

unknown in centuries of athletic greatness.

"It is truly the most beautiful day in the history of French sport," French President Jacques Chirac said.

It might have been beautiful in the end. But winning a chance to prevent Brazil from extending its record of four championships in the final Sunday wasn't easy, and France had to play the last 16 minutes a man short after defender Laurent Blanc was ejected for pushing an opponent in the face. He'll miss the final with an automatic suspension.

Croatia, a nation just eight years old and playing in its first World Cup, took the lead 26 seconds after halftime on Davor Suker's goal.

"They caught us dead cold," French captain Didier Deschamps said.

That quieted the crowd and

minutes, they were going down, Slaven Bilic said. "The players, the fans. They had played two matches of 120 minutes each. They looked tired."

But Thuram reversed that with his first goals in 37 games for the national team.

"This is fabulous. I don't even score during training," Thuram said. "It was 200 percent luck. I am not a hero because I scored the goals. To be a hero — that's left for the final."

The final was not assured until goalie Fabien Barthez tipped a last-gasp shot over the crossbar with less than 30 seconds remaining.

"I don't think we had a wonderful game tonight, but we played our hearts out and that made a difference," French coach Aime Jacquet said. "Croatia played a very strong game and it was hard to move their defense around."

France's Lilian Thuram, left, pushes off Croatia's Goran Vlaovic before scoring his team's first goal in a World Cup semifinal match.

Associated Press

The World Cup was the brainchild of Jules Rimet, a French sports official in the Roaring '20s. France played in the first one, and nine others since. Three times previously it made the final four. Never did it win.

But now it will return to the Stade de France on Sunday night to play for the title against Brazil, which beat the Netherlands in a shootout Tuesday in Marseille.

It will be the first time the defending champion and the host nation meet for the championship.

Jacquet, who has been criticized for a lackluster attack despite the team's success, said the championship "will be a wonderful game, a festival of football. Brazil is the de-

fending champion and the best team in the world."

France has been the tournament's chameleon, scoring bushels of goals in the first few games, then hiding among the rocks. It had just one goal, a sudden-death winner by Blanc against Paraguay, in the second round and quarterfinals, and needed a shootout to beat Italy. This one was a shootout, too, but it never made it to overtime or the penalty kick.

Suker broke free and put the ball past the bald-headed Barthez just 26 seconds into the second half. It was only the second goal France has allowed and the first in the run of play. The other was a penalty kick by Denmark in the first round.

Osmon takes his stand Tuesday

By Todd Phipers

Denver Post Sports Columnist

Defending champion Jay Osmon of Alamosa's Great Sand Dunes G.C. heads the field for the Colorado Golf Association's Match Play Championship starting with a stroke-play qualifying round Monday at Bear Creek G.C.

Osmon, exempt from qualifying, will be joined by the low 63 players in Monday's action, with match play starting Tuesday and continuing through the 36-hole championship on July 19. J.D. Manning, last year's runnerup from Collindale G.C., has turned professional and isn't eligible.

Family affair

Unique formats will be used in the CGA's 1998 Father-Son Championship being played Saturday and Sunday at Fort Morgan G.C.

On Saturday, the competition will be "Chapman" stroke play, meaning that both partners tee off, each plays a second stroke with their partner's ball, and then the team must decide which ball to play out, alternating shots. Sunday's play will be Scotch foursomes, the alternate-shot format utilized during the Ryder Cup.

Silver anniversary celebrants

Aurora's Springhill G.C. marks its 25th year of operation with a week-long schedule of events beginning Sunday, including a drawing to win a set of Spalding Eclipse irons and woods, a round of golf for four at Springhill and

GOLF NOTES

a gift certificate for 25 buckets of range balls at the course.

The drawing will be held at 4 p.m. on Saturday, July 18, in conjunction with other anniversary activities at the course. For more information, phone 739-6854.

Charity event

The Quacker Classic, a benefit tournament for Ducks Unlimited, will be held Saturday, Aug. 8, at Legacy Ridge G.C. Cost is \$125 per player, including golf, dinner and an auction. For information, phone Matt Rivera at 693-1550, ext. 211.

Deadlines approaching

Entries for two state championships and a USGA sectional qualifier are approaching:

■ Tuesday is the deadline to enter the CGA Four Ball Championship, to be held July 28-30 at Kennedy G.C. The field is limited to 80 teams, 40 in the open division and another 40 in the senior division.

■ Entries must be in Wednesday for the U.S. Amateur Sectional Qualifying Tournament, Aug. 10 at Green Gables C.C.

■ July 20 is when entries close for this year's CGA Stroke Play Championship, to be played Aug. 13-16 at Ute Creek G.C. in Longmont. Qualifying rounds will be held Aug. 1 at Fair-

■ MORE GOLF: The Post's golf page/12D

way Pines G.C. in Ridgway and Aug. 3 at Thorncreek G.C. or Hollydot G.C.

Information and entry forms are available for all events are available on the CGA's web site, www.golfhousecolorado.org, or by phoning the CGA at 779-4653.

Inside the leather

The field of 86 golfers has been filled for the Norwest Colorado Women's Open July 21-22 at Valley C.C., including defending champion Lanny Whiteside of Woodland Park. Brooks Newsom of Portland, Ore., defeated hometown high-school senior Ray Rodriguez by two strokes to win the recent Fort Morgan Invitational. None of the Colorado Section PGA qualifiers earned spots in this year's PGA Championship during the recent Club Professional Championship at Pinehurst, N.C. Local entrants were Ken Krieger of Cheyenne C.C., Stacey Hart of Los Verdes G.C., and Mike Zarimba and Larry Webb, both of Walking Stick G.C. Kelly Jaques shot a 43 to win the girls' division of the CJGA 11-13 tour event this week at Evergreen G.C., with Pete Schwindt and Adam Daveline both shooting 37 in the boys' competition. Colorado State has received a \$25,000 grant from the USGA as part of its turfgrass and environmental research program.

Golden Bear's major run unlikely to be matched

NICKLAUS from Page 1D

"I think he can still win the British Open, honest to God, I do," South African Simon Hobday said. "He gets his dander up, you know he can still do it."

Nicklaus said he planned to end the streak in April after his 40th consecutive Masters, where he cried when Augusta National honored him with a plaque as its most decorated champion.

on the weekend.

"On the one hand, it was a great streak, probably never to be duplicated," PGA Tour commissioner Tim Finchem said. "On the other hand, I think there is a lot of years of quality competitive golf left in Jack Nicklaus for all of us to enjoy, and I wish him well as he chooses how he wants to construct that."

Nicklaus' performance in the four majors set a standard for years to come.

NICKLAUS/Majors

A look at Jack Nicklaus' performance in the four professional majors. Nicklaus, who will not play in the British Open, has started a record 146 consecutive majors. His first year on the PGA Tour was 1962.

MASTERS

- Tournaments: 40 (1959-98)
- Wins: 6 (1963, '65, '66, '72, '75, '86)
- Runnerup: 4
- Top 3: 12
- Cuts made: 36
- Rounds: 152
- Rounds under par: 71
- First year: Missed the cut as a 19-year-old amateur.

- High score: 81 (first round, 1970; second round, '95)
- Notable: Only player to win U.S. Open in three decades.

BRITISH OPEN

- Tournaments: 36 (1962-97)
- Wins: 3 (1966, '70, '78)
- Runnerup: 7
- Top 3: 13
- Cuts made: 32
- Rounds: 136
- Rounds under par: 61
- First year: Tied for 34th
- Last year: Tied for 60th
- Low score: 65 (fourth round, 1973; third round, '77)
- High score: 83 (first round, 1981)
- Notable: During a 15-year stretch



Associated Press

Great Britain's Lee Westwood eyes his shot during a practice round Wednesday for the British Open.

enough
has prev
from wi
Open ar
Westwo
of the m
teristic
The Tir

Top seed Osmon becomes ex-champ

The upsets continued in the second round of the 1998 Colorado Golf Association's Match Play Championship at Bear Creek Golf Club on Wednesday.

Ben McConahey of Cherry Hills Country Club pulled the surprise of the day when he ousted Jay Osmon, the defending champion and top seed in the tournament. Osmon, of Great Sand Dunes Golf Course lost 1 up in 19 holes.

CGA MATCH PLAY

McConahey was 3 up after seven holes, but Osmon rallied with birdies and timely pars to go 2 up with two holes to play. McConahey then birdied No. 17 and took No. 18 to force an extra hole.

Ben Fiala of Hillcrest G.C. and a University of Colorado graduate, continued his impressive tournament run by defeating Ken Sady of Cotton Ranch G.C. 2 up. Fiala entered the championship as the 63rd seed.

Mike English of Wellshire G.C., the 1997 CGA Boys' Match Play champion, fell to David Delich of the Broadmoor G.C. 4 and 3.

Quarterfinal matches will be held today.

CGA MATCH PLAY CHAMPIONSHIP

Second round
At Bear Creek G.C.

Ben McConahey def. Jay Osmon 1 up; Ben Fiala def. Ken Sady 2 up; Norton Rainey def. Tim Drury 2 and 1; John Olive def. Brandon Lang 3 and 2; Doug Rouse def. Randy Harrist 1 up; Dan Sniffen def. Garrett Froggatte 1 up; J.W. Sostman def. Dart Barnett 4 and 2.

James Kurtenbach def. Michael Harrington 3 and 2; Reed Myer def. Kevin Gossly 4 and 2; Dan Herson def. Mark Spenner 1 up; Thomas Richardson def. Todd Novak 3 and 2; David Delich def. Mike English 4 and 3; Todd Curlee def. Todd Vernon 1 up; Brandon Tompkins def. Eric Crum 1 up; Jason Hause def. Jared Jewett 4 and 3; Matt Call def. Shawn Wills 5 and 4.

THE TIMES

At Southport, England
Tee times (a.m., MDT) and pairings for the first two rounds of the British Open today (teled first) and Friday at Royal Birkdale (a-semester):
12:15, 4:45 — Jean-Louis Guepy, Fredrik Jacobson, Gary Evans.
12:25, 4:55 — Miguel Angel Jimenez, Scott Dunlap, Kazuhiko Tomori.
12:35, 5:05 — Matt Kuchar, Sam Torrance, Stuart Appleby.
12:45, 5:25 — Scott Hoch, Patrik Sjolund, Steve Elkington.
12:55, 5:35 — Steve Stricker, Seve Ballesteros, Tom Watson.
1:05, 5:45 — Corey Pavin, e-Dieder de Vooght, Kazuhiko Hosokawa.
1:15, 5:55 — Billy Mayfair, Barry Lane, David Howell.
1:25, 6:05 — Mark Calcavecchia, Joakim Haeggman, Keiichiro Fukubori.
1:35, 6:15 — Stewart Cink, John Huston, Toru Taniguchi.
1:45, 6:25 — Bob Estes, Peter Baker, Stephen Ames.
1:55, 6:35 — Brandt Jobe, Robert Karlsson, Toru Suzuki.
2:05, 6:45 — Andrew Magee, Colin Montgomerie, Ben Crenshaw.
2:15, 6:55 — Bob Tway, Curtis Strange, Greg Turner.
2:25, 7:05 — Brad Faxon, Lee Westwood, Trevor Dodds.
2:45, 7:15 — J.P. Hayes, Russell Claydon, Mark McNulty.
2:55, 7:25 — Tiger Woods, Per-Ulrik Johansson, Nick Price.
3:05, 7:45 — Mark Brooks, Darren Clarke, Eduardo Romero.
3:15, 7:55 — Paul Azinger, e-Sergio Garcia, Tony Johnstone.
3:25, 8:05 — Jim Furyk, Pedraig Harrington, Stephen Allen.
3:35, 8:15 — Steve Jones, Jesper Parnevik, Peter O'Malley.
3:45, 8:25 — Larry Mize, Paul McGinley, David Frost.
3:55, 8:35 — Gary Brown, Ross Drummond, Scott Henderson.
4:05, 8:45 — Greg Hutcheon, Steven Young, Graham Spring.
4:15, 8:55 — Grant Dodd, Robert Glenn, Young Ju Choi.
4:25, 9:05 — Francis Howley, Steve Alker, Lee Jones.
4:35, 9:15 — Fredrik Henge, Carl Suneson, Andrew Clapp.
4:45, 12:15 — Thomas Levat, Howard Clark, Brian Davis.
4:55, 12:25 — Gordon Brand Jr., Bob May, Rodger Davis.
5:15, 12:35 — Paul Mitchell, Michael Campbell, Philip Walton.
5:25, 12:45 — Justin Leonard, Thomas Bjorn, David Duval.
5:35, 12:55 — Skip Kendall, David Cernat, Carlos Franco.
5:45, 1:05 — Jeff Maggert, Phillip Price, Joe Ozaki.
5:55, 1:15 — Davis Love III, Ignacio Garrido, Vijay Singh.
6:05, 1:25 — Mark O'Meara, Nick Faldo, Shigeaki Maruyama.
6:15, 1:35 — Joe Durant, Raymond Russell, Stephen Leamy.
6:25, 1:45 — Brian Watts, Sandy Lyle, Yoshinori Mizumaki.
6:35, 1:55 — Lee Janzen, Ian Woosnam, Craig Parry.
6:45, 2:05 — John Daly, Bernhard Langer, Payne Stewart.
6:55, 2:15 — Tom Kita, Andrew Coltart, Frankie Molino.
7:05, 2:25 — Fred Couples, Jose Maria Olazabal, Robert Alenby.
7:15, 2:45 — Loren Roberts, Sergio Luna, Greg Chalmers.
7:25, 2:55 — Dudley Hart, Greg Orr, Retef Goosen.
7:45, 3:05 — Tom Lehman, Mark James, Ernie Els.
7:55, 3:15 — Phil Mickelson, Costantino Rocca, Frank Nobilo.
8:05, 3:25 — Gary Player, Glenn Day, Peter Senior.
8:15, 3:35 — Derrick Cooper, Michael Long, Des Smyth.
8:25, 3:45 — Paul Lawrie, Mats

Hallberg, Sven Struwer.
8:35, 3:55 — Roger Bland, Darren Lee, Matthew McGuire.
8:45, 4:05 — Andrew McLardy, Andrew Oldcorn, Peter Hedblom.
8:55, 4:15 — e-Simon McCarthy, Jeff Remyay, Mark Linton.
9:05, 4:25 — e-Justin Rose, Steen Tinning, Bradley Dredge.
9:15, 4:35 — David Shackley, Steven Armstrong, John Lovell.

HOLE-BY-HOLE DESCRIPTION

The course was designed by George Lowe and opened in 1889. In 1932, it was redesigned into its championship layout by Fred Hawtree and five-time British Open champion J.H. Taylor. All 18 greens were redone after the 1991 Open, and several trees and brush have been cleared from the sand dunes.

No. 1, 449 yards, par 4: It's a difficult opening hole, starting with the tee shot. The drive must be placed between out of bounds right and a mound to the left with a bunker in the face known as "Jutland." With a good drive, the flag can be seen over an intervening mound on the right. Ranked the third-toughest hole at the 1991 Open.

No. 2, 421 yards, par 4: This plays into the prevailing wind, with most of the trouble left. It's a picturesque approach into a tight green surrounded by bunkers and rough banks.

No. 3, 407 yards, par 4: It was the easiest hole in 1991 and the first good chance for a birdie. A tee shot down the left side flirts with very heavy rough, but also gives an open approach to a low, flat green.

No. 4, 203 yards, par 3: This is the only par 3 exceeding 200 yards. A slightly elevated green makes club selection and wind judgment critical. Bunkers left and right guard the front of the green.

No. 5, 344 yards, par 4: The fairway moves left to right off the tee, with deep rough on both sides. Seven bunkers surround a severely sloped green. An approach that goes over the green could spell disaster.

No. 6, 480 yards, par 4: There are two fairway bunkers to beware of on this long par 4. The green has been lengthened since the last Open and requires careful study of pace. This played as the toughest hole in 1991, yielding just 18 birdies.

No. 7, 177 yards, par 3: This plays into the prevailing wind and is 20 yards longer than in 1991. The green is a small target surrounded by bunkers.

No. 8, 457 yards, par 4: This is a classic links driving hole from an elevated tee to a fairway that curves to the left, favoring a draw to provide an open angle to the green. Four fairway bunkers must be avoided. The green is above the fairway, and there are no easy pin positions because of the many subtle contours.

No. 9, 411 yards, par 4: This has a blind tee shot with trouble lurking left and right. The approach is played across a shallow valley to a plateau green. Anything short will not get up the slope, which has a bunker in the right face. Anything long will finish in the long rough. The green is flat and open to sea breezes.

FRONT NINE: 3,349 yards, par 34.
No. 10, 463 yards, par 4: A sharp dogleg left puts emphasis on the tee shot, with a bunker on the right 260 yards out. Anything left of center makes the approach difficult to a sheltered sand surrounded by typical Birkdale sand hills. The green has a severe ridge on the left and slopes down to the fairway, requiring the approach to be bold.

No. 11, 408 yards, par 4: This is a good driving hole played from an elevated tee with a ridge of rough ground left and four bunkers down the right. The approach looks straightforward,

but the shape of the green could provide a tough pin placement back right where rough borders the putting surface.

No. 12, 183 yards, par 3: This is a spectacular hole, with the green set between large sand dunes. It always plays the full yardage and leaves no room for error. The bunkers are very deep on both sides of the flat green, which looks like a small target from the tee.

No. 13, 498 yards, par 4: If the length isn't enough, bunkers are on both sides of the fairway and a ditch lurks menacingly down the left. Bunkers left and right of the green tighten up the approach. The hole lies directly down the prevailing wind and should play shorter than its yardage.

No. 14, 198 yards, par 3: This is the last par 3, and a tough test at this stage in the round. The tee box is set deep in the sand dunes, so players will have a tough time gauging the wind. Club selection will be vital. The green is large, open and exposed to the elements, and the bunkers are particularly deep and set well below the green.

No. 15, 544 yards, par 5: Wondering where all this is the par 5s are? This is the first of two in the final four holes. There are 13 bunkers to negotiate. The first three make the fairway a mere 14 yards wide from about 250 yards out. Skilled players decide to lay up, eight bunkers in the fairway require a well-executed shot. The green has severe undulations.

No. 16, 416 yards, par 4: Off the fairway to the right is a plaque commemorating Arnold Palmer's dramatic recovery in the final round of his 1962 victory. A long carry off the tee requires a disciplined shot at a critical moment in the round. The green is large and raised, making deep bunkers left and right difficult to negotiate.

No. 17, 547 yards, par 5: A new teed 20 yards to this hole, which yielded 38 eagles and 357 birdies in 1991. This has turned the hole into a tight dogleg left. The two-tiered green is guarded front and rear by bunkers.

No. 18, 472 yards, par 4: This magnificent finishing hole once again requires a great tee shot. The longer hitters will try to drive over the long bunker on the right, giving them a shorter approach. The green has been raised and changed from a previous flat surface to one with testing contours.

BACK NINE: 3,669 yards, par 36.
COURSE: 7,018 yards, par 34-36-70.

CHAMPIONS

- 1860 — Willie Park
- 1861 — Tom Morris Sr.
- 1862 — Tom Morris Sr.
- 1863 — Willie Park
- 1864 — Tom Morris Sr.
- 1865 — Andrew Strath
- 1866 — Willie Park
- 1867 — Tom Morris Sr.
- 1868 — Tom Morris Jr.
- 1869 — Tom Morris Jr.
- 1870 — Tom Morris Jr.
- 1871 — No championship played
- 1872 — Tom Morris Jr.
- 1873 — Tom Kidd
- 1874 — Mungo Park
- 1875 — Willie Park
- 1876 — Robert Martin
- 1877 — Jamie Anderson
- 1878 — Jamie Anderson
- 1879 — Jamie Anderson
- 1880 — Robert Ferguson
- 1881 — Robert Ferguson
- 1882 — Robert Ferguson
- 1883 — Willie Fernie
- 1884 — Jack Simpson
- 1885 — Bob Martin
- 1886 — David Brown
- 1887 — Willie Park Jr.
- 1888 — Jack Burns
- 1889 — Willie Park Jr.
- 1890 — John Ball
- 1891 — Hugh Kirkaldy

GOODWILL

SCHEDULE	All-around competition	Group B	Beach volleyball
AS Times MDT	floor exercise, pommel horse, rings, vault, parallel bars, high bar, 5 p.m.	(1 match) round-robin, 10 a.m.	Men
SATURDAY	Synchronized swimming	Group A (1 match) round-robin, 3:30 p.m.	Group A (1 match) round-robin, 10 a.m.
World Financial Center Plaza	Duet final (long program), 10 a.m.	Group B (1 match) round-robin, 3:30 p.m.	Group B (1 match) round-robin, 10 a.m.
Opening celebration, 6 p.m.	Final team final (long program), 3:30 p.m.	Gymnastics	Group A (1 match) round-robin, 3:30 p.m.
SUNDAY	Water polo	Individual apparatus	Group B (1 match) round-robin, 3:30 p.m.
Athletics	Round-robin, 6:30 p.m.	Men's rings, vault, 5:30 p.m.	Group B (1 match) round-robin, 3:30 p.m.
Men	THURSDAY	Women's beam, floor exercise, 5:30 p.m.	
Decathlon, 12:30 p.m.			

1
6

1
9
9
0