

Golf is not like team sports

OWINGS MILLS, MD. — Instead of outrage and grave concern that Rory McIlroy chose to sit out the first FedEx Cup playoff event — without dropping a single spot in the rankings — let it be a reminder that golf is not like other sports.

These are not the “playoffs.” That’s for team sports.

This is golf, which has never had a defining finish to its year and never will.

The FedEx Cup attempted to create a finish line until the tour tried to promote it as so much more. What it did was create an incentive for the best players to compete after the majors were over. That part has worked beautifully, and it still does, with or without McIlroy.

Perhaps one reason McIlroy’s absence got so much attention was no one had skipped a postseason event (barring injury) since Webb Simpson five years ago. Simpson pulled out of the BMW Championship at No. 3 in the FedEx Cup, saying he wanted to be fresh for the FedEx Cup finale at East Lake.

McIlroy had said in June he has earned the right to do whatever he wants, and that includes skipping a \$20 million tournament (for the third time this year), and sitting out the first round of what the PGA Tour calls its “playoffs.” He remains at No. 2.

But he certainly wasn’t the first to do that. Tiger Woods was a no-show for the first playoff event in 2007, and he still went on to win the FedEx Cup. Phil Mickelson skipped the BMW Championship that year when it was the third of four postseason events.

Sergio Garcia? He missed seven postseason events when he was eligible (and presumably healthy), one year taking time off in Switzerland and Spain because he wanted



Scottie Scheffler hits from the 16th fairway during the final round of the St. Jude Championship golf tournament on Sunday in Memphis, Tenn.

a break. McIlroy finished up nine holes of practice at Caves Valley on Monday afternoon as some of the players who advanced to the second stage were still on their way to the BMW Championship after a steamy week in Memphis, Tennessee. Given the heat, he’s probably fresher than most.

He first raised the question last year when he was No. 3 in the FedEx Cup, finished next-to-last in Memphis and wondered what he was doing there. He only dropped to No. 5. It changed nothing. So it was no surprise McIlroy sat this one out.

Scottie Scheffler could have easily done the same. The TPC Southwind is where he last missed a cut (in 2022, when the postseason opener had 125-man field and a 36-hole cut). The FedEx St. Jude Classic also gave him a sponsor exemption when he was 17, and he has never missed it as a PGA Tour member. His choice.

But playoffs? Jim Mora and his infamous “Playoffs?” interview comes to mind this time of the year.

The FedEx Cup might be a lot easier to understand — and appreciate — if the PGA Tour had just stuck to the right language when this season-ending bonanza first was unveiled.

It was at East Lake

in 2006 during the Tour Championship — remember, that was the year Woods and Mickelson both decided to skip the PGA Tour’s finale — when former Commissioner Tim Finchem laid out the details of the FedEx Cup.

He said golf was the only major sport where the regular season was more compelling than the finish (he apparently didn’t think much of tennis). And so Finchem introduced a concept referred to as a championship series of four tournaments.

He used that phrase — “championship series” — 20 times in a lengthy news conference. The eight times he mentioned “playoffs” was comparison with other sports, and how the championship series would be “our version of the playoff system.”

And then some marketing genius leaned on “playoffs,” the word was painted onto a grassy hill at Westchester Country Club, the term stuck and it still doesn’t make sense.

That especially was the case when it began with 144 players, leading Jim Furyk to do the math.

“In football, there’s 32 teams in the NFL and if I’m correct, 12 teams go to the playoffs,” he said in 2007. “This year, 125 guys also keep their tour card and 144 people are going to the Playoffs. So

that’s roughly 110% of the league.”

Golf is not like other sports.

The concept is fine. The PGA Tour’s version of the playoffs is working because it provides three weeks of its best players competing for a trophy that is slowly gaining in stature. It’s not one of the four majors. It’s probably still a notch below The Players Championship.

The PGA Tour has tweaked the format five times, seeking a solution that doesn’t exist.

The most recent format — “starting strokes” — was the most controversial, with the No. 1 player starting at 10-under par before the Tour Championship began. Not even Scheffler liked that. But it at least rewarded the players who performed the best throughout the year.

Now the 30 players who emerge from the BMW Championship this week will all start from scratch at East Lake, and the low score wins. The “season-long champion” could be someone who wins for the first time all year.

How is the FedEx Cup trophy any different from the old Tour Championship trophy?

The money is better. And unlike the last Tour Championship before the FedEx Cup began, at least everyone will show up.

Steelers’ Rodgers eager for helmet switch

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

LATROBE, Pa. — Aaron Rodgers is still feeling things out in Pittsburgh, in more ways than one.

The NFL’s oldest player, who wrapped up his initial (and likely only) training camp with the Steelers at Saint Vincent College on Tuesday, is still searching for the right helmet.

The league banned the helmet Rodgers has long preferred because it didn’t meet certain safety standards. He’s not exactly enthralled with the replacement he’s been using.

“I’m trying to change (it),” Rodgers told reporters. “We’re in the process still. It looks like a damn spaceship out there. We’ve got to change it.”

The 41-year-old pointed out that the facemask he has used in the past, which he’s still trying to use now, doesn’t fit.

“It an old facemask, just like I’m old,” Rodgers said. “But we’re trying to find the right helmet now.”

Rodgers will have to get comfortable being a little uncomfortable until the team figures out a solution. He — and his current helmet — could get meaningful reps against another club for the first time on Thursday when the Steelers and Tampa Bay hold a joint practice ahead of the Buccaneers’ visit to Acrisure Stadium on Saturday.

While it’s unclear whether Rodgers will play in either of Pittsburgh’s two remaining preseason games, he is eager to get behind center against Tampa Bay.

“It’s good to go against a different team (because) ... you get a chance to go against not-vanilla defenses,” he said. “So hopefully (Tampa Bay coach) Todd (Bowles), he probably won’t show everything, but he’ll do some stuff to stress our protection and give us a chance to get some film to work on.”

Pittsburgh’s offense —

without Rodgers, wide receiver DK Metcalf or running back Jaylen Warren — put up 31 points last weekend in an exhibition victory over Jacksonville. Rodgers praised the efficiency of backup quarterbacks Mason Rudolph and Skylar Thompson. He also got a feel for what the “operation” might look like when he gets on the field.

Rodgers also did his best to be what he called “the voice of reason” on the headset.

“Sometimes people freak out on there and start yelling and screaming,” the four-time NFL MVP said, with more than a hint of his dry humor. “Or other times, people are talking that shouldn’t be talking. But I’m more of the comic relief on there.”

All kidding aside, Rodgers believes the offense has made some progress since the rocky opening days of camp. Perhaps just as importantly, he’s made it a point to try and get to know his new teammates, some of whom were toddlers (if that) when Rodgers entered the league 20 years ago.

That includes popping up in different spots when the team goes out to stretch before practice, which allows him to chat informally

“So many times I feel like the expectation is that leaders have got to be at the front of line,” Rodgers said. “But you know, sometimes to lead properly you have to serve and serving sometimes involves you being at the back.”

It also provides him with a different and welcome perspective on what the vibe might be like on a given day.

“I don’t need to be out front the entire time when I’m here,” he said. “I want to make connections with the guys, and sometimes those guys hanging in the back are hanging in back for a reason. So those are the conversations I want to have.”

Vick, Jackson on same path as they briefly reunite in Philly

BY DAN GELSTON ASSOCIATED PRESS

PHILADELPHIA — Michael Vick tossed the ball to DeSean Jackson at much shorter distances than, say, the time the former Eagles connected on an 88-yard touchdown pass in 2010.

Wearing a green polo shirt and cap, Vick still had some zip on the left arm. Jackson laughed as he made a few short runs before he had to change out of a white T-shirt and into a sports coat.

The kind of outfit needed at a news conference for a head coach.

Vick and Jackson haven’t played for the Eagles in more than a decade but the two franchise greats felt every bit at home Tuesday at their old stomping ground at the team’s complex.

The duo have now graduated into becoming rookie head coaches at HBCU schools; Vick at Norfolk State and Jackson at Delaware State out of the Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference. They are the kind of football programs and a conference that would never have such a major platform in the regular season as the one they will boast when Vick and Jackson go head-to-head (well, the teams will) on Oct. 30 at Lincoln Financial Field — the home of the Super Bowl champs.

“The Linc gets crazy already,” Jackson said.

“Now you’ve got two legends. It’s going to be hype.”

Vick, who played quarterback, and Jackson, who was a receiver, each hope to add one more signature moment as coaches in Philadelphia after a career full of them during successful tenures with the Eagles (as well as other stops in the NFL).

“There are a lot of things we could be doing,” Vick said. “But we chose to go down this route.”

Neither Vick nor Jackson have coaching experience but they are just the latest former NFL stars who had not coached before taking the helm at an HBCU program, a club that includes Deion Sanders and Eddie George.

Norfolk State has made only one playoff appearance since moving to FCS in 1997. The last five Spartan head coaches have had losing records, including Dawson Odoms, who was fired in November after going 15-30 in four seasons.

Jackson replaced Lee Hull after the Hornets went 1-11 last season.

Sanders eventually jumped from an HBCU program to a Big 12 team in Colorado. He led Colorado to a 9-4 record last season and earned a spot in the Alamo Bowl.

“Without Deion’s success, our success would never be presented to us,” Jackson said. “When I had

an opportunity to be in this role, in this seat, I reached out to him. I never thought I would be a coach. I’m just going to be real. All those years I played, I seen how much time the coaches spent in the building. After practice, meetings.”

Vick actually approached Jackson about joining his coaching staff at Norfolk State. Jackson considered the opportunity but jumped at his own chance to run a program.

“The kids and the youth are something that we really pour into,” Jackson said. “To have all the information and the knowledge we have, it would be selfish for us not to give back

to these young men that are trying to get somewhere in life.”

Vick said he always wanted to coach and spent most of the last few years coaching his daughter’s flag football team. Vick — who earned a second chance in Philadelphia after his NFL career with Atlanta was derailed by his conviction in 2007 for his involvement in a dogfighting ring — had run football camps since he was a rookie with the Falcons.

“Every time I have a camp, I feel bad when I leave, I feel bad when the kid goes on to get other coaching,” Vick said. “It


was always in me to be with a group of young men, to develop them, see how they transition over a three-month period, a six-month period, a 12-month period.”

The good friends (each called the other a brother) now get a chance to mea-

sure their own coaching careers over those same time frames, and beyond.

Just maybe if the wins come, they’ll get a call to a Power Four program like Sanders.

“Hopefully, I won’t say hopefully,” Vick said, “it will be a success.”



LEGAL NOTICE

Notice of Hearing
Daviess County Board of Education

The Daviess County Board of Education will hold a public hearing at the Daviess County Board of Education Central Office on Thursday, August 21, 2025, at 4:15 P.M. to hear public comments regarding the proposed general fund tax levy of 69.8 cents on real property and 71.5 cents on personal property.

The General Fund tax levied in fiscal year 2025 was 71 cents on real property and 71.5 cents on personal property and produced revenue of \$48,992,466.83. The proposed General Fund tax rate of 69.8 cents on real property and 71.5 cents on personal property is expected to produce \$53,804,536.60. Of this amount, \$7,392,337.38 is from new and personal property. The compensating tax rate for 2026 is 67 cents on real and 71.5 cents on personal property and is expected to produce \$51,899,537.90.

The general areas to which revenue of \$4,812,070 above 2025 revenue is to be allocated are as follows: Cost of collections, \$97,685; building fund, \$834,904; instruction, \$2,909,611; transportation, \$581,922; and maintenance of plant, \$387,948.

The General Assembly has required publication of this advertisement and information contained herein.

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