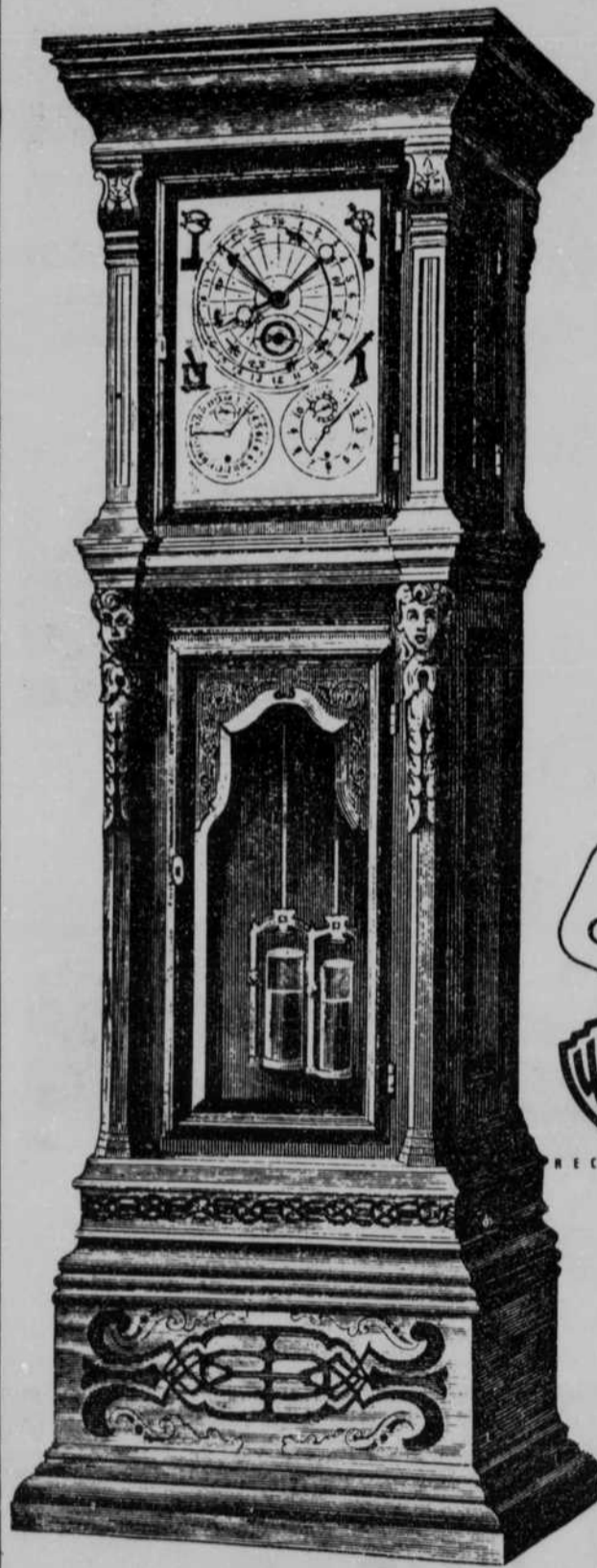
ETC 4, Abel 4/Sandoz 7 2; Ace in the Hole 12, 69ers 4; Free Dirt 9, The Sapps 1.

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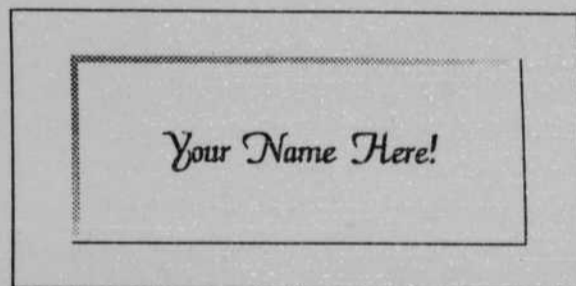
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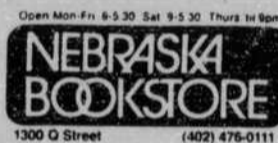
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