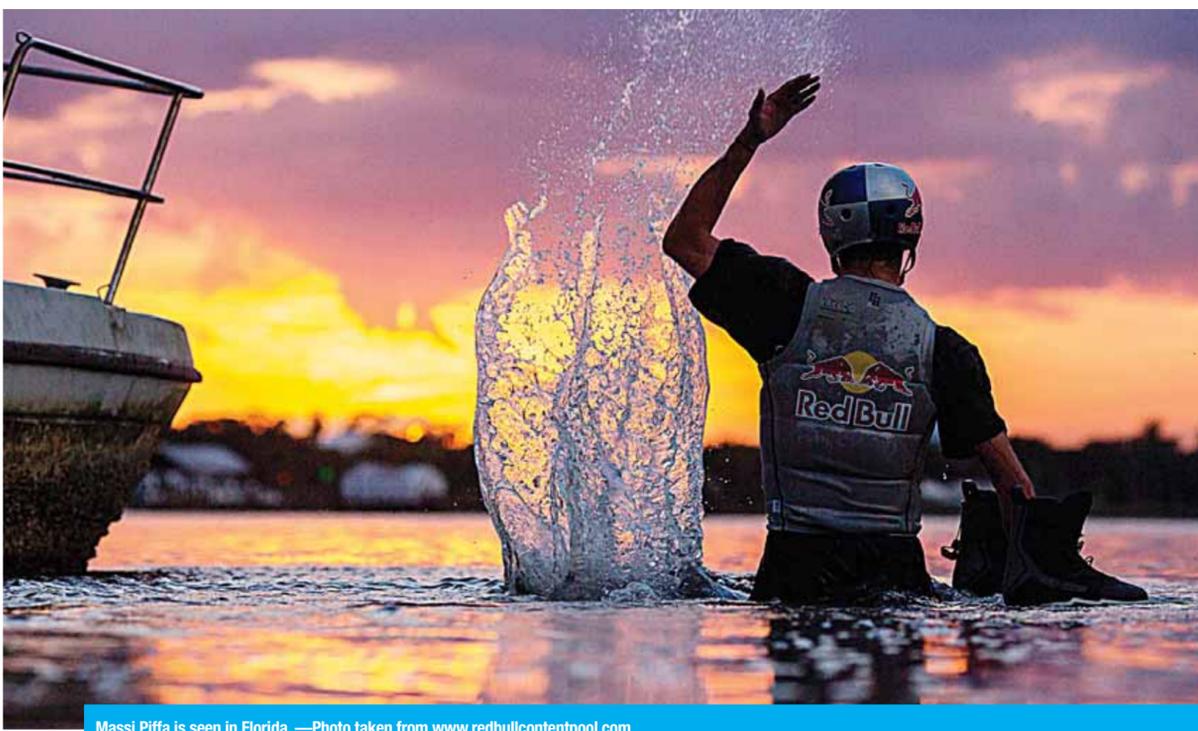


Sports

Photo of the day



Massi Piffa is seen in Florida. —Photo taken from www.redbullcontentpool.com

Garcia closes with birdie to win the PGA Sanderson Farms title

The first US PGA title since capturing 2017 Masters

WASHINGTON: Sergio Garcia made a tap-in birdie on the 72nd hole to win the Sanderson Farms Championship on Sunday, taking his first US PGA title since capturing the 2017 Masters. The 40-year-old Spaniard dropped his approach inside 3 1/2 feet and eagled the par-5 14th to match US clubhouse leader Peter Malnati, then landed an 8-iron from 171 yards just 2 1/2 feet from the cup at 18 and made the winning putt. "It's pretty sweet," Garcia said after a smile and fist pump in celebration. "It's great. Obviously a lot of hard work."

Garcia fired a five-under par 67 to finish 72 holes at the Country Club of Jackson, Mississippi, on 19-under 269 and edge Malnati, who was in the clubhouse with the lead for two hours, by a stroke. "This game is my dream job," Malnati said. "I get to do it every day. It beats me up and it's tough. To have a day like today, what I did out there, just felt awesome. I feel like I won the tournament." Garcia dedicated the victory to his father, Victor Garcia, who has seen two brothers die because of Covid-19.

"It has been tough," Garcia said. "I lost two uncles because of Covid. It has been tough for my dad. But this one was for him." Garcia, who won his first US PGA title as a father, has won three times on the European Tour since capturing the green jacket but is only ranked 51st in the world. "Keep believing. Keep working hard. Keep your mind right," Garcia said of the keys to his victory. "I've also been able to find a couple things here and there that obviously have helped."

"It feels great to stand there on 18 to rip a nice

draw and hit an 8-iron and make a putt." Malnati fired a bogey-free 63 - a career low and one off Roberto Castro's course record - to set the score to beat at 18-under 270. Malnati won his only PGA title at the 2015 Sanderson Farms, but he had only managed three PGA top-10s since then.

Malnati sets a mark

The world number 312 birdied three of the first four holes on putts from nine to 12 feet, rolled in a six-foot birdie putt at the eighth and began the back nine with three birdies in a row and another at 15. Malnati holed a 32-foot birdie putt at the par-4 17th and left the last groups a challenge. Malnati began the day five strokes adrift of co-leaders Garcia, JT Poston and Cameron Davis, an Australian who never recovered from three front-nine bogeys.

Garcia birdied two of the first three holes and answered bogeys at the sixth and eighth each time with birdies on the next hole, then made the eagle to match Malnati. Garcia sought his fourth birdie of the week at 15 but found the right rough and a greenside bunker before holing a four-foot par putt, building the drama to the final hole. Poston birdied the fifth and sixth, made his first 3-putt of the week to bogey seven, then sank a 10-foot birdie putt at the 10th and a 16-foot birdie putt at the par-5 14th to pull one off Malnati.

But Poston found the rough and a bunker at 16 and couldn't save par from 13 feet, then closed with two pars to shoot 70 and finish third on 272. American Keegan Bradley made a late charge

sional last year. Song, ranked 91st, also missed out on her first LPGA triumph in her 220th career start. World number 74 Reid stretched her lead to three strokes with an eight-foot birdie putt at the par-3 11th to reach 18-under while Song missed a four-foot par putt and joined Kupcho on 15-under. Reid rolled in another birdie at the par-4 12th, her fourth birdie in five holes, to reach 19-under, boosting her advantage to four shots.

Kupcho birdied the 13th to pull within three, but Reid sank a clutch 12-foot par putt at the par-3 15th and Kupcho made a three-putt bogey at the 16th, restoring Reid's four-shot edge. Reid found the rough at the par-3 17th, chipped out to 20 feet and missed her par putt, taking a bogey and her lead was down to two shots on the 18th tee after Song and Kupcho each birdied 17 to reach 16-under. Song, Kupcho and Reid all found the right rough on the par-5 finishing hole. Kupcho blasted onto the front of the green while Song rolled into greenside rough.

Reid smacked a 6-iron within 15 feet of the cup on the edge of the green to all-but seal the victory. "It came out better (than I expected)," Reid said. "We figured being short was fine. Obviously was disappointed at 17. We didn't want to do anything stupid." Kupcho missed a 50-foot eagle putt but tapped-in for birdie while Song settled for par. Reid rolled her eagle putt inches from the cup and tapped in for birdie and the victory, hugging her caddie before friends sprayed her with champagne.

Reid birdied two of the first three holes but stumbled with bogeys at the par-4 sixth, after leaving her approach in rough shy of the green, and par-3 seventh, a tap-in par putt horse-shoe-ing the lip of the cup and staying out to fall one back of Song. But Reid answered with birdies at the eighth and par-5

also in the mix. Alaphilippe moved left from a lead position to knock Hirschi and Pogacar out of contention but as the Frenchman raised his arms, Roglic continued racing and beat the Frenchman over the line. The world champion was later relegated to fifth by race officials, and was as embarrassed as he was apologetic.

"That is the first and last time you'll ever see me celebrate too soon," he said. "I'm really sorry for Hirschi, I have seen the images and I swerve. That won't happen again either." Hirschi was in forgiving mood. "He moved, hit my wheel, that can happen," said Hirschi. That left three Slovenians in the top four with Pogacar second and Matej Mohoric fourth



MISSISSIPPI: Sergio Garcia of Spain celebrates with the trophy after winning the Sanderson Farms Championship at The Country Club of Jackson on October 04, 2020. —AFP

thanks to a 60-foot eagle putt at the par-5 11th and birdies on 14 and 15, but the 2011 PGA Championship winner closed with a bogey and settled for a share of fourth on 273. Sweden's Henrik Norlander was also on 273 after shooting 65, aided by eagles at the par-4 15th, on a stunning 60-foot putt after driving the green, and the par-5 third on a 38-foot putt. —AFP



GALLOWAY: Mel Reid of England kisses the trophy after winning the ShopRite LPGA Classic presented by Acer on the Bay Course at Seaview Hotel and Golf Club on October 04, 2020. —AFP

ninth to reclaim the lead by one on 17-under at the turn. Kupcho stumbled with a bogey at the fourth and a double bogey at eight, but birdies at nine and 10 lifted her back into contention. —AFP

behind Hirschi. The win marks a redemption for Roglic, who led the Tour de France for two weeks before a final-day meltdown. Instead of going under, the former ski-jumper can now close his season with a prestige win.

"It's unbelievable. It was so close. It goes to show you can never stop believing and never stop pushing until the last centimeter," said the 30-year-old Roglic. "It was the first time I did the oldest race in the calendar. It was on my wish list to win a Monument. I'm super happy I managed to win," he said. Former soldier Alaphilippe took the defeat on the chin and also praised the winner. "We have a great winner in Primoz Roglic," he said. "I made a

News in brief

Shakhtar in self-isolation

KIEV: Six Shakhtar Donetsk players will miss Ukraine's friendly with World Cup winners France tomorrow after the club went into self-isolation following positive COVID-19 tests for two players, Ukraine's football association said. Ukrainian champions Shakhtar reported late Sunday their goalkeeper Andriy Pyatov and midfielder Taras Stepanenko, who had both been named in the squad to play les Bleus, had tested positive for coronavirus. "All Shakhtar representatives are going to self-isolate," the club said in a statement, adding all the staff, including players, will be tested again within four days. It means that another four Shakhtar representatives in the national team - Mykola Matviyenko, Viktor Kovalenko, Marlos and Junior Moraes - will miss the trip to Paris, Ukraine's FA said. —AFP

Sao Paulo winless run goes on

CURITIBA: Sao Paulo drew 1-1 away at Coritiba on Sunday to extend their winless run to seven games despite having two-thirds of the possession and most of the chances. Robson opened the scoring for Coritiba after six minutes but Reinaldo equalised from the penalty spot for Sao Paulo in the 69th minute. The result, coupled with Flamengo's 3-1 win over Athletico Paranaense, means Sao Paulo fall into fifth place in the Serie A table, four points behind leaders Atletico Mineiro. Coritiba are fourth bottom of the table with 12 points from 13 games. —Reuters

Woman jockey makes history

PARIS: Jessica Marcialis made French racing history on Sunday becoming the first woman jockey to win a Group One race landing the Prix Marcel Boussac on Tiger Tanaka. Even better for the 30-year-old Italian, who resumed her career after becoming a mother, her partner Charley Rossi trains Tiger Tanaka. Tiger Tanaka and Marcialis have risen from winning at a very modest level earlier this season to landing France's most prestigious race for two-year-old fillies and on Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe day. "I want to say to all the mums that we can do it, so to be strong," said Marcialis, who first rode competitively in 2013. "It's ladies day! I never thought I would get to 30 and win a Group One race. "When I came past the winning post all I could think about was Charley and our young son who is here too. —AFP

PSG sign Pereira on loan

PARIS: French champions Paris Saint-Germain yesterday announced the loan signing of Danilo Pereira from Porto. The 29-year-old midfielder, who has won 39 caps for Portugal, has signed until June 30, 2021, with an option to buy. Pereira made 202 appearances for Porto, scoring 19 goals and winning the Portuguese league twice (2018 and 2020), the Portuguese Supercup (2018) and the League Cup (2020). "It's a new challenge for me, and to be part of Paris Saint-Germain fits my ambitions," Pereira said. "Joining one of the biggest clubs in Europe and in the world is a huge moment in my career, and I hope to be able to bring a lot to Paris and its supporters." —AFP

Ulissi wins Giro 2nd stage

AGRIGENTO: UAE Team Emirates' Italian Diego Ulissi won an uphill dash for the line on stage 2 of the Giro d'Italia on Sunday as compatriot Filippo Ganna kept the overall leader's pink jersey. The victory ahead of Peter Sagan was Ulissi's seventh on the Giro and follows Ganna's home crowd pleasing win on Saturday. "We played the tactics just right, as we had planned in the morning briefing," said Ulissi, backed by mainly Italian coaches. Race favorite, Team Ineos captain Geraint Thomas, and the main contenders for the three-week event all finished together on the Sicilian hilltop. On a sizzling afternoon the peloton left Alcamo to run through the Valley of the Temples with their Minoan archaeological ruins, but the southern coast chalk cliffs and rolling breakers out at sea provided an equally attractive backdrop. —AFP

Toulouse's Toulon victory

PARIS: South African Rugby World Cup winner Cheslin Kolbe kept up his impressive early season try scoring record by crossing in Toulouse's 39-19 French Top 14 win over Toulon on Sunday. Kolbe has dotted down five times in as many games since the restart and his first half touch-down at Stade Ernest Wallon helped his side to a 25-0 lead at the break. Kolbe's outfit finished with 14 men after replacement prop Rodrigue Neti was sent off for a shoulder charge at a ruck with 20 minutes to play and missed out on a bonus points for scoring three tries more than their opponents. "We started really well and at half-time we knew Toulon's pride would bring them back into it. They showed it a lot in the second half but we grit our teeth and kept the lead." Toulouse fly-half Romain Ntamack told Canal. —AFP

Watson, du Plessis fire up Chennai

DUBAI: Veterans Shane Watson and Faf du Plessis rewarded Chennai Super Kings' faith in sticking with their old guard after leading their team to a thumping 10-wicket Indian Premier League win. Watson, aged 39, struck form with an attacking 83 in an unbeaten 181-run opening stand with the 36-year-old du Plessis, who plundered 87, as Chennai thrashed Kings XI Punjab on Sunday. Led by 39-year-old Mahendra Singh Dhoni, the three-time Indian Premier League winners are labeled "Dad's Army" by the media and they ended a run of three consecutive defeats by keeping to a philosophy of backing their ageing players. While South Africa's in-from du Plessis struck his third half-century of the season, it was Australian Watson's return to form that enabled the team to bounce back. —AFP

Agony for Alaphilippe as Primoz Roglic wins Liege-Bastogne-Liege

LIEGE: Slovenia's Primoz Roglic pipped an already celebrating Julian Alaphilippe to the line Sunday at cycling's top Belgian one-day classic Liege-Bastogne-Liege. The epic 257km run through the Ardennes culminated with four of the hottest racers in the world contesting the finish, with Tour de France winner Tadej Pogacar and Swiss Marc Hirschi

mistake and I have to take full responsibility for it," said the Frenchman who might have been more embarrassed without the decision to strip him of second place.

"The only thing to do is get on with the next race now," said Alaphilippe, who rides for Belgian team Deceuninck-Quick Step. Belgium's Grevan Avermaet is likely to miss the rest of the season after falling at around 100km from the finish. His CCC outfit said later on Sunday the 2017 Paris-Roubaix winner suffered various injuries including breaking three ribs. The five Monuments are the very long one day races with Milan-San Remo, Paris Roubaix, the Tour of Flanders and the Giro Di Lombardia. —AFP