

DORTMUND'S SCHUERLE OUT FOR A MONTH WITH INJURY

BERLIN: World Cup-winner Andre Schuerle is set to miss the first four weeks of the new season after tearing his thigh muscle, Borussia Dortmund confirmed yesterday. His latest setback means Schuerle will miss Dortmund's trip to Wolfsburg on Saturday in their opening league match of the new season. The 26-year-old has been dogged by injury since joining Dortmund in July 2016 for 30 million euros (\$35.2m) from Wolfsburg. He was signed to much fanfare but struggled for form last season, managing just two goals and three assists in 15 Bundesliga games. The highlight was his equaliser in Borussia's 2-2 draw with Real Madrid in the group stages of the Champions League. Last Saturday, Schuerle played in Dortmund's 4-0 German Cup win at minnows Rielasingen-Arlen, who play in the sixth tier of German football, but his torn thigh means he is out until mid-September at the earliest. New signing Maximilian Philipp, who Dortmund bought from Freiburg for 20 million euros in July, looks set to replace Schuerle, whose cross Mario Goetze converted to score the winning goal for Germany in the 2014 World Cup final. —AFP



HARTLEY TELLS TUILAGI, SOLOMONA TO MAKE AMENDS

LONDON: England captain Dylan Hartley has told Manu Tuilagi and Denny Solomon to prove they are worthy of a recall after being sent home early from a pre-season training camp. Hartley said Leicester centre Tuilagi and Sale wing Solomon "let us down" when they broke England's code of conduct in an incident reported to have been alcohol related. Tuilagi and Solomon were dismissed from training by England coach Eddie Jones on August 7 and their Test careers are now in jeopardy. But Hartley believes both players can still earn an international recall if they buckle down. "We're a team and as a team we set our own standards off the field. And ultimately those guys let us down in that area," Hartley said. "We're a team and we've got a code of conduct that we adhere to. The team dealt with it and I'm sure those players will have their heads down and be working hard now to get back in the picture. It's unfortunate for them, but you make decisions, you've got to live with those decisions." —AFP

NEWCASTLE SIGN SPANISH STRIKER JOSELU FROM STOKE

LONDON: Rafael Benitez's frustration at missing out on several transfer targets abated a little as Spanish striker Joselu yesterday agreed a move to Newcastle United from Stoke City. The 27-year-old, who scored just four times for Stoke in 27 appearances, cost Newcastle a reported £5 million (5.4m euros, \$6.4m) and signed a three year contract. "I feel very happy because I have signed for a very big club," he told the club website. "I'm very happy to be part of this club, and so excited. I'm looking forward to getting to know my team-mates, the city, the training ground, the stadium and all the supporters," added Joselu, who spent last season on loan with Deportivo La Coruna. Joselu, who will compete with Dwight Gayle and Aleksandar Mitrovic for a place up front, is Benitez's sixth summer signing but the former Liverpool manager has expressed his frustration at missing out on other targets such as Arsenal's misfiring Spaniard Lucas Perez. —AFP



CHARLOTTE: Rickie Fowler watches his tee shot on the third hole during the third round of the PGA Championship golf tournament at the Quail Hollow Club, in Charlotte. —AP

GOLF

FOWLER KEEPS CELEBRATING EVERYONE ELSE'S MAJORS

CHARLOTTE: Rickie Fowler, golf's version of an action hero, keeps showing up too late to save himself at the majors. His final six holes at the PGA Championship were nothing short of remarkable, the very reason why Fowler should remain in the category of "when" and not "if" as it relates to winning a major.

Seemingly out of contention, Fowler holed a 20-foot birdie putt on No. 12 (one of only four birdies in the final round) and hit his tee shot on the 13th to 8 feet for another birdie. He drove the 14th green to 40 feet for a two-putt birdie, then nearly holed a chip on the par-5 15th for a fourth straight birdie.

That whipped social media, along with practically all of Quail Hollow, into a frenzy because everyone loves Fowler and he loves them back. But he ran out of holes. Fowler figured he would need two more birdies, and that nasty three-hole stretch known as the "Green Mile" didn't give any player more than one in the final round. He still managed to keep slim hopes alive by making a pair of 8-foot par putts that he couldn't afford to miss. Heroic stuff.

GOOD STEP

Still, the closest he came to the Wanamaker Trophy was when he posed for a picture with its new owner, Justin Thomas, a good friend who lives down the street from him in Florida. Fowler also waited behind a year ago to see Jimmy Walker polish off victory at Baltusrol to win the same trophy. And he was at the 18th green a month ago at Royal Birkdale to see Jordan Spieth clutch the claret jug.

Asked to assess this year in the majors, Fowler wrapped it up with three sentences: "Nice coming off last year. Made all the cuts. That's a good step." It was a baby step com-

pared with his colleagues', many of them younger, all of them in full stride.

Compared with his own standard, it was a step to the side at best, but certainly not forward. Three years ago, Fowler joined Jack Nicklaus and Tiger Woods as the only players to finish in the top 5 at all four majors (Spieth has since joined them). The difference is the other three all won a major in those years.

Fowler is still 28. He has played only 30 majors as a pro. The talent is there, and so is the ability to deliver big moments. He showed that when he won The Players Championship in 2015 and the Scottish Open later that summer.

Phil Mickelson, now with five majors and three legs of the career Grand Slam, had a comparable major championship record to Fowler at that age. In his first 30 majors as a pro, Mickelson had three veritable chances to win. He was one shot out of the lead at Shinnecock Hills in the 1995 US Open, had the 36-hole lead at Valhalla in the 1996 PGA Championship and lost to a 15-foot putt by Payne Stewart at Pinehurst No. 2 in the 1999 US Open.

The knock on Mickelson shouldn't have been that he had not won a major by then, but that with all his talent he didn't give himself enough chances. After eight full years on the PGA Tour, Mickelson already had 16 victories.

SENTIMENTAL CHOICE

Fowler is wrapping up his eighth full year and has four PGA Tour titles. He also has seven top 5s in the majors, though he has shown a bad habit of starting slowly, whether it was the Masters and British Open in 2014 or the Masters and the US Open this year. His best chance was in the 2014 PGA Championship at Valhalla, where he made only one mistake on the back nine and

had a long eagle putt on the final hole that would have forced a playoff.

Fowler should be too young to be considered the best without a major except that four players younger than him already have at least one - Spieth, Thomas, Rory McIlroy and Brooks Koepka. At worst, he has become a sentimental choice because of the growing number of chances and the gracious manner he treats people.

Maybe the time spent celebrating everyone else's majors will pay off. "You can learn so much from watching your friends play well and get the job done," Fowler said. "It's fun to see. It also motivates you to want to go out and push yourself to another level."

The old guard might question Fowler's fire by his willingness to smile and celebrate majors he wants for himself. That's simply the way he was brought up. "We always kept everything positive," his father once said. "Even if he hit a bad shot, we only talk about the good shots that he hit. We never brought up any negative talk. He knew if he hit a bad shot. We didn't need to say anything."

The skill is there. Only Fowler knows how much he feels the sting of watching others claim majors. His greatest asset going forward might be a positive attitude, something Sergio Garcia was missing for so many years before he finally won the Masters.

The best example was at Erin Hills, when Fowler started the final round of the U.S. Open two shots out of the lead and faded from view. He was asked that afternoon about the disappointment of not winning his first major. "If you look at the negatives too much," he said, "you're going to be stuck doing that the whole time." —AP

LEAVE PETTERSEN ALONE, US SKIPPER URGES FANS

CHICAGO: United States captain Juli Inkster on Tuesday urged fans not to heckle Europe star Suzann Pettersen at this week's Solheim Cup, two years after a bitter controversy involving the Norwegian player.

Pettersen was at the centre of an acrimonious spat at the 2015 edition of the Ryder Cup-style event when she refused to give Alison Lee a short putt during a crucial foursomes game.

The Norwegian's controversial move left Lee in tears and stoked a furious backlash from American players, who subsequently overturned a 10-6 deficit heading into the singles to claim victory.

Pettersen initially insisted she had not done anything wrong but later issued an apology declaring that she was "gutted and truly sad" about her actions.

"I am so sorry for not thinking about the bigger picture in the heat of the battle and competition," said Pettersen, the current world number 23 who will be playing in her ninth Solheim Cup this weekend.

It remains to be seen whether galleries at Des Moines Golf and Country Club in Iowa will give Pettersen a pass for her 2015 actions.

But US captain Inkster is among those hoping the controversy of two years ago will be forgotten.

"I really don't think it's going to be a big

deal," Inkster said Tuesday. "It won't be on our side and not on her side."

"I hope they (the fans) don't heckle her, I hope they respect her and respect her play. It was two years ago and we've moved on. I think she's moved on as well."

Inkster however said the tournament rules committee had instructed teams to designate one player in each pairing who had responsibility to concede putts in order to avoid the sort of scenes that erupted in 2015.

"I think the rules committee are going to do that. You've got to have one person in the group who's in charge of giving putts. And that way we don't have any controversy," Inkster said.

Inkster, who was critical of Pettersen's actions at the time, said she had spoken to the player in the immediate aftermath of the row and was confident the matter was now closed.

"I spoke with her on the Monday morning after the Sunday. We had a nice chat. I haven't brought it up since and she hasn't either," she said.

"It's over with, it's done. Our team's not talking about it, I'm sure the European team's not talking about it, I'm not sure why we're talking about it." Opening foursomes in the tournament get under way tomorrow. —AFP



Tiger Woods

WOODS HAD MARIJUANA IN SYSTEM AT ARREST

FORT LAUDERDALE: Tiger Woods had the active ingredient for marijuana, two painkillers and two sleep drugs in his system when he was arrested on a DUI charge earlier this year, a report released Tuesday by police said.

Police in Jupiter, Florida, released the report less than a week after the golf superstar agreed to enter a diversion program to settle his driving while intoxicated charges. The report's contents were first reported Monday by ESPN.

The report, prepared by the Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office, says Woods, 41, had THC, the active ingredient for marijuana; as well as the painkillers Vicodin and Dilaudid; the anxiety and sleep drug Xanax; and the anti-insomnia drug Ambien in his system when he was arrested at 2 a.m. May 29 about 15 miles from his home in Jupiter. Officers had found him unconscious in his Mercedes-Benz, which was parked awkwardly on the side of the road and had damage to the driver's side. It's not clear how he damaged the car. Officers checked the area but didn't find that he had hit anything.

Woods issued a statement Tuesday saying he had been trying on his own to treat his insomnia and pain from his fourth back surgery, which he underwent in April. He did not specifically address the marijuana issue. None was found in his possession.

"I realize now it was a mistake to do this

without medical assistance," said Woods, who completed an out-of-state drug treatment program last month. "I am continuing to work with my doctors, and they feel I've made significant progress."

Woods is scheduled to plead guilty to reckless driving Oct. 25 and enter the county's diversion program. Under the plea deal, prosecutors would drop the DUI charge, which is a more severe charge than reckless driving. In the diversion program, Woods will spend a year on probation and pay a \$250 fine and court costs. He would also have to attend DUI school, perform 50 hours of community service and attend a workshop where victims of impaired drivers detail how their lives were damaged. Since the program began four years ago, almost 2,400 defendants have enrolled, according to the Palm Beach County State Attorney's Office.

If Woods completes the program, he can ask a judge to expunge the reckless driving conviction. His 79 PGA Tour victories and 14 major titles both rank No. 2 all-time. He has not competed since February because of his back injury and is not expected to return this year. His last win was in August 2013.

Woods said his back is improving. "I recently spoke to my surgeon and he's very pleased with how my fusion is healing. I'm right on schedule. I'm now doing some light lifting, riding a stationary bike and putting a little," he said. —AP

NFL

GOODSELL TALKS ANTHEM PROTEST, URGES OUTREACH

LOS ANGELES: National Football League chief Roger Goodell has encouraged players to engage in community outreach in the wake of fresh protests against the national anthem during pre-season games.

Goodell told an Arizona Cardinals fan forum on Monday that while it was important to embrace different viewpoints, there was a "time and a place" to speak out.

The NFL Commissioner's remarks came after Seattle Seahawks player Michael Bennett sat through a rendition of the Star Spangled Banner on

Sunday to raise awareness of racism and intolerance.

Bennett's protest followed an identical snub by Oakland Raiders running back Marshawn Lynch, who also remained seated during the anthem at a preseason game against Arizona.

It came amid nationwide soul-searching following violent clashes in Virginia on Saturday linked to a demonstration by white nationalists, neo-Nazis and Ku Klux Klan members.

Goodell suggested he would prefer players to engage in community

programs rather than protest the anthem. "I think it's one of those things where I think we have to understand that there are people with different viewpoints," Goodell said. "It's something that I think everybody wants. The national anthem is a special moment to me. It's a point of pride. That is a really important moment."

"But we also have to understand the other side that people do have rights and we want to respect those. But I was with the Jets a few weeks ago and one of the players was there

in the fan forum actually and we were talking about this and they were asked the same question. And they said you know, there's a time and a place."

"And that's what we all have to sort of understand. The responsibility of doing it at the right time and in the right way. And what we see is a lot of players going into the community and really taking the platform they have and being active and creating dialogue and actually making really positive change. And that's what I think is so important." —AFP