

# Rory McIlroy has rough start at PGA Championship

## Dealing with blister on toe

BY DOUG FERGUSON  
AP GOLF WRITER

NEWTOWN SQUARE, Pa. — The blister on Rory McIlroy's right pinky toe was the least of his worries Thursday in the PGA Championship. And it certainly didn't cause him as much pain as staring a scorecard that featured five bogeys over his last six holes.

He struggled mightily off the tee, a recipe for trouble at Aronimink. He was tentative over his putts, with three misses from the 7-foot range that could have made him feel a lot better.

The result was a 4-over 74 that left McIlroy chasing the wrong kind of history as the Masters champion goes for the second leg of the calendar Grand Slam. Not since the late Payne Stewart in 1989 has a player started the PGA Championship with a 74 and gone on to win.

The question by a PGA of America moderator when it was over sounded innocuous: "How would you describe your opening round?" The response was one word. A four-letter stinky word.

McIlroy had said earlier this week at Aronimink that "strategy off the tee is pretty nonexistent. It's basically bash driver down there and then figure it out from there."

He never quite figured it out Thursday.

McIlroy was hanging around par for so much of the day, right there



FRANK FRANKLIN II/Associated Press

Rory McIlroy hits from the rough on the ninth hole Thursday during the first round of the PGA Championship at Aronimink Golf Club.

with Jordan Spieth and Jon Rahm in his group, not bad golf given the testing conditions at Aronimink.

But he started missing fairways — a lot of them.

His lone bogey on his front nine came on the opening hole from the right rough — he managed to only get that scooting down the fairway. But the miss to the right on the par-4 fourth (his 13th of the day) cost him another bogey. He holed a 30-foot birdie putt on the par-3

fifth. All was well.

And then it wasn't.

"I missed the fairway right on 4, the fairway right on 6, the fairway right on 7, fairway right on 9," he said. "From there, it's hard. I didn't have great angles, either. Then obviously you start missing it just off the edges of these greens, it gets tricky."

"I just got on that bogey train at the end."

McIlroy also opened with a 74

at Quail Hollow in the PGA Championship last year, his first round as the Masters champion. The frustrations were different. A year ago, he was irritated about learning the face of his driver had become too thin to conform to regulations (and then even more irritated when the news was leaked to the media without context).

This was simply a weakness in his game he thought he had corrected.

"I'm just not driving the ball well enough. It's been a problem all year for the most part," McIlroy said. "I miss it right, and then I want to try to correct it. And then I'll overdo it, and I'll miss it left. It's a little bit of back and forth that way. So that's pretty frustrating, especially when I pride myself on driving the ball well."

He hit only five of the 14 fairways. He was in the short grass on No. 1 after making the turn. He played from the rough the rest of the round. McIlroy was in the hay right of the seventh hole and could only manage to hack that across the fairway into more rough on the left, leaving him 15 feet for par that he didn't convert.

His final hole was the par-5 ninth, another drive that sailed right. From there, he put it in the worst spot — a bunker 67 yards from the pin — and barely got that onto the green, leaving him 70 feet a way for birdie. He ran that 8 feet by and missed it coming back.

As for that blister causing problems, McIlroy offered another one-word answer: "No."

This was about his driver, mainly, which McIlroy felt good about after his final round Sunday in the Trusti Championship, and the 12 holes of practice at Aronimink he played this week.

"I honestly thought I'd figured it out," he said. "Just once I get under the gun, it just seems like it starts to go a little bit wayward on me."



TONY GUTIERREZ/Associated Press

Texas Rangers' Corey Seager watches his fly out to left in the fourth inning Monday against Arizona. The veteran shortstop is fighting a slump at the plate.

# Two-time MVP stuck in 0-for-27 slump

BY STEPHEN HAWKINS  
AP BASEBALL WRITER

ARLINGTON, Texas — Corey Seager is going through a slump like none he has ever had to endure in the big leagues.

The two-time World Series MVP shortstop is hitless in his last seven games for the Texas Rangers. That is part of a longer 0-for-27 span, also a career long, that includes 11 strikeouts.

"You're obviously still working on things and you'd like to see some better results, but you're not getting them," Seager said after going 0 for 4 with two strikeouts in a wild 6-5 comeback win over Arizona on Wednesday night.

While he has started 42 of the Rangers' 43 games, the 32-year-old Seager said physically he feels "completely fine." He has played 24 in a row since his only game off April 16.

"It's one of those things that you're going to figure it out there," Seager said. "It's always been like my focus, right, you're going to figure it out swinging. So right now, I want to keep going out there and trying to figure it out."

The Rangers had a day off Thursday, when his .179 batting average ranked 167th out of 174 qualified MLB hitters. Seager, in the fifth season of a \$325 million, 10-year deal, has 28 hits and 22 walks but 50 strikeouts account for 27.5% of his 182 plate appearances. He has seven home runs and 20 RBIs.

His last hit was an RBI single in the fourth inning at Yankee Stadium on May 6. Seager's solo homer in the first inning put Texas ahead to stay in that 6-1 win over New York, but strikeouts in his final two at-bats started his hitless span. He is 6 for 61 (.098)

with 23 K's over his last 16 games.

This is the latest in any of his 12 seasons that Seager, a .285 career hitter in 4,500 at-bats over 1,173 games, has been below .200. He never finished a game under that mark in eight of those seasons, including three times he went 1 for 5 (.200) in openers (2016, 2020 and 2024) before having at least three hits in the second game.

"Corey still feels good to go," first-year Rangers manager Skip Schumaker said. "I like him in the lineup. So I'm going to continue putting him there if his body feels good and his mind is right. And it is, so that part is good."

Schumaker did acknowledge that there is a date picked for Seager to sit out a game around one of the team's off days. The manager didn't say if that would be Friday at

Houston, or coincide with their only remaining scheduled off day this month, next Thursday between road series against Colorado and the Los Angeles Angels.

Texas sat slumping first baseman Jake Burger for two games last weekend. He went 3 for 3 on Tuesday night, then matched a career high with four RBIs on Wednesday, a three-run homer and then a tying RBI single in the ninth inning.



**LEGAL NOTICE**

IN THE JENNINGS CIRCUIT COURT )  
) SS:  
COUNTY OF JENNINGS )  
CAUSE NUMBER: 40C01-2512-JC-000060  
IN THE MATTER OF: JH - DOB 8/1/2018 A CHILD ALLEGED TO BE A CHILD IN NEED OF SERVICES AND PAUL HALL (FATHER) MARIAH STEELE (MOTHER) AND ANY UNKNOWN ALLEGED FATHERS  
**SUMMONS FOR SERVICE BY PUBLICATION & NOTICE OF CHILD IN NEED OF SERVICES HEARING**  
TO: Paul Hall and Any Unknown Alleged Father  
**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN** to the above noted parent whose whereabouts are unknown, as well as Any Unknown Alleged Fathers, whose whereabouts are also unknown, that the Indiana Department of Child Services has filed its Verified Petition Alleging the child to be in Need of Services, in accordance with I.C. 31-34-9-3, and that an adjudication hearing has been scheduled with the Court. **YOU ARE HEREBY COMMANDED** to appear before the Judge of the Jennings Circuit Court, 24 North Pike Street, Vernon, IN 47282 - 812-352-3082 for a(n) hearing on 14 day of May, 2026 at 10:00 a.m. At said hearing, the Court will consider the Petition and evidence thereon and will render its decision as to whether the above named minor child is child in need of services and shall enter adjudication accordingly. Your failure to appear after lawful notice will be deemed as your default and waiver to be present at said hearing. **UPON ENTRY OF SAID ADJUDICATION, A DISPOSITIONAL HEARING** will be held in which the Court will consider (1) Alternatives for the care, treatment, or rehabilitation for the child; (2) The necessity, nature, and extent of your participation in the program of care, treatment, or rehabilitation for the child; and (3) Your financial responsibility for any services provided for the parent, guardian or custodian of the child including child support. **YOU MUST RESPOND** by appearing in person or by an attorney within thirty (30) days after the last publication of this notice, and in the event you fail to do so, an adjudication on said petition, judgment by default, may be entered against you, or the court may proceed in your absence, without further notice.

Amy Thompson  
Clerk

Michael T. Troutman, 37915-22  
Attorney, Indiana Department of Child Services



JOSH CLAYWELL/Paxton Media Group

LaRue County's Layla Cain placed third in the girls' long jump at the regional meet Wednesday in Bowling Green.

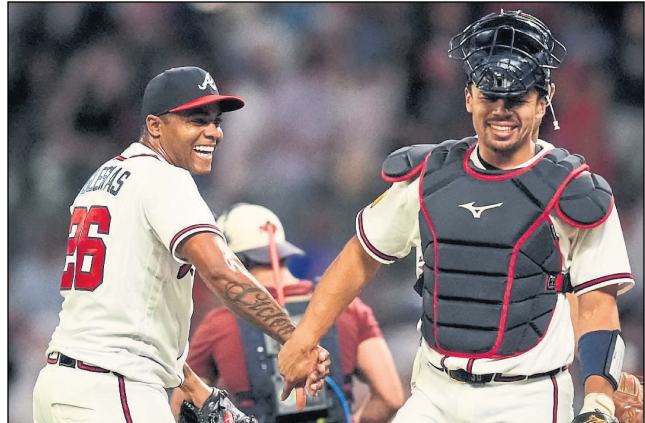
## HAWKS

FROM PAGE B1

(LC) 10:46.38  
Girls 100 Meter Hurdles:  
3. Brynna Fouts (LC) 19.71  
Girls 300 Meter Hurdles:  
4. Brynna Fouts (LC) 56.68  
Girls 4x100 Meter Relay:  
2. Larue County 51.98; 4. Elizabethtown 53.28

Girls 4x200 Meter Relay:  
1. Elizabethtown 1:48.15; 2. Larue County 1:49.25  
Girls 4x400 Meter Relay:  
1. Elizabethtown 4:17.75; 2. Larue County 4:19.67; 3. John Hardin 4:23.50  
Girls 4x800 Meter Relay:  
1. LaRue County 10:06.48; 3. Elizabethtown 10:38.28  
Girls High Jump: 4. Mollie Jo Wooldridge (LC) 4-8  
Girls Long Jump: 3. Layla

Cain (LC) 14-9; 4. Mallory Trieschman (E) 14-8.5; 5. Mollie Jo Wooldridge (LC) 14-5.5  
Girls Triple Jump: 4. Lily Gay (E) 30-11; 5. Charlotte Hahn (E) 30-10.5  
Girls Pole Vault: 1. Lily Gay (E) 9-6; 2. Mikayla Basey (E) 9-0  
Girls Shot Put: 2. Taylor Maupin (LC) 33-2



MIKE STEWART/Associated Press

Atlanta Braves pitcher Raisel Iglesias celebrates a win Wednesday over the Chicago Cubs with teammate Drake Baldwin.

# Braves reach 30 wins with myriad of weapons

BY PAUL NEWBERRY  
ASSOCIATED PRESS

ATLANTA — The Atlanta Braves keep finding new ways to win.

It's all added up to being the first team in the big leagues to 30 victories.

The Braves improved MLB's top record to 30-13 with another thrilling triumph Wednesday night, scoring three runs in the eighth inning to beat the Chicago Cubs 4-1.

Mike Yastrzemski came off the bench to contribute a pinch-hit double that drove in the tie-breaking run, and jack-of-all-trades Mauricio Dubon followed with a two-run homer into the Chicago bullpen that finished off the Cubs.

Throw in another stout

performance by the Atlanta bullpen, which got one scoreless inning apiece from four relievers, and this team is threatening to run away with the NL East before the calendar turns to summer.

The Braves are up by nine games on second-place Washington and have a double-figure margin over everyone else in the division.

"There's no egos here," said Yastrzemski, who contributed his first homer of the season the previous night in a 5-2 victory over the Cubs. "Nobody feels like they own any piece of this team. We're all pulling on the same rope together, the same direction. Whatever opportunities come for you that day, that's good enough."