

2009 Tavistock Cup



PONTE VEDRA BEACH, Fla. (AP) -- Henrik Stenson was famous for reasons he never imagined.

Two months ago, he was best known as the Swede who stripped down to nothing but his underwear and a golf glove while playing from a water hazard at Doral. Out of curiosity, he searched the Internet and found 143 articles, more news than he ever got for his game.

"I guess I got as much attention off that thing as from my results the last 10 years," he said.

His golf was all the rage Sunday at THE PLAYERS Championship.

With a final round that was close to perfect, Stenson was the only player to keep bogeys off his card on his way to a 6-under 66 that gave him a four-shot victory, the 10th title of his career -- second on TOUR -- and by far his biggest.

"This is obviously going to be the latest thing on the resumé," Stenson said.

Trailing by five shots on the treacherous TPC Sawgrass, he took advantage of a swift and shocking collapse by Alex Cejka, never had to worry about Tiger Woods and blew away everyone else in firm, fast conditions rarely seen this side of a major.

"I was thinking this, that if I could finish in front of Tiger, that might be good enough," said Ian Poulter, who shot a 70 to finish second and earn 330 FedEx-Cup points. "But I wasn't expecting someone to go out there and shoot 66."

The sun-baked gallery was curious how Cejka would fare with a five-shot lead playing in the final group with Woods. Four holes and a little more than an hour into the final round, the lead was gone. Cejka shot 42 on the front and wound up with a 79.

Focus quickly shifted to Woods, and whether he could rally to win from five shots behind as he did at Bay Hill. But not this time. Woods missed three fairways that led to bogeys on the front nine and trailed by as many as eight shots on the back nine.



"When you're playing a golf course like this, and you don't have it, and the greens are this fast and this hard, you can shoot some pretty high numbers," he said.

Woods managed a 73 to finish eighth, his first top 10 at THE PLAYERS since he won in 2001, and his 16th consecutive top 10 in stroke-play events worldwide.