



ERIC SUCAR | USA TODAY SPORTS

Bubba Watson lines up a putt at the 7th green during the second round of The Barclays at Plainfield Country Club on Friday.

Bubba Watson takes one-shot 36-hole lead at The Barclays

REUTERS

EDISON, New Jersey — Two-time Masters champion Bubba Watson rolled in a 12-foot birdie putt at the last to claim a one-stroke lead after 36 holes of The Barclays on Friday, the opening event of the FedExCup playoffs.

PRO GOLF

Watson snapped a five-way tie for the lead with the birdie that gave him a two-under-par 68 at Plainfield Country Club for a seven-under 133 total. Missing the cut and relinquishing his world number one ranking was Masters and U.S. Open champion Jordan Spieth, who posted a three-over 73 for seven-over 147, five shots from the cut which was set at two over par.

Northern Ireland's Rory McIlroy will regain the top spot in the new rankings from Spieth, who claimed the number one berth after finishing runner-up at the PGA Championship two weeks ago.

"It is what it is," said Spieth, whose disappointing round included a one-shot penalty at the 12th for stepping on his ball in a hazard.

Tied for second at The Barclays were British Open champion Zach Johnson (65), Sweden's Henrik Stenson (66) and Americans Jason Dufner (68) and rookie Tony Finau (69) on a

warm, sunny day on the Donald Ross designed layout.

Watson, one of four players who shared the first-round lead, balanced a birdie with a bogey on the front nine but added a trio of birdies on the homeward side and bounced back from a bogey at the 17th with his birdie at 18 for the outright lead.

American Jason Bohn was a further shot back after firing a six-under-par 64 for five-under 135, a total shared with Camilo Villegas of Colombia (70).

Strong finish puts Tseng one ahead in Alabama

Taiwan's Yani Tseng produced a stunning eagle-birdie finish to seize a one-stroke lead in the weather-disrupted second round of the Yokohama Tire LPGA Classic in Prattville, Alabama, on Friday.

The former world number one covered her final six holes in five under par to shoot a flawless eight-under 64 on the Senator Course at Robert Trent Jones Golf Trail.

Tseng eagled her 17th hole, the par-five eighth, then had to wait out a 96-minute weather delay due to the threat of lightning in the area before returning to the course to pocket her sixth birdie of the round for a 10-under total of 134.

That left her a stroke in front of American Austin

Ernst, who had carded a 65 earlier in the day in pursuit of her second victory on the LPGA Tour.

Ernst's playing partner, American world number eight Lexi Thompson, was a further stroke back at eight under after carding a bogey-free 67 that included four birdies in her first eight holes.

"We both had a string of birdies there on the front nine," Ernst told reporters after she and Thompson had spurred each other on to make a combined 13 birdies and an eagle during the second round.

"She was hitting it well. Definitely when you see putts going in with other people, too, I think it just kind of gives you a little bit more confidence that you can just take it deep."

Thompson is relishing being back on the Senator Course where she claimed her first LPGA win in 2011 before finishing runner-up at the venue the following year.

"It helps knowing the golf course really well," said the 20-year-old, who is already a five-times winner on the circuit. "I always love coming to Alabama and playing this golf course

"It's probably in the best shape I've seen it, especially the greens are rolling really well," said Thompson, who won her first major title at the 2014 Kraft Nabisco Championship.

Mariners fire GM Zduriencik

THE SPORTS XCHANGE

SEATTLE — General manager Jack Zduriencik was fired by the Seattle Mariners on Friday in the midst of a disappointing 59-69 season for a team many experts pegged as a contender entering the year.

MLB NOTEBOOK

Jeff Kingston, who has been the Mariners' assistant general manager since 2009, will handle the GM responsibilities for the remainder of the 2015 regular season.

"We have reached the point when change of leadership of our baseball operations is needed for the Seattle Mariners to reach our goal of winning championships," Mariners president and chief operating officer Kevin Mather said in a statement. "We are very disap-

pointed with the results this season, and are not satisfied with the current operation. The search for a permanent general manager will begin immediately, and while there is no deadline, we expect to have a new GM in place as soon as practical.

"We have great respect for Jack and his work ethic. He was an excellent representative of the Mariners both within the game of baseball and in the community. On behalf of the entire organization, I wish him and (his wife) Debbie all the best, and thank him for all his efforts."

Seattle has "quietly" reached out to potential candidates including former Rockies GM Dan O'Dowd, according to FOX Sports' Ken Rosenthal.

Zduriencik, 64, was in his seventh season as head

of the Mariners' baseball operations after being named to the position on Oct. 22, 2008. Prior to joining the Mariners, the 32-year veteran of Major League Baseball spent nine seasons with the Milwaukee Brewers' organization, including the final year there as vice president/special assistant to the general manager for player personnel.

The Mariners have not reached the postseason since 2001 and entered this season with only the 24th highest payroll in baseball according to CBSSports.com. But expectations were high with the signing of outfielder Nelson Cruz following an 87-75 record in 2014 that saw the Mariners vying for a playoff spot to the final day of the regular season.

Sotomayor propels Easton by Wisdom

EASTON — Drew Sotomayor scored twice to help the Easton Bears blank the Wisdom Pioneers 4-0 in high school boys soccer action Friday.

HIGH SCHOOL ROUNDUP

Sotomayor put Easton on the board by scoring off an assist from Jake Flewelling with 8:51 left in the first half. Noah Hanscomb closed out the first half with a goal off a Sotomayor assist with 1:26 left.

Logan Halvorson converted a penalty kick with 14:57 left in the game. Sotomayor added his second goal with 2:02 left.

Easton's Jake Flewelling earned the shutout with 7 saves. Chance Gervais made 13 saves for Wisdom of St. Agatha.

Easton moves to 2-2 while Wisdom falls to 0-4.

Fort Kent 2, Presque Isle 2

At Presque Isle Thursday night, Fort Kent jumped out to a 2-0 lead, but Presque Isle battled back to tie it and that's the way stayed through two overtime periods.

Brandon Theriault scored Fort Kent's first goal and set up the second one scored by Micah Charette.

Jerin Winger put Presque Isle on the board via an assist from Brandon Mortland and the Wildcats tied it on Josiah Morse's goal.

Presque Isle, playing its opener, outshot Fort Kent 14-11. The Warriors are now 2-0-1.

How to report games

The BDN welcomes high school coaches, managers and athletic directors to report their high school games and events.

We require schools to report their games to our web-

site instead of calling or faxing us.

Doing so is the best way to guarantee that the game will appear on the BDN website and in the newspaper.

FOR ALL GAMES, we ask schools to list each team's record and the first and last names of players mentioned for each team. Also, key highlights to the game.

FOR FOOTBALL, we ask for the touchdown plays, including the names of the rusher or passer and receiver and the yardage of the plays, along with individual rushing, passing, receiving and tackles statistics and other key plays.

FOR SOCCER AND FIELD HOCKEY, we ask for all scorers for each team and other available stat leaders such as assists, along with goalkeepers, saves and shots.

Fan hit by foul ball files lawsuit against Red Sox

THE SPORTS XCHANGE

A woman who suffered injuries from a foul ball hitting her at Fenway Park during a Boston Red Sox game last year filed a lawsuit against the team's owner on Friday.

Stephanie Taubin of Brookline, Massachusetts, said she sustained facial fractures and neurological damage as the result of being struck in a club area of the stadium on June 17, 2014. She is seeking unspecified damages for medical expenses, lost wages and diminished earning capacity as part of the negligence suit filed in Suffolk Superior Court.

The suit named John Henry, principal owner of the Red Sox. He also owns The Boston Globe.

The area where the 46-year-old Taubin was sitting usually is protected by glass, but it was removed for renovations at the time of the incident.

The Red Sox said they didn't know the specifics of the suit.

The team said in a statement that it "is unaware of the specifics (of the lawsuit) and generally does not comment on pending legal matters. But the safety of Red Sox fans and providing a quality ballpark experience are essential to the Red Sox, and to Mr. Henry, and are goals for which we strive as an organization to deliver."

This year, two fans have been hit and injured at Fenway Park.

Tonya Carpenter, 44, of Paxton, Mass., was struck in the face by a shattered bat that flew into the stands near the visitors' dugout on June 5. She was removed from the ballpark on a stretcher and spent a week in a hospital before she was transferred to a rehabilitation facility.

And on July 10, 36-year-old Stephanie Wapenski was struck on the head by a foul ball during a game against the New York Yankees. She received more than 30 stitches and had a CAT scan at a hospital before being released the next day.

Red Sox shut down pitcher Buchholz for season

Boston Red Sox right-hander Clay Buchholz reportedly will not pitch again this season.

The team has shut him down, the Boston Herald reported Friday.

Buchholz has been on the disabled list since July 11 because of a strained flexor muscle in his right forearm.

In late July, he received a platelet-rich plasma injection in the elbow.

At the time, manager John Farrell said, "There's going to be a little bit of a shutdown time now as a result, which is consistent with a PRP injection. The total time with that is yet to be determined."

The Red Sox had planned to evaluate him next week, but interim manager Torey Lovullo said this week "it

might be a challenge" to get Buchholz back on the mound before the end of the season.

The Red Sox hold a \$13 million option on Buchholz for 2016.

Earlier in the week, RHP Jonathan Aro was optioned to Triple-A Pawtucket when RHP Rick Porcello came off the disabled list Wednesday. In 4.2 innings pitched for the Red Sox this season, he has an 11.57 ERA.

INJURY REPORT: 2B Dustin Pedroia (right hamstring strain) went on the 15-day disabled list retroactive to July 23. Pedroia was getting daily treatment in early August, and he fielded ground balls Aug. 24. He will not return before Sept. 10. ... RHP Steven Wright (concussion symptoms) went on the seven-day disabled list Aug. 15. ... RHP Anthony Varvaro (torn flexor tendon in right elbow) went on the 15-day disabled list retroactive to April 29, and he was transferred to the 60-day DL on May 27. He underwent surgery May 26 to remove elbow calcification, and he is likely out for the season. ... RHP Koji Uehara (broken right wrist) went on the 15-day disabled list retroactive to Aug. 8. He will miss the rest of the season. ... RHP Brandon Workman (strained right elbow) went on the 15-day disabled list April 13, and he was transferred to the 60-day DL on June 3. He underwent season-ending Tommy John surgery June 15.

Cowboys

Continued from Page B5

blitzing off the corner. The cornerback on the 2015 Cowboys with blitz capabilities was Orlando Scandrick, but his season ended in Oxnard with a knee injury.

The philosophy of Marinelli's Tampa Two scheme is to play the run on the way to the quarterback. The 2000 Bucs excelled there as well, finishing in the top 10 in run defense on their way to the playoffs. The 2014 Cowboys also finished in the top 10 in run defense but spent too much time in the trenches and not enough time in the offensive backfield.

In Hardy, Gregory and a healthy Lawrence, the Cowboys now have the speed to invade opposing backfields.

"The talent is there," said Marinelli of his remodeled front four. "But it's more than talent. It's the ability to work every day. You have to be tough. You have to be physical. You have to disrupt the run and come off the ball every single play. It's all the get off. We're reading upfield. We want to get energy and movement up the field fast. It sounds easy, sounds fun ... until you have to do it. It's a grind."

"You can have talent. We had talent in Tampa. But they worked. They were tougher than nails. Chicago, the same way. We put it together toward the end with Julius Peppers. Henry Melton. But it's a tough front to play."

Hardy will be a key when he returns. He gives Marinelli the flexibility of lining him up anywhere across the front for match-up purposes. A bigger key is Crawford,



MAX FAULKNER | FORT WORTH STAR-TELEGRAM | TNS

Dallas Cowboys tight end Brandon Barden runs after catching the ball during the last day of the team's training camp in Oxnard, California, on Thursday.

who plays the most demanding — and the most important — spot in the front: the under tackle.

Sapp was the under tackle in this scheme in Tampa. He's in the Hall of Fame. John Randle played under tackle in this same defensive scheme for the Vikings in the 1990s. He's in the Hall of Fame. Keith Millard preceded Randle there at Minnesota. He was the NFL Defensive Player of the Year in 1989. Tommie Harris played there for Marinelli in Chicago. He was a Pro Bowler. Jason Hatcher also played there for Marinelli in Dallas. Another Pro Bowler.

"It's a tough hat to wear,"

Marinelli sad. "It's a big hat. But there are a lot of guys who have worn it well."

Now the Cowboys need Crawford to wear it well. They need Hardy to rebound from a year off, Lawrence to accelerate his second year growth and Gregory to flash his presumed first-round potential. The Cowboys need sacks in 2015. That will allow them to survive the loss of Scandrick on the corner. That will create turnovers.

This Cowboys front may not get 55 sacks like those 2000 Bucs. But it needs to get into the 40s. A Super Bowl berth could hinge on it. But Marinelli now has a cast to get there.

Meyer

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"You really don't see any glaring weaknesses," Big Ten Network analyst Howard Griffith said of the Buckeyes. "I think what will be interesting, and it will be more of the meeting-room aspect of thing, is how do these guys handle being the front-runners?"

"They're going to be expected to win every game and not by just a point. I think the mental aspect for young people is being able to stay hungry and being able to stay consistent. That's where Urban's biggest challenge will be."

And it appears Meyer has already imparted some of that to his players.

"He's had a chance to win back-to-back and he knows that it's hard to win

back-to-back, so he's been grinding us — constantly telling us to just stay focused and stay on the grind," Ohio State senior defensive lineman Aldophus Washington said.

Meyer admits that he and his coaching staff watch for signs his players are letting up.

"The indicators that you look for first are academics. In academics, we had the highest graduation rate in the history of Ohio State football," Meyer said. " ... Second thing is the weight room. I have the best strength coach in America. ... And then the social element, that's obviously the one that you keep one eye open."

" ... All we can do is watch the indicators, watch it closely, and then dive into it with a sledgehammer if we start to see something that's disrupting the team."

Even then there are bound to be slip-ups.

The first one popped up when the school announced All-American Joey Bosa, H-back Jalin Marshall, senior receiver Corey Smith and junior H-back Dontre Wilson were suspended for the season opener against Virginia Tech on Labor Day for "violating department of athletics policy."

It's a major hurdle for the Buckeyes to overcome, but the players seem prepared to handle the challenge. "You have no choice but to embrace it if you want to get back," Washington said. "You can think of all of the hard times that we had last year, and we had people counting us out for games that we would win. Just think about those times, and I feel like that can get us through any situation."