

Reading Workshop: Newspaper Article

DIRECTIONS Read the article “Tiger Prowls Toward Becoming Golf Legend” before answering Numbers 1 through 10 on the Answer Sheet.

TIGER PROWLs TOWARD BECOMING GOLF LEGEND

By the time Tiger Woods won the Pebble Beach National Pro-Am Golf Tournament in February, 2000, he had already spent years building his extraordinary career. He exploded onto the professional golf scene in 1997 when he won the Masters Tournament in Augusta, Georgia, during his rookie season. The Masters is to golf what the Super Bowl is to football. His victory was historic. At twenty-one he was the youngest player ever to win the tournament. Tiger broke the course scoring record and Tiger became the first person of color to win a major golf tournament. Even his name had star quality.

Then, Tiger did something dramatic at Pebble Beach. Winning with one of his trademark come-from-behind rallies, he became the first player since 1948 to win six straight tournaments on the Professional Golfers’ Association (PGA) Tour. Clint Eastwood, the actor who co-owns the golf course at Pebble Beach, expressed his awe at Tiger’s victory. “Oh, man, that was exciting,” said Eastwood. “It was like a movie ending.”

Furthermore, Tiger’s score was the best ever for a champion in the final round. His coach, however, took it all in stride. “Nothing he does amazes me anymore,” explained Butch Harmon. “As Earl (Tiger Woods’s father) likes to say, ‘Let the legend grow.’”

Beginning in his hometown of Cypress, California, and continuing at Stanford University, Tiger built a career filled with unlikely victories. He came from behind in 1993 to win his record-breaking third U.S. Junior Amateur Championship. Tiger again surprised both his opponents and the spectators in 1996 when he won his third U.S. Amateur Championship—another record—in a sudden-death playoff. The aura of success that surrounds him was created in part by these early displays of talent, confidence, and concentration.

Tiger’s unique position as a golfer in a sport that historically has not welcomed athletes of color makes his achievements even more special. Although most people consider him African American, his background—African American, American Indian, Chinese, Thai, and European—is diverse. He is quick to acknowledge the importance of the early golfers of color who made his career possible. “I wasn’t the pioneer,” he explained. “Charlie Sifford, Lee Elder, Ted Rhodes—those are the guys who paved the way.”

One of his peers, Davis Love III, sums up his thoughts on the prowling Tiger: “There have been some guys that have played well, pushing him, but right there in the end, every playoff he gets in, he either hits a miracle shot or somebody hits a bad shot. He will have his average streak and his great streaks. And he is on one of his great streaks right now.”

Quote by Davis Love III from “It’s Tiger’s World at the Moment” by Jim Litke from *The New York Times*, February 9, 2000.
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