

TIGER WOODS



LARGER THAN LIFE
A CELEBRATION OF GREATNESS

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1975

“You can always become better.”

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INTRODUCTION

Eldrick "Tiger" Woods is an **American professional golfer whose achievements to date rank him among the most successful golfers of all time**. Currently the World No. 1, Woods was the highest paid professional athlete in 2006, having earned an estimated \$100 million from winnings and endorsements. Woods has established several charitable and youth projects. Woods has won 13 professional major golf championships, the second-most of any male player, and 61 PGA Tour events, the fifth-most of all time. He has more wins on the PGA Tour than any other active golfer. He is the **only active golfer in the top 10 in career major wins and career PGA Tour wins**.

BIRTH AND EARLY LIFE

Eldrick "Tiger" Woods was born on the 30th of December 1975, the only child to parents Earl, retired lieutenant, and Kultida, of Thai descent. Earl Woods gave his son Eldrick the nickname 'Tiger', after a soldier and friend of his father who was also nicknamed Tiger in his days as a lieutenant colonel in the U.S. Army. Tiger grew up in Cypress, California, where his future passion and talent was foreshadowed while he was only a baby. He was not out of the crib before he took an interest in golf, at age 6 months, watching as his father hit golf balls into a net and imitating his swing. He appeared on the Mike Douglas Show at age 2, putting with Bob Hope. He shot 48 for nine holes at age 3 and was featured in Golf Digest at age 5. He won the Optimist International Junior tournament six times at ages 8, 9, 12, 13, 14 and 15.

CAREER

Tiger played in his **first professional tournament in 1992, at age 16**, the Nissan Los Angeles Open and in three more PGA TOUR events in 1993. He made the 36-hole cut and tied for 34th place in the 1994 Johnnie Walker Asian Classic in Thailand, and had three additional PGA TOUR appearances. He entered Stanford University in 1994 and in two years he won 10 collegiate events, concluding with the NCAA title. His other amateur victories included the 1994 Western Amateur.

In 1994, Woods became the youngest ever winner of the U.S. Amateur Championship.

TURNING PROFESSIONAL

He turned professional in late summer 1996 and played 7 tournaments on the PGA Tour. Woods won twice and posted 5 straight Top 5 finishes

In 1997, Tiger won the first Mercedes Championships of the season, the Masters and four PGA events. Woods won just once in 1998, but in 1999 he began a string of consecutive Player of the Year awards that didn't end until Vijay Singh won the title in 2004.

He won 8 times in 1999, then 9 times in 2000. Woods' 2000 season is arguably the best ever on the PGA Tour. He became the second golfer to win three professional majors in one year and broke Byron Nelson's more-than-50-year-old scoring average record.

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In 2001, when he won the Masters, Woods became the first golfer to hold all four professional majors at the same time. In 2002, he won second consecutive Masters, third overall, with a three-stroke victory over Retief Goosen. He became the youngest golfer in history to win seven PGA majors. In June, he went on to win his second U.S. Open at Bethpage Black. Early in the year, Tiger became the first player to pass the \$40 million mark in career earnings. Tiger was placed second in the Forbes Top 100 Celebrity Power Ranking for 2002.

In 2004, early in the year, he became the first player to pass the \$40 million mark in career earnings. It was a tough year for him. He lost his number one ranking to Vijay Singh after Singh, Woods, and Adam Scott battled it out at the Deutsche Bank Championship over the Labor Day weekend. Tiger had been at the top since Aug. 1999 - a record 264 weeks.

In 2005, With a commanding 5-stroke victory, Tiger took the British Open trophy for the second time. This was his 10th major title and he joined Jack Nicklaus in being the only players to win all four major tournaments at least twice.

With his victory at the 2006 WGC-American Express Championship, he became the first player in PGA Tour history to win at least eight times in three seasons. Tiger won the Buick Open in August becoming the youngest player to win 50 PGA tournaments. He has finished 1st on the PGA TOUR 7 times in 2007.

Quotes By Tiger Woods

“I don't know if I even have an aura, man. I just try to win.”

“I mean, as an athlete, as a competitor, you have to have that belief in yourself.”

“The only thing you can do is take a learning experience from it, positives and negatives, and apply them to the future.”