



ADAM HUNGER, USA TODAY SPORTS

SPORTSLINE

<b>Baseball/AL ▶ 8C</b>
Toronto at Baltimore
Cleveland at Boston
Detroit at Chicago White Sox
N.Y. Yankees at Seattle
<b>NL ▶ 8C</b>
Cincinnati 4, L.A. Dodgers 1
Philadelphia 7, San Diego 3
Colorado 10, Atlanta 3
San Francisco 7, Washington 1
Chicago Cubs at Pittsburgh
Milwaukee at N.Y. Mets
<b>Interleague ▶ 8C</b>
Arizona at Houston
<b>Basketball/NBA ▶ 5C</b>
San Antonio at Miami

**FIRST WORD**  
**I MEAN, BASICALLY, THERE'S LIKE A MAYA MOORE WING IN THE WHITE HOUSE."**  
President Obama, speaking to the Lynx, who were honored for winning the WNBA title. Moore, who has two titles with Minnesota, also visited the White House after her Connecticut team won two NCAA titles.



MOORE AND OBAMA BY USA TODAY SPORTS

MAGIC NUMBER

**130**  
Total runs by which the Athletics have outscored opponents this season. Oakland entered Thursday leading the major leagues in runs scored with 336 and in ERA at 2.85.

**LAST WORD**  
**"TO WIN, WE MUST OVERCOME INDIVIDUALISM, SELFISHNESS, ALL FORMS OF RACISM, INTOLERANCE AND MANIPULATION OF PEOPLE."**

Pope Francis' message before the start of the World Cup. Francis, a huge soccer fan, has a collection of jerseys given to him since he became pope in 2013.

Edited by Reid Cherner

USA SNAPSHOTS®

Back-to-back U.S. Open champs

<b>Willie Anderson</b>	1903, 1904, 1905
<b>John McDermott</b>	1911, 1912
<b>Bobby Jones</b>	1929, 1930
<b>Ralph Guldahl</b>	1937, 1938
<b>Ben Hogan</b>	1950, 1951
<b>Curtis Strange</b>	1988, 1989

Source USGA  
KEVIN GREER AND PAUL TRAP, USA TODAY

Brazil's Neymar dazzles, delivers

**Nancy Armour**  
narmour@usatoday.com  
USA TODAY Sports



**SAO PAULO** As great an honor it is to wear Brazil's iconic No. 10, the burden is just as great, and Neymar hasn't always handled it well. The petulance that got one coach fired and led to another calling him immature. The histrionics on the field. The fury he unleashed on social media after the finances from his transfer to Bar-

**CUP INSIDE**  
**U.S. team will fly nearly 9,000 miles in group stage, 4C**  
**Croatia coach cries foul over penalty kick call, 4C**

celona were questioned. Yet as the pressure has grown, so, too, has Neymar. Determined not to let anything spoil Brazil's big night, the young striker who has become the face of this World Cup bailed out the *Selecao* with the tying and go-ahead goals Thursday. With a 3-1 win against Croatia,

▶ **STORY CONTINUES ON 4C**



MARK J. REBILAS, USA TODAY SPORTS

**Neymar celebrates after scoring the first of his two goals in Brazil's 3-1 victory against Croatia in the World Cup opener.**

**SEE GAME ACTION AND MORE FROM BRAZIL**

In photo galleries at [worldcup.usatoday.com](http://worldcup.usatoday.com).

**U.S. OPEN TODAY** 9 a.m.-3 p.m. and 5-7 p.m. ET on ESPN; 3-5 ET, NBC



KEVIN LILES, USA TODAY SPORTS

FOWLER'S TRIBUTE HAS LEGS

Salute to Stewart hits the sweet spot

**Christine Brennan**  
cbrennan@usatoday.com  
USA TODAY Sports



**PINEHURST, N.C.** Rickie Fowler has been getting a rise out of people with his colorful golf attire for quite some time, but no reaction has meant more to him than the way Phil Mickelson responded when he laid eyes on Fowler on Thursday morning in the U.S. Open locker room.

In a tribute that was kept remarkably secret until he set foot on the course for the first round, Fowler walked in dressed like the late Payne Stewart: white knickers, a blue shirt and matching argyle socks. The only thing missing

**Rickie Fowler's attire was a way of honoring Payne Stewart, the 1999 Open champ.**

was Stewart's flat cap. Fowler wore his trademark Puma flat-billed baseball cap instead. Mickelson looked up as Fowler walked in. He smiled at Fowler and gave him a thumbs-up. "Phil obviously is a good buddy of mine, and him giving a smile and a thumbs-up, I think everyone really liked it," Fowler said. "Because he was right there with Payne in '99 (at the U.S. Open at Pinehurst), I was waiting to see what I might get out of him today." Fowler was a 10-year-old in Murrieta, Calif., in October 1999 when he heard the news that Stewart and five others died on a chartered jet that lost cabin pressure and crashed in South Dakota. "I was just getting off school," Fowler said after shooting a fine, even-par 70 in the first round Thursday. "I was on College Road sitting in the back seat with my

▶ **STORY CONTINUES ON 5C**

Parity reaches new heights in MLB

**Bob Nightengale**  
bnighten@usatoday.com  
USA TODAY Sports



Remember those days when it seemed you knew who was going to be in the World Series from the

first days of spring training? The days when the Atlanta Braves were assured of playing in October? When the filthy rich New York Yankees raided the poor and wound up in the World Series every year? These days, we're nearing the halfway point of the season, and we have no clue. Suddenly, there's a better

chance of a Toronto Blue Jays-Miami Marlins World Series than a matchup of Las Vegas' heavily favored Detroit Tigers and Los Angeles Dodgers. Look away if you hate mediocrity, but scan your morning standings today, and there are a whopping 16 teams no better than five games above .500 or no worse than five below .500. "It's like this magnetic pull to-

ward .500," Houston Astros general manager Jeff Luhnow says. "Teams have a hard time getting ahead of it or falling behind it." There's not a single great team, with only the San Francisco Giants and Oakland Athletics playing better than .600. Then again, there are only a few rotten ones, with only the Tampa Bay Rays

▶ **STORY CONTINUES ON 8C**

PULL THE TRIGGER ON SAVINGS.



**ONLY PROGRESSIVE HAS THE NAME YOUR PRICE® TOOL.** Give us a budget, and we'll show you a range of options so you can find something that works for you and your budget. Coverage you can count on at a great price. Now that's Progressive.

1-800-PROGRESSIVE / PROGRESSIVE.COM

PROGRESSIVE®

Progressive Casualty Ins. Co. & affiliates. Name Your Price® is available in most states for new auto quotes. Price and coverage match limited by state law.

Auto insurance prices and products are different when purchased directly from Progressive or through independent agents/brokers.