

Left out of Masters, it's time to appreciate a good year

By DOUG FERGUSON

Associated Press

It's rare to have a player in the top 40 missing from the Masters, much less four of them.

Rarer still is to show up at Augusta National and notice who's missing.

That element won't change, especially with so much anticipation from waiting 18 months to hear: "Fore, please. Tiger Woods now driving." And with so much intrigue about chasing a green jacket two weeks before Thanksgiving.

The chase will not include Daniel Berger, the No. 13

player in the world.

Berger received more attention from being left off the November invitation list than if he had been playing in the Masters. It became a bigger story than necessary because he was holding out hope that his three months of great play this summer, including a victory at Colonial, might count toward a major that was supposed to be held in the spring.

With the Masters a week away, Berger has company among players in the top 40.

Viktor Hovland, a former U.S. Amateur champion from Norway, won the Puerto Rico Open and has relied

on solid, steady golf to reach No. 24 in the world. Ryan Palmer is having a resurgent year with five top-10 finishes and two close calls. He is No. 33, his best world ranking in five years.

Not to be overlooked is Harris English, who was No. 373 in the world and had only conditional status when the previous season began. He had four top 10s in five events, never lost his touch after the three-month shutdown due to the coronavirus pandemic and played his way into the Tour Championship. And then he was fourth in the U.S. Open. Now he is up to No.

35 in the world.

All of them will be watching a Masters without spectators, without blooms, without roars and without them.

It couldn't be any other way.

This is the 2020 Masters, and it was meant to be played April 9-12 with a field of 96 players who began qualifying a week after Woods won his fifth green jacket. C.T. Pan won the RBC Heritage at Hilton Head to qualify for his first Masters. He will have waited 571 days to hear his name announced. Pan now is No. 169 in the world.

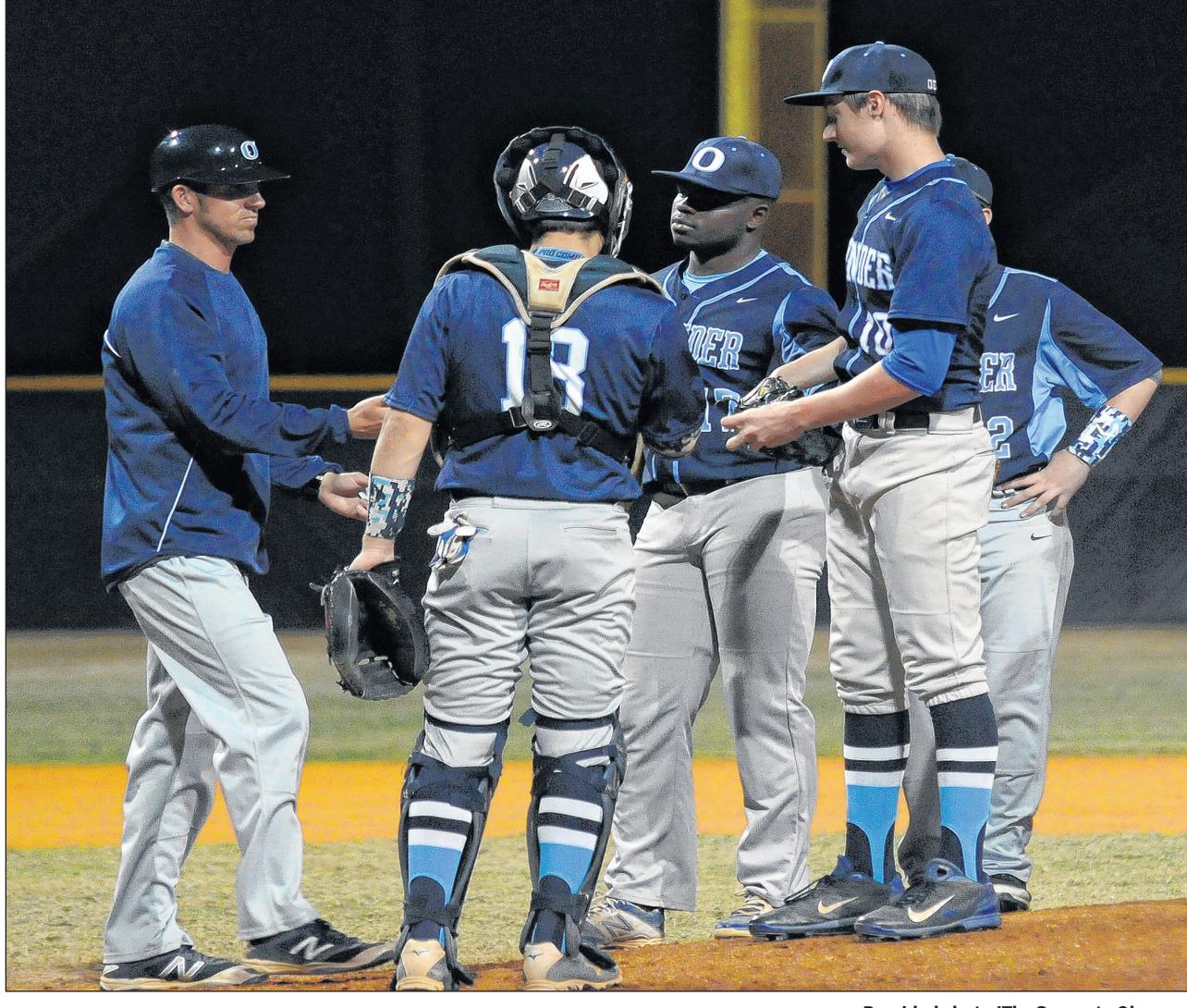
Would it have hurt to add one player?



Ringo H.W. Chiu/AP

St. Simons pro Harris English hits from the fairway during the Zozo Championship on Oct. 25 in Thousand Oaks, Calif.

CHANGING SCENERY



Provided photo/The Sarasota Observer

Timothy Orlosky takes the ball from an Out-The-Door Academy pitcher during a 2016 game. Frederica Academy recently hired Orlosky as its head baseball coach.

New Frederica baseball coach passionate about mentorship

By DERRICK DAVIS

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It wasn't a promise of money or prestige that lured Timothy Orlosky from central Florida to become the next head coach of the Frederica Academy baseball program — it was the opportunity to continue making a difference in the lives of young people.

The Knights announced Orlosky's hiring Tuesday after convincing the coach to switch to peaches following a career spent in the Orange State to fill the absence left by Greg Roberts' departure.

Over the past seven years, Orlosky acted as the assistant athletic director and head baseball coach at The Out-of-Door Academy — a Cum Laude Society preK-12 preparatory school in Sarasota — where he compiled a 121-39 record while winning four district titles. Orlosky's teams at ODA qualified for the playoffs in each of his seven seasons, and he was once named Area Coach of the Year.

But after building ODA into a winner and bringing in a stabilizing support crew, Orlosky craved a new challenge.

"I felt like the program was in a really good spot — this year's team will be the

best one we've ever had," Orlosky said. "I felt like I had done a good job, and my assistants have also improved the culture a little bit; we created a very competitive program. So I felt good about it, and I was looking for some new opportunity, a new challenge, but also still wanted the ability to work with middle schoolers and high schoolers."

Working with the middle school team in addition to the high school not only gives coaches seven years to develop players athletically, but also to build relationships that Orlosky has learned are invaluable.

Orlosky grew up in Venice, Fla., and played outfielder for the local high school under longtime coach, and FHSAA Hall of Famer, Craig Faulkner.

"He was the coach my first year on varsity at Venice; it was his first year, and he ended up building a program and ended up being a pretty successful coach," Orlosky said. "It's really him who got me into coaching. When I was at Venice, he was really hard on me and on me about doing the right thing."

In retrospect, Orlosky admits he could have been a better player for Faulkner, and a few years later, he discovered the impact a good coach can have in their players' lives.

Orlosky left Venice to play two years at Daytona State College, and while there, his brother passed away in an

automobile accident.

"I remember Craig being the first guy in my home after it happened, and it kind of dawned on me a little bit how important he was to me in my life," Orlosky said. "It left a lasting impact on me, and even though I was still pretty young and had quite a bit of college ball left, I just thought that my hope would be further down the line that maybe I would be able to impact some young men the way he impacted me."

After finishing his time at Daytona State with all-conference honors, Orlosky played two years at the University of South Florida before beginning his coaching career upon graduation.

Following a season working with the development program at Daytona State, Orlosky received his first high school job at none other than Venice High working under Faulkner as an assistant on the junior varsity squad before taking over as the JV head coach the next season.

In the years that followed, Orlosky spent a season as an assistant at each DeLand High and Windermere Preparatory School until he landed his first head job at The Out-of-Door Academy.

In his role as an administrator, Orlosky was responsible for overseeing the school's athletic facilities, organizing game day set-ups, coordinator uniform and equipment orders for all sports, and helping plan

and execute athletic fund-raising events in addition to serving as the director of the Program Leaders initiative, the liaison between the athletic department and college counseling office.

During that time, he also coached at every level with the Florida Burn — an elite summer travel ball program for high school players on Florida's west coast that is coming off consecutive titles at the prestigious Perfect Game WWBA World Championships.

Frederica Academy athletic director Carl Nash said the school was "thrilled to hire someone who has such a distinguished record as a collegiate baseball player, high school baseball coach, travel coach, and athletic administrator," while Head of School Scott Hutchinson noted Orlosky's passion for mentoring young people and his demonstrated success at an independent school as qualities that will serve the community well.

It was after meeting with Frederica's leadership that Orlosky felt comfortable planning the 317-mile move he'll make later this month.

"I really liked what Scott Hutchinson and Carl Nash, both of them, had to say," Orlosky said. "I thought they were both tremendous human beings. I really liked Scott's vision for the school and for the future, and I felt everything Carl said to me, I agreed with and I liked.

"It just felt right."

Region title up for grabs Friday at GCS

THE BRUNSWICK NEWS

With Brunswick High on a bye, there could be plenty of Pirates fans cheering on the Terrors this Friday at Glynn County Stadium in Glynn Academy's matchup against Richmond Hill.

Each of the three teams could walk away from the contest as the presumptive favorite to win the Region 2-6A championship over the final two weeks of the season.

A Terrors victory over the Wildcats would create a three-way tie among the programs at 5-1 in the region, assuming each team won out its remaining games. Brunswick beat Glynn Academy 24-21 in the City Championship game and lost 42-27 to Richmond Hill last week.

According to region tiebreakers, the region champion would likely be decided by points allowed in contests between the three tied teams with a maximum of 25 points per game. The Pirates' total sits at 46 points allowed in their matchups between the Wildcats and Terrors.

Glynn Academy wins the region title if it wins Friday while holding Richmond Hill to 21 or fewer points. Brunswick wins the region if Glynn wins, but Richmond Hill scores 23 points or more. A Richmond Hill victory would give the Wildcats their second straight region championship.

If the Wildcats score exactly 22 points in a loss, overall point differential in games between the three teams would be the next tiebreaker.



Charles Rex Arbogast/AP

The Michael Jordan statue stands in front of an I Voted banner on Election Day at the United Center.

Voting, activism take over sports world

By HOWARD FENDRICH

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Just past noon on Election Day, after casting her vote where the NBA's Wizards and NHL's Capitals play, Mary Pittman exited through one of the arena's glass doors. Perched on the 77-year-old retiree's walker: a stars-and-stripes hat touting the basketball team, autographed on the brim in fresh black ink.

"No line," Pittman said about Tuesday's balloting. "No waiting. No confusion. No fuss."

At a time when athletes are embracing activism like never before, refusing to heed the unfounded admonition framed two years ago by one TV talking head as "shut up and dribble," there was vivid symbolism in the wide use of team arenas and stadiums as voter registration and polling sites.

If the United States' fields of play once were walled off from politics — Colin Kaepernick, whose 33rd birthday happened to be Tuesday, saw his sideline kneeling to call attention to police brutality and systemic racism contribute to his status as a "former NFL quarterback" — they have become fertile ground for those sorts of statements in 2020.

"Athletes, like anyone, are entitled to their opinion," Pittman said. "But I don't have to agree with it."

And that's absolutely fine, said Ish Smith, the Wizards guard who signed Pittman's cap.

"I've loved and respected how we have ... been able to speak out on certain things that was, in the past, uncomfortable. It says a lot. Says how far we came as athletes. And we're going to keep growing, keep evolving," Smith said.

"Sports and politics — usually people keep to one side," he said. "Now they're intertwining."

Indeed, that intersection never has been as pronounced as now.