

# SPORTS



JAY LAPRETE/ASSOCIATED PRESS

Tiger Woods celebrates with his caddie Steve Williams after chipping in for eagle on the 11th hole during the final round of the Memorial Tournament Sunday in Dublin, Ohio.

## Tiger restores the roar

By Doug Ferguson  
ASSOCIATED PRESS

DUBLIN, Ohio — Two holes, two towering shots, two clutch birdies.

Just like that, Tiger Woods broke out of a four-way tie and won the Memorial on Sunday with a 7-under 65 to cap off a high-charged comeback. And just as suddenly, he silenced the skeptics who wondered if he was ready to defend his title in the U.S. Open in two weeks at Bethpage Black.

"I knew I could do this," Woods said after birdies on

the final two holes gave him a one-shot victory. "I was close to winning, but the game wasn't quite there when I really needed it on Sunday. I rectified that."

First came a 9-iron at No. 17 that Woods launched as high as he could, allowing the ball to land softly on the top shelf of a rock-hard green for a 9-foot birdie putt. More brilliance followed on the 18th, when Woods hit a 7-iron from 183 yards that stopped a foot from the hole, wrapping up his fourth title at Muirfield Village.

Then came a bold observation by tournament host Jack Nicklaus. He had said earlier in the week that Woods, with 14 career majors, would probably break his record of 18 majors in a couple of years.

"I suspect No. 15 will come for Tiger Woods in about two weeks," Nicklaus said at the trophy presentation. "If he drives the ball this way, and plays this way, I'm sure it will. And if not, it will surprise me greatly."

There were no surprises for Woods, the best sign of all.

He hit the ball where he was aiming and found every fairway in the final round, the first time he had done that on the PGA Tour in more than five years. He missed only five fairways all week, his best performance off the tee since the 1998 Masters.

"It was nice to play this well going into the U.S. Open," Woods said. "This is how you have to hit it in order to win U.S. Opens."

Jim Furyk made a 20-foot birdie putt on the final hole that gave him a 69 to finish alone in second.

## No doubts from Mo this time

By Howie Rumberg  
ASSOCIATED PRESS

NEW YORK — A day after one of his worst relief outings, Mariano Rivera was right where he wanted to be: back on the mound.

Unlike Saturday, when his manager ordered him to walk

YANKEES	4
RAYS	3

Longoria, Rivera got his chance to face Tampa Bay's slugger, this time with two outs in the ninth inning and a one-run lead to protect.

And the outcome was more familiar. Rivera got Longoria to ground meekly to second, closing out the New York Yankees' 4-3, come-from-behind victory over the Rays on Sunday for his 495th career save.

"I guess Mo was right," Yankees manager Joe Girardi said.

Nick Swisher hit the 100th home run at the new Yankee Stadium, helping Girardi earn his 200th win as a manager. Alfredo Aceves (4-1) pitched two scoreless innings in New York's major league-leading 20th comeback victory this season.

"It's the comeback kids," Swisher said. "In a sense it just feels like that. When we get in those situations we hunker down and really, really get after the guy."

Hideki Matsui beat out a potential double-play grounder to drive in the go-ahead run during a three-run eighth inning, setting the stage for Rivera's 13th save of the season.

Rivera was upset after being forced to intentionally walk an ailing Longoria to face B.J. Upton in the Rays' four-run ninth inning of a 9-7 victory Saturday. On Sunday, however, he said he didn't second-guess his manager and had forgotten the outing before the game.

Please see YANKS on B3

## Built to last

### L.A. had no fear of losing Kobe

By Brian Mahoney  
ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOS ANGELES — Imagine the NBA draft, not the NBA finals, being the big event for the Los Angeles Lakers this summer.

Picture Blake Griffin being ticketed for the Lakers, not the Clippers, who worked out the presumed No. 1 pick Saturday while their Staples Center co-tenants were practicing for Game 2 of the finals.

Would any of it have been possible if Kobe Bryant had switched sides five years ago?

The Lakers probably wouldn't be in the finals, where they brought a 1-0 lead over the Orlando Magic into Game 2 on Sunday night. But they don't think they would have tumbled into lottery land, either.

Bryant's teammates — and even Bryant himself — believe the Lakers would have remained a successful team, because that's what their organization is supposed to do.

"Even though it would look different, not seeing him in a Laker uniform, to say that the Lakers would have been in the dumps forever is a tough one for me to say," guard Derek Fisher said.

Bryant, the league's MVP last season and runner-up this one, agrees he could have been replaced.

"You know, in every sport certain organizations always seem to find a way, and I believe the Lakers are one of them," he said. "The Celtics obviously had a drought, but they put themselves back in the hunt. You look at baseball, the Yankees will always be around, the Red Sox will always be around. There's certain organizations that seem to find a way, and I believe the Lakers are one of them."



MARK J. TERRILL/ASSOCIATED PRESS

Lakers forward Trevor Ariza shoots as Magic forward Marcin Gortat defends during the first half of Game 2 of the NBA Finals Sunday night in Los Angeles. The game was not over at press time.

## Federer wins 1st French Open to complete Slam

By Howard Fendrich  
ASSOCIATED PRESS

PARIS — Oh, how Roger Federer savored every moment with his first French Open trophy.

He raised it overhead. He cradled it in the crook of his elbow. He closed his eyes and kissed it. He examined the names of other champions etched on its base. Even in a downpour on Court Philippe Chatrier, as heavy, gray clouds blocked any shred of sunlight Sunday, that silver trophy sure seemed to glisten.

Finally, the lone major championship that had eluded Federer was his. With his latest masterful performance, Federer tied Pete Sampras' record of 14 major

### Elite crowd

	Aus	Fren	Wimb	U.S. Total
Roger Federer	3	1	5	5 14
Pete Sampras	2	-	7	5 14
Roy Emerson	6	2	2	2 12
Bjorn Borg	-	6	5	- 11
Rod Laver	3	2	4	2 11
Bill Tilden	-	-	3	7 10
Andre Agassi	4	1	1	2 8
Jimmy Connors	1	-	2	5 8
Ivan Lendl	2	3	-	3 8
Fred Perry	1	1	3	3 8
Ken Rosewall	4	2	-	2 8

singles titles and became the sixth man to complete a career Grand Slam.

History was at stake, and Federer was at his best, completely outplaying No. 23-seeded Robin Soderling of Sweden en route to a 6-1, 7-6 (1), 6-4 victory in a French Open final that lacked suspense but not significance.

"Maybe my greatest victo-

ry — or certainly the one that takes the most pressure off my shoulders," Federer said in French, moments after dropping to his knees, caking them with clay, as his 127 mph service winner ended the match. "I think that now, and until the end of my career, I can really play with my mind at peace and no longer hear that I've never won at Roland Garros."

Federer came heartbreakingly close in the past, losing the previous three French Open finals, so there certainly was something poetic about his tying Sampras' Grand Slam mark at this particular tournament.

"Now that he's won in Paris, I think it just more so-

lidifies his place in history as the greatest player that played the game," Sampras told AP. "If there's anyone that deserves it, it's Roger. He's come so close — lost to one guy who's going to go down as probably the greatest clay-courtier of all time."

That would be Rafael Nadal, the man who beat Federer at Roland Garros in the 2006-08 finals and the 2005 semifinals, too. But Nadal's 31-match French Open winning streak ended this year with a fourth-round loss.

"I knew the day Rafa won't be in the finals, I will be there, and I will win. I always knew that, and I believed in it. That's exactly what happened," Federer said.



Roger Federer celebrates after winning his first French Open Sunday at the Roland Garros in Paris. The victory gives Federer 14 Grand Slams, tying him with Pete Sampras.

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