

Sports

Hope: Ex-Bulldog tied entering final day

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in 1988. "If there's good weather (Monday), it's going to take a 66 to have a chance. I don't even know if that will win tomorrow."

Watson was among the last off the courses, and the long-driving pro could have put himself in prime position for the \$900,000 winner's share of the \$5 million purse at this four-course event, which was pushed back a day after rain washed out play Thursday.

Instead, he failed to overpower the relatively easy Nicklaus Private course. Watson, whose wife played in the pro-am event, still made six birdies before his disappointing finish.

"Tomorrow is going to be a tough day no matter if I had the lead, was tied for the lead, or one back, or five back," said Watson, who plans to buy a replica of the General Lee car from "The Dukes of Hazzard" television series if he wins. "Tomorrow is going to be a fun day. This is what we live for. The more chances I get to win, maybe I'll get one to luckily fall in and win one."

Prugh, the 25-year-old former University of Washington star making his third PGA Tour start, missed an easy putt to bogey his final hole on the SilverRock course, finishing another self-described unremarkable round. He still claims the Hope Classic doesn't feel much more stressful than events on the Nationwide Tour, where he won the New Zealand Open last year.

"The way things were going the first three days, where the scores were going, I definitely didn't think 2 under would keep me in it,"



Chris Carlson/AP

Bubba Watson watches his chip on the par-4 18th hole of the PGA West, Jack Nicklaus Private Course during Sunday's fourth round of the Bob Hope Classic in La Quinta, Calif. The former Georgia Bulldog is tied atop the leaderboard with Alex Prugh entering today's final round.

said Prugh, who opened the Hope Classic with a 64-66-65 start. "It's definitely what I expected to feel. I feel like I've been in this situation before."

Ogilvie appeared the angriest at himself after he double-bogeyed the 17th at La Quinta. Ogilvie, whose only PGA Tour victory

came in Milwaukee in 2007, paid the price for guessing at a yardage distance.

"My caddie was about 30 yards off," said Ogilvie, who hadn't made a bogey since early in the second round. "I had uncertainty on the tee, and it's a mistake to hit driver when you're not confident

Scoreboard

A look at Sunday's fourth round scores at the Bob Hope Classic:

Alex Prugh	64n-66p-65q-70s	— 265
Bu. Watson	66q-62s-68p-69n	— 265
Bill Haas	68q-66s-66p-66n	— 266
Tim Clark	70n-63p-67q-66s	— 266
Joe Ogilvie	65p-66n-68s-68q	— 267
Mike Weir	67p-67n-67s-67q	— 268
Matt Kuchar	67q-69s-67p-65n	— 268
K. Streelman	70s-71q-63n-64p	— 268
M. Flores	66p-65n-65s-72q	— 268
Ryan Moore	69q-67s-66p-67n	— 269
S. Elkington	69p-65n-68s-68q	— 270
D.J. Trahan	69p-68n-65s-68q	— 270
Jeff Klauk	66q-72s-67p-65n	— 270
Jo. Merrick	68q-70s-66p-66n	— 270
Br. Snedeker	70p-69n-65s-66q	— 270

p-PGA West, Palmer: 6,950 yards
n-PGA West, Nicklaus: 6,890 yards
q-La Quinta Country Club: 7,060 yards
s-SilverRock: 7,403 yards

standing there."

Watson held a lead going into the final round twice before, but failed to win the 2007 Houston Open and 2008 Arnold Palmer Invitational.

The cut claimed several of the tournament's bigger names, including Justin Leonard, Rocco Mediate, David Duval, Jesper Parnevik, Chad Campbell and highly touted 21-year-old rookie Rickie Fowler, whose first two tournaments of 2010 have been nothing special. Fowler missed the cut last week in Hawaii, and he didn't crack 70 in his four rounds in the Palm Springs desert.

The Hope Classic had its second straight day of postcard-perfect Palm Springs scoring weather, with no real breeze and ideal temperatures. The beautiful conditions even brought out a family of eight bighorn sheep.

Kelly: Finding nice success at next level

Continued from 8A

offense. She's a team leader and she can play to back it up. She rises to the occasion and she believes she can do it. She could have gone to a four-year school but she chose to go junior."

JoAnn Davis mentored Kelly during her school days here. Davis said there is no ceiling on what the talented Kelly can accomplish, both in basketball and in life.

"Valencia is willing to work very, very hard on things that are important to her," said Davis, who tutors and helps Glynn Academy students prepare for their graduation tests. "She qualified as a Division I athlete with the NCAA coming out of high school. Her grades were high, she took tough college preparatory classes and she had high ACT test scores.

"Basketball is very important to her and so, when she came out of high school, she realized that she needed to get better if she wanted to play Division I ball. When she was offered a scholar-

ship (to Fort Scott), she decided to go.

"This season has been hard because the coach who recruited her changed colleges and Valencia had to decide whether to go with her or stay at Fort Scott. I was proud that she was loyal to the school that had recruited her. I thought that showed a lot of character on her part."

Kelly's character, said Davis, exceeds her athletic ability.

"Valencia is a ball of energy. She is witty, bright and plucky. She is a great friend because she is caring and is always fun to be around. When she was home briefly during the holidays, a group of her GA friends organized a luncheon so that they could all visit and share stories. We all laughed so much that other customers wanted to join our table.

"Among the students that she was close to at GA, she is the farthest away now in college. I know she gets homesick: Kansas is cold and Fort Scott is very, very different from Brunswick, Georgia."



Fort Scott Community College

Former Glynn Academy basketball standout Valencia Kelly, front, leads her Fort Scott Community College team in scoring as a sophomore.

Yet she has adapted well, said her current coach, both to her new surroundings and to the challenges of playing college ball.

"Players respect her, teams respect her and opposing coaches respect her ability," Couch said. "Often times you have gifted athletes that know they are gifted and take things for granted or think they know better. Valencia listens. She knows she has a lot to learn and wants to get better. She is coachable and personable. As a coach, that is a great thing

to have as a part of your team."

Davis recalled an incident while Kelly was still at Glynn that told her Kelly would be all right at Fort Scott or wherever she decided to go.

"I took her to the airport when she was taking her first visit there. It was her first flight and she had misread the ticket. She barely made the flight, with me yipping at her heels (from afar) all the way through the security process. She was calm throughout, so I knew then she would do well in whatever she did."

AFC: Manning breaks another NFL record

Continued from 8A

years ago. "It's great to win this championship here at home in front of the best fans in the world."

Fans counted down the final seconds, streamers and confetti hung in the air, flash bulbs popped incessantly and when the official announcement was made, fans roared.

"The guys have always been a very confident bunch and they do a great job of hanging in there," Caldwell said.

"Peyton had just an outstand-

Kickoff

A look at Super Bowl XLIV:
Matchup: Indianapolis vs. New Orleans

When: 6:25 p.m. Feb. 7

Where: Sun Life Stadium, Miami

Records: Indy 16-2, N.O. 15-3

TV: CBS

ing game," Caldwell said. "He's one of those guys that can adjust to different situations. ... A real champion."

Manning finished 26 of 39 for 377 yards. He became the first player in league history with seven 300-yard postseason games. That broke a tie with Kurt Warner and Joe Montana.

The Jets' magical run ended with their first road loss in six games.

New York (11-8) built a 17-6 lead and took advantage of trick plays. But rookie Mark Sanchez and the Jets were shut out in the second half.

"Today wasn't our day. There's no question," Ryan said. "You have to give credit to the Colts.

Obviously they're the cream of the crop right now."

Caldwell became only the fifth rookie coach to reach the Super Bowl. Only two others — San Francisco's George Seifert and Don McCafferty, of the Baltimore Colts — have won it.

But Caldwell does have Manning, who drove the Colts right through New York's No. 1 ranked defense with his uncanny precision.

Manning continually dropped passes right over the fingertips of defenders, and the Jets couldn't stop him.

NFC: Overtime field goal wins it for Saints

Continued from 8A

Anthony Hargrove, but was really hurt when Bobby McCray hit him late in the third quarter. Jonathan Vilma intercepted Favre's pass on the play, and he hobbled to the sideline.

But the iron man who has started 309 consecutive games shook it off and returned, hoping to lead the Vikings to their first Super Bowl since the 1976 season.

The winner advances to play

the Indianapolis Colts in the Super Bowl in Miami on Feb. 7. The Colts beat the New York Jets 30-17 in the AFC championship game earlier on Sunday.

With the game tied at 14, the Saints surged out of halftime with a 61-yard kickoff return by Courtney Roby. Pierre Thomas scored from 9 yards — his second TD of the game — to give New Orleans a 21-14 lead.

After fumbling a handoff from Favre at the Saints 4-yard line

late in the first half that cost the Vikings a chance to take the lead, Peterson fumbled again on the first possession of the third period. But fullback Naufahu Tahi bailed him out, pouncing on the ball to keep it in Minnesota's possession.

Favre hit tight end Visanthe Shiancoe for gains of 20 and 21 yards to setup Peterson's 1-yard TD run that tied the game 21-21.

Peterson fumbled yet again on the next possession, but somehow lunged forward and recovered it.

Favre was hurt later in the drive.

Brees was 15 of 26 for 176 yards and three TDs. He threw a 9-yard touchdown pass to Devery Henderson to tie the NFC title game 14-14 just before halftime.

The two top scoring offenses in the league got off to a roaring start, combining to throw 42 passes in the first 30 minutes.

The Vikings scored touchdowns on their first two possessions, taking a 14-7 lead on Favre's 5-yard TD pass to Sidney Rice.

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