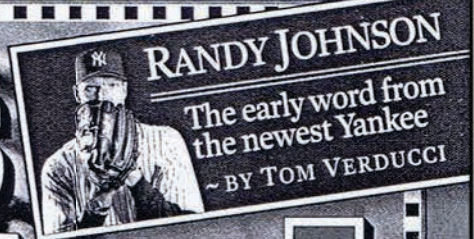


SPECIAL REPORT A DEADLY BACTERIA INVADES THE LOCKER ROOM

Sports Illustrated



RANDY JOHNSON
The early word from
the newest Yankee
~ BY TOM VERDUCCI

THE GREAT AMERICAN RACE

Jeff Gordon
Wins the
DAYTONA 500
In a Wild Finish

Gordon (red) overtook
Tony Stewart (orange), then
outdueled Dale Earnhardt Jr.
in the final frenzied laps

FOR OFFICE USE

FIRST

NEWS AND NOTES by JIM GORANT

Questions For Mark Russell

A soggy PGA Tour official talks about rain, fairway fishing and the Big Coat

SI: How do you feel about Monday finishes in the rain?

MR: *USA Today* has been doing a series on the worst jobs in sports. The paper should've included mine this week.

SI: Did you think the playoff was going to go another hole after both Chad Campbell and Adam Scott chipped to within five feet?

MR: I was already figuring out how to get them back to the tee in carts. Then Chad tried to slam his putt into the hole, and it lipped out.

SI: Do you dread coming to the West Coast?

MR: We know the weather at Pebble Beach can be tough. The strange thing is that we've had problems in Los Angeles, where you'd expect the weather to be nice. L.A. is beautiful 99% of the time; then the Tour comes to town.

SI: What's more powerful, the SI cover jinx or the Tour's ability to bring rain?

MR: We could probably end the drought in Sudan.

SI: Are you O.K. with a 36-hole tournament?

MR: If that's all we can do, yes. We're at the mercy of the elements.

SI: The Tour seems obsessed with having 72-hole events.

MR: We had some rain-shortened tournaments, and some players decided we needed to make every effort to play 72 no matter what, so they put that edict [into the bylaws].

SI: Is it called the Neal Lancaster Rule because he won a 36-hole event in '94 after a six-man play-off on a par-3?

MR: I've heard it called that. I wasn't there, but that was the tournament that changed the players' attitudes about going 72 holes.

SI: If it was this wet at Riviera, which is on high ground, what's the outlook for this week at La Costa, which is in a ravine at sea level?

MR: La Costa has to be wet. I can't imagine it's not under water.

SI: What are the best fairways to fish at La Costa?

MR: The 16th is usually a huge lake. That would be my play.

SI: What kind of rain gear do you wear?

MR: I have L.L. Bean Gore-Tex mountain hiking boots. They're fantastic in bad weather. I also have an L.L. Bean parka—the other guys call it the Big

Coat. You can wear it with short sleeves underneath and still be warm.

SI: I thought the Tour was supposed to follow the sun.

MR: We're supposed to, but I'm at the course at six in the morning, before the sun comes up. I need that

coat. I might be a sissy, but I'm not a cold sissy.

SI: How about starting the Tour after the Super Bowl? Begin in Hawaii, go to Florida and then go to the West Coast after the Masters?

MR: That would be fine with me, but you'd have to clear it with the powers that be. I'd love to see Riviera play firm and fast one time, the way it's supposed to play. Nick Faldo says you take all the subtleties out of the course when it's wet.

SI: Which has been a bigger factor on the West Coast swing: El Niño the weather pattern or El Niño the golfer, a.k.a. Sergio Garcia?

MR: So far it's been the weather pattern. I wish it were Sergio. We'd all be happier.

—Gary Van Sickle

KEY STAT

7.95

Inches of rain that fell on Riviera Country Club from last Thursday through Monday.



Mark Russell

SI: HOW HARD WAS A WEEK LIKE THE LAST ONE?

MR: THE FUN PART IS, I GET TO GO TO LA COSTA AND DO IT AGAIN THIS WEEK. THE WEATHER REPORT DOESN'T SOUND GOOD THERE, EITHER.

HEAR THEM ROAR

In 2000 Donna Orender, then the PGA Tour's senior VP of strategic development, topped *SPORTS ILLUSTRATED's* ranking of the most powerful women in golf, but last week she left the game to become president of the WNBA. Here's our updated rundown of golf's most influential women.

Rank	Title	2000 Rank	Credentials
1	Annika Sorenstam LPGA player	—	An LPGA rarity: a marketable star based on Hall of Fame performance, not looks
2	Mary Lou Bohn VP of advertising and communications, Titleist and Cobra	3	Directs one of the largest advertising budgets in the golf industry
3	Karen Durkin LPGA chief marketing officer	—	Potential successor to lame-duck commissioner Ty Votaw
4	Cindy Davis U.S. general manager, Nike Golf	—	On the rise after stints at the LPGA, the Golf Channel and Arnold Palmer Golf
5	Dockery Clark Director of sports marketing, Bank of America	—	Calls shots on sponsorships and sponsorship exemptions, like Sorenstam's at Colonial
6	Michelle Wie Amateur player	—	Only 15, she'll be worth eight figures the instant she turns pro
7	Ruth Ann Marshall President, MasterCard Americas	—	An avid golfer, she oversees millions of sponsorship dollars
8	Sara Hume Executive director, Executive Women's Golf Association	—	Golf is finally realizing that women like Hume are key to expanding the game
9	Elin Nordegren Mrs. Tiger Woods	—	The power of pillow talk should never be underestimated
10	Jan Beljan Senior associate, Fazio Golf	9	Has helped design more than 30 courses, including PGA National