

# BUSINESS

## ▼ TIGERWOODS

### Statistics tell when our best years have passed us by

Like many people, I spent a fair portion of the past weekend following Another Major Golf Tournament That Tiger Didn't Win (known more widely as the 2013 Masters golf tournament in Augusta, Georgia).

It occurred to me that one thing sports does well—depressingly so—is reveal the moment in time when an athlete's best years have passed on by.



YOU WORK HERE

Robert Smithson

Eldrick "Tiger" Woods' story is well enough known that I won't rehash it here. It has been punctuated by moments of glory, sorrow, and embarrassment.

He may be the world's most watched and most intriguing athlete of the last 20 years. Without a

doubt, seeing his Nike golf ball drop into the cup on the 16th hole at Augusta in 2005—after the "swoosh" paused for the cameras—is one of the greatest sports recollections of my own life.

It may be accurate to say, though, that the primary aspect of ongoing interest in all things Woodsian is whether he will become, incontrovertibly, the greatest golfer of all time. To do that, he must eclipse the record of 18 major tournament wins held by Jack Nicklaus.

And, judging by his recent record (in the four majors, at least), that seems less and less likely. Tiger's major total stands at 14. His last win at the Masters was in 2005, at the British Open in 2006, at the PGA Championship in 2007 and at the U.S. Open in 2008.

In his best five-year span, Woods won six majors. He's presently closing in on five years without winning any.

Surely Nicklaus (without a doubt the most self-aware man in golf) would say that the longer it's been since your last major win, the less likely it is that you'll win another. There may be a natural law of the universe buried in there somewhere, but I'm not sure what it is.

Woods is presently within a club-length of his 40th birthday and history tends to show that the older an athlete gets, the more likely it is his or her best years are in the past. Well, except for short-cut-takers like Lance Armstrong, Mark McGuire and Ben Johnson that is.

Yes, yes Nicklaus won the Masters in 1986 when he was 46. But, how many did he win in the five years prior to, and after, 1986? None.

The thing about the major tournaments in golf is that not many guys have won very many. Nicklaus and Woods and fellow American Walter Hagen are the only men who have won 10 or more (another 10 golfers have won five or more).

SEE SMITHSON A21



WADE PATERSON/CAPITAL NEWS

**GERMAN TRADITION...** A wine glass is thrown off the roof of a Green Square townhome Saturday as part of a traditional German house blessing called Richtfest. On Saturday, a team of carpenters and other tradespeople went onto the roof of the newly-built home to toast its completion. The event was hosted by Troika Developments and CorWest Builders, whose construction manager and newest co-owner Andreas Hayer moved to Canada from Germany five years ago. Green Square is a new development just off Barnes Avenue in the Lower Mission.

## ▼ WELLS GRAYTOURS

### Travel agency named employer of the year by regional tourism association

Wells Gray Tours was named winner of the Employer of the Year award at the recent annual conference of the Thompson Okanagan Tourism Association.

Each year, TOTA recognizes excellence shown by tourism businesses

and organizations within the region by handing out the Tourism Excellence Awards at the annual Thompson Okanagan Tourism Industry Summit. These awards are an exciting opportunity to showcase innovation and excellence with

the tourism industry.

The category of Employer of the Year is focused on the implementation of excellent human resources practices, staff retention, company benefits and maintaining both high levels of customer and employee satisfac-

tion.

The nomination that was put together by the staff of all five Wells Gray Tours offices (Kamloops, Kelowna, Penticton, Vernon and Victoria) was a complete surprise says founder and owner, Roland Neave.

During his brief acceptance speech, Neave described how Wells Gray Tours started in his parents' basement running tours only to Wells Gray Park. Forty-one years later, the company travels all over the world to all seven continents.



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