

SKINS: \$1 million is at stake

Continued from A1

hole sudden-death playoff with Woods. Woods made critical birdie putts on the final hole of regulation and the 18th hole of the Monday playoff to extend the match.

Woods won the title on the first sudden-death playoff hole, but Mediate had won the crowd over with his play and his Everyman story in challenging Woods.

Johnson said having Mediate in the field against Mickelson, the No. 2 player in the world, reminds him of Mediate's battle with No. 1 Woods at the Open.

"It's another setup just like (Mediate) had with Tiger, going shot by shot, hole by hole," Johnson said.

Choi earned his seventh tour victory and fifth win in the last four years in January at the Sony Open in Hawaii. A strong early stretch of tournaments this year saw Choi finish in the top 12 in five of his first eight starts.

Just two weeks ago, Choi was the 36-hole leader in the British Open before drifting back to tie for 16th. Choi, whose two victories in 2007 were the Memorial and the AT&T National at Congressional Country Club, is 12th in the world golf rankings.

Ames is the two-time defending champion, including winning \$675,000 last year, the event's first year at the Celebrity Course at the Indian Wells resort.

Mickelson's participation was revealed in June. He previously played in two Skins Games finishing second in 2002 and third in the four-player field in 2003. A three-time major championship winner, Mickelson rarely plays post-season golf.

Under the Skins Game format, each hole on the course is worth money. The first six holes are worth \$25,000 each; holes 7 through 12 are worth \$50,000 each, holes 13 through 17 are worth \$70,000 each and the 18th hole is worth \$200,000.

To win the money, a golfer must



PETER MORRISON, THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

K.J. Choi of South Korea plays from the eighth fairway during the second round of the British Open golf championship at the Royal Birkdale golf course in Southport, England, on July 18.

have the lowest score on the hole. If two or more players tie for low score on the course, the money carries over to the next hole.

Johnson said the city is excited by the field and by hosting the event for a second time.

"We were very happy with last year's event. Last year's event was flawless, really," he said. "We were very happy with the Celebrity Course."

If you go

What: The 26th annual LG Skins Game

When: Nov. 28-30

Where: Celebrity Course, Indian Wells Golf Resort

Who: Stephen Ames, Phil Mickelson, Rocco Mediate, K.J. Choi

Purse: \$1 million

Television: ABC-TV

Tickets: TBA

MONEY: State facing \$15 billion deficit 'regardless of compacts'

Continued from A1

these amended compacts which obviously have revenues coming in, but regardless of these compacts, we face a \$15 billion deficit right now, we have a Legislature that's six weeks late in passing a budget and because it's six weeks late in passing a budget, we'll run out of cash very soon."

Tribe laying off workers

The \$30.8 million check from Pechanga, given as the result of a compact amendment voters approved in February, was due after the first full quarter of the year in which the compact was ratified.

It comes days after the tribe announced the need to lay off about 400 workers in its 4,700-person workforce because of the downturn in the economy.

"Clearly, we would like to be in a position to generate more revenue for the state," Macarro said. "But our business, like so many other businesses, is feeling the ef-

"I am sure the voters of California are happy to hear they got exactly what they voted for: more state revenue without raising taxes."

Pechanga chairman Mark Macarro

fects of high gas prices, the housing downturn and other economic challenges."

Even in these "tough times," Macarro said, Pechanga honors its commitments.

Other tribes with ratified compacts turned in payments by the July 30 deadline, as well, Carr said.

■ Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians, operating the Spa Resort Casino in Palm Springs and the Agua Caliente Casino Resort Spa in Rancho Mirage, has not yet divulged the amount.

■ Morongo Band of Mission Indians, which owns and operates the Morongo Casino Resort in Cabazon, sent its first check on

May 1 to the state General Fund in the amount of \$8.1 million.

Patrick Dorinson, a spokesman for Morongo, said he would check to learn the amount of the tribe's second quarter payment due July 30, but the information was unavailable late Wednesday.

■ San Manuel Band of Serrano Mission Indians, which operates the San Manuel Indian Bingo & Casino Resort in Highland, did not respond to a query on the amount.

Because the revenue each tribe pays is based on net win, Carr said it is at the discretion of each tribe to release the revenue amount the state subsequently verifies through an audit.

PETS: Animals seem to sense quakes

Continued from A1

But when it comes to seconds before, a change in animal behavior can easily be explained.

"Very few notice the smaller P wave that travels the fastest from the earthquake source and arrives before the larger S wave," according to the USGS Web site. "But many animals with more keen senses are able to feel the P wave seconds before the S wave arrives."

When it comes to animals predicting earthquakes long before they strike, the USGS cites the most recent paper published by a "respected scientist," which was in 2000.

"If in fact there are precursors to a significant earthquake that we have yet to learn about (such as ground tilting, groundwater changes, electrical or magnetic field variations), indeed it's possible that some animals could sense these signals and connect the perception with an impending earthquake."

Securing your pets

Tips for you and your pets in anticipation of earthquakes:

■ Make sure there's a supply of canned/dry pet food and bottled water with other emergency supplies, including pet prescription and medicine.

■ If roads are blocked because of a natural disaster, professional help may not be immediately available, so familiarize yourself and other family members with pet CPR, resuscitation and general first aid procedures. Your quick action can save your pet's life.

■ Try not to display stress or anxiety when dealing with pets. Most animals are very aware of their owner's emotions and can read your stress. This can cause otherwise calm pets to display aggressive behavior.

■ After a fire or disaster, check pet structures and favorite hiding places for hazardous debris.

■ Ask your local fire department, animal shelter or veterinarian for a "Pet Alert" sign for doors and windows. If none are available, make your own by listing your pets on a 3-by-5 card and display it prominently. This alerts emergency teams there may be pets that need assistance.

■ Dogs and cats should wear ID tags with current address and/or phone numbers at all times. This will make it easier for you and your pet to be reunited if separated.

■ Keep up-to-date on your pet's vaccinations. Pets may become disoriented and stray, or housed in shelters with other animals, potentially becoming exposed to infectious diseases.

■ Alert local shelters if your pet is missing.

SOURCE: The Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals

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