

# Harrington stays on top at Firestone

Associated Press

AKRON, Ohio — Pdraig Harrington broke par for the second straight day, something he hasn't done in four months. Two more days like that and it could lead to something he hasn't done in a year.

Without a victory since the PGA Championship, Harrington tread carefully across Firestone on Friday for a 1-under 69 that gave him a one-shot lead over Tim Clark (68) going into the weekend at the Bridgestone Invitational.

Harrington didn't put much stock into his opening round of 64, and he wasn't ready to declare himself the favorite to win his first World Golf Championship. Even so, he conceded that consecutive good rounds were helpful.

"I'm obviously pleased," said Harrington, who was at 7-under 133. "I shot a good score yesterday — put me up there — and it's nice to shoot a reasonable score to back it up. Break 70 on the weekend a few more times and I should be doing OK."

Scott Verplank went 35 holes without a bogey until hitting into the trees on the 18th hole and dropping a shot for a 69, leaving him alone in third at 135.

Tiger Woods, a six-time winner at Firestone, was among 20 players within five shots of the lead, although he found himself in a peculiar spot after an even-par 70. He was tied for 13th, the first time

## GOLF ROUNDUP



AP photo  
Tiger Woods watches his second shot to the 11th hole during the second round of the Bridgestone Invitational golf tournament Friday at Firestone Country Club in Akron, Ohio.

after any round at Firestone he has been out of the top 10. He was 2 under, the same score he had in 2007 when he went on to win by eight.

Phil Mickelson, playing for the first time since his wife's surgery for breast cancer last month, made

a few great escapes from the rough and put together a 69 to finish six shots behind Harrington.

### U.S. Women's Amateur

ST. LOUIS — Jennifer Song moved within two matches of becoming the second woman to win two U.S. Golf Association championships in the same year, beating Stephanie Kono 2 and 1 in the U.S. Women's Amateur quarterfinals.

The 19-year-old Song, the University of Southern California player who won the U.S. Women's Amateur Public Links in June, will face Tiffany Lua of Rowland Heights, Calif., on Saturday at Old Warson. Lua beat Jessica Korda of Bradenton, Fla., 3 and 2.

Pearl Sinn is the only woman to win two USGA titles in a year, taking the 1988 Women's Amateur and Women's Amateur Public Links.

In the other semifinal, 14-year-old Alexis Thompson of Coral Springs, Fla., will play Jennifer Johnson of La Quinta, Calif. Thompson beat South Korea's Han Jungeun 1-up, and Johnson had a 5-and-4 victory over Candace Schepperle of Birmingham, Ala.

### Rollins shoots 62 to tie Reno record

RENO, Nev. — John Rollins matched the course record with a 10-under 62 to take a two-stroke lead in the Legends Reno-Tahoe Open, and Chris Riley tied the PGA Tour mark for relation to par for nine holes with 9-under 27.

# Johnson wins pole at Watkins Glen

Associated Press

## NASCAR

WATKINS GLEN, N.Y. — Jimmie Johnson will never have a better view at Watkins Glen International. He just hopes he can keep it.

Johnson captured the first road-course pole of his career in qualifying Friday, turning a lap at 123.633 mph in 71.34 seconds over the 11-turn, 2.45-mile circuit to edge Kurt Busch for the top spot for Sunday.

"It's going to be nice to have a good view from the front," said the three-time defending Cup champion, who has never won a Cup road race. "It's going to boil down to track position and the pit stops, so hopefully we can stay up there."

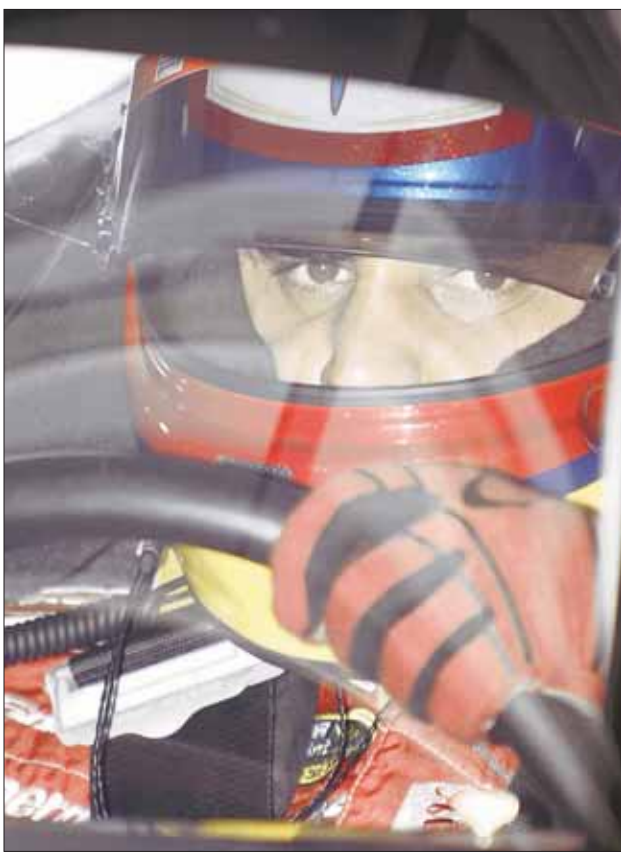
Busch, who won the pole here three years ago, finished just 0.01 second behind Johnson. Denny Hamlin, fresh from an emotional victory at Pocono on Monday, qualified third. Marcos

Ambrose of Tasmania was fourth, followed by David Stremme. Ryan Newman, Greg Biffle, Kyle Busch, Boris Said, and Juan Pablo Montoya rounded out the top 10.

Points leader Tony Stewart qualified 13th, while four-time Glen winner Jeff Gordon will go off 31st, one spot ahead of Dale Earnhardt Jr. It's the worst qualifying effort of Gordon's career at The Glen.

Because of four rain-outs in qualifying in the past five years, this was the first time the COT was used in qualifying at Watkins Glen. Johnson secured the top spot in spite of a few mistakes.

"I blistered the right front in practice, it was ready to pop, and I locked the brakes in the (tight four-turn) Bus Stop," said Johnson, who started from the pole at The Glen in 2004 when qualifying was rained



AP photo  
NASCAR driver Juan Pablo Montoya prepares for practice during Friday's NASCAR Sprint Cup Series' Heluva Good! Sour Cream Dips at The Glen auto race in Watkins Glen, N.Y. Jimmie Johnson qualified for the pole.

out. He finished 40th after blowing the engine in the No. 48 Chevy on lap 23. "I let off and bounced off the curbs and I knew I could charge hard back. It worked out."

In the past five Cup races at Watkins Glen, there have been 34 cautions, several in the clos-

ing laps. And with NASCAR's double-file restart in effect here for the first time, a rough race seemed to be looming.

"There's going to be a lot of pushing and shoving," Johnson said. "It's hard racing. It's what the fans have been asking for all along."

# LeBron says he wants to keep his options open

Associated Press

## NBA

AKRON, Ohio — LeBron James is going to make the Cleveland Cavaliers wait — and sweat.

James indicated Friday that he is unlikely to accept a contract extension from the Cavs until after the 2009-10 season and presumably will become a free agent.

At an event in his hometown to unveil Nike Air Max LeBron VII, the latest sneaker in his signature line, James made his strongest comments yet about his future. The NBA's reigning MVP said he signed a three-year contract in 2006 to give him more options

once it expires.

"I signed a contract in 2006 with an option, and it would make no sense for me to sign that contract if I didn't keep my options open," he said. "I'll let you fill in the blanks."

**Celtics sign free agent Williams**  
BOSTON — The Boston Celtics have signed free agent center/forward Shelden Williams to a contract.

**Nuggets swap Hunter, 2010 pick to Memphis**  
MEMPHIS, Tenn. — The Denver

Nuggets swapped Steven Hunter, a protected 2010 first-round pick and cash to the Memphis Grizzlies in exchange for a future conditional second rounder, Grizzlies general manager Chris Wallace said Friday.

**Magic's Lewis fails drug test**  
NEW YORK — Orlando Magic forward Rashard Lewis tested positive for an elevated testosterone level and was suspended for 10 games.

Lewis said in a statement that he took an over-the-counter supplement late last season that included a substance he did not realize was banned by the NBA.

# Kassimis helps Blue Jays win AAU National title



Contributed photo

Norwalk's Chris Kassimis helped the Team Connecticut Blue Jays 18-U baseball team capture last weekend in Fort Myers, Fla. The Blue Jays went 1-3 in pool play in the tournament but were able to advance to the playoff round because of runs scored and least runs allowed. They beat the Virginia Nationals 12-2 in the semifinals and shut out the Louisiana Warriors 8-0 in the championship final. Kassimis, who is going into his senior year at Norwalk High and also plays football and is a member of the track team, played in the outfield and went 3-for-7 in the tourney with a double and five stolen bases. The National Classic Championship featured teams from all over the country, including Texas and Alabama.

# Ballboy is the first major injury of Giants camp

Associated Press

ALBANY, N.Y. — The first significant injury of the New York Giants training camp is a ballboy.

Ryan Kennelly, the 14-year-old son of assistant head trainer Steve Kennelly, broke his left wrist on Thursday night when he was bowled over by rookie tight end Travis Beckum during a 7-on-7 passing drill.

Linebacker Zak DeOssie knocked Beckum off balance at the line of scrimmage and the third-round draft choice collided with the younger Kennelly, who was holding a foam bag which simulates the end of the offensive line.

"The way I tripped, I felt I would have kneed him," Beckum said Friday. "I just tried to spread out to decrease the impact but unfortunately he fractured his wrist."

Remarkably, Kennelly finished the drill before getting attention for a buckle fracture, which did not require surgical pins to fix.

"When it involves your kid it's a little bit different," Steve Kennelly said, adding the injury caught him off guard. "You never get frazzled with injuries but that's the first time I'm like, 'He doesn't look too good in there.' He'll be fine."

Kennelly said that his wife was OK with the injury, adding everyone knew the risks of being on the field.

"It's all part of football," Steve Kennelly said. "He has a story for the rest of his life. His first training camp as a ballboy. It was a freak thing, an accident."

Coach Tom Coughlin said a second ball boy was bumped into on Thursday night, so he made changes on Friday. When the 7-on-7 drill was run Terry Mansfield, the team's field security manager, and another adult held the foam bags.

A record crowd of 6,720 attended the afternoon practice on Friday, which was autograph day. Players stay after practice and sign autographs for 30 minutes.

The previous single-practice record for a non-scrimmage was 4,500 on

## NFL

July 24, 1996, the Giants' first year at Albany. The four-day attendance total is 15,475, breaking the mark of 11,590 set last year when the Giants were coming off a Super Bowl victory.

**EXTRA POINTS:** The Giants ran two goal-line plays late in the practice. Halfback Brandon Jacobs was stuffed on the first one from less than 2 yards by a combination of Jay Alford, Justin Tuck, Antonio Pierce and Kenny Phillips. ...Halfback Ahmad Bradshaw was stopped on the second from the same distance with linebacker Chase Blackburn making the stop. ...Safety C.C. Brown intercepted a David Carr pass and linebacker Jonathan Goff picked off a Rhett Bomar throw in the afternoon.

**49ers forge ahead without Crabtree**

SANTA CLARA, Calif. — Mike Singletary is sticking to the company line: San Francisco's coach remains focused on the players who are in camp for the 49ers and isn't busy worrying when top draft pick Michael Crabtree will end his holdout and finally show up for practice.

With one week of training camp already complete, each day the standout receiver from Texas Tech misses puts him further behind in learning a new offense and becoming familiar with his teammates.

"In terms of Crabtree, when he comes in, he comes in," Singletary said Friday. "Would you love to have him in? Absolutely. You'd love to have him. Do we want him here? Yes, we want to have him in. But until that happens, I just can't sit back and think about the what-ifs. All I can do is concentrate on what is, and control that."

**Chiefs sign Jackson**

KANSAS CITY, Mo. — Tyson Jackson was antsy to join his new teammates, already had his bags packed for training camp.

All he needed was a call that a deal had been finalized. It came while Jackson was sleeping Thursday night.

## THURSDAY'S YOUTH BASEBALL RESULTS

### Kinlock Tournament

Norwalk LL 12, Cranbury 0  
Norwalk came out swinging and put up three runs in the first inning with the big blow being a two-run double by Edward Petrillo.

Norwalk added two more runs in the third inning on a two-run double off the bat of Alex Scallion.

The bats came to life again in the top of the fifth inning as Norwalk Little League batted around and received

home runs from Paul Salata and Sean Welch. Brendan Hanzlik, Kevin Love, Ryan Evans, Trey Newcomb and Petrillo all had multiple hit games.

Hanzlik went four innings on the mound, allowing three hits, no runs and striking out three to earn the victory.

Newcomb finished with a 1-2-3 inning in the fifth.

Cranbury was led by two hits off the bat of Chris Murawski and one by Will Uralowich.

### Corbo Tournament

Cal Ripken 1, Norwalk LL 0  
With two outs in the bottom of the sixth inning, Mike Gonzales singled to center field and Eric Vander Els slid home safely just ahead of the tag at home plate to lift Cal Ripken.

For the winners, Dillon Finn tossed the first two innings and allowed just two hits with two strikeouts. Ryan Searles pitched the next three innings, giving up one hit, a walk and

striking out five. Vander Els pitched the sixth and allowed a hit with one strikeout.

At the plate for West Norwalk, Searles singled twice.

For Norwalk Little League, Kyle Mossop started and went three innings, allowing two hits with a walk and a strikeout. Mike Pascarelli threw the final three frames, giving up two hits and a walk with three strikeouts. Trey Canevari, Mossop and Pascarelli had hits.