



My Drift

Title: Tiger Woods

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I'm sure that everybody knows by now that Tiger Woods almost died in a car accident on Tuesday, February 23, 2021. The details of the crash follow this picture of the car Woods was driving.



The 45-year-old golf legend was driving shortly after 7 a.m. PT Tuesday in Rancho Palos Verdes, California when his SUV crossed a median and veered across two lanes of road before hitting a curb, hitting a tree, and landing on its side in the brush. He was driving a Genesis SUV courtesy vehicle by himself and is believed to have been traveling at a high rate of speed before the crash. There were no skid marks or other indications of braking. He probably fell to sleep. That section of road is downhill on a curve and the area is known as a trouble spot for speeding and accidents. The road has seen 13 accidents in the past year.

First responders found Woods conscious and calm, but he had sustained serious leg injuries. To free him, firefighters broke the windshield with an ax and used a pry bar to move the seats and metal from around Wood's legs. Woods made no comments at the scene regarding the cause of the crash, and when investigators asked him about it at the hospital, he had no recollection of the crash itself.

Woods underwent a lengthy emergency surgery on his lower right leg and ankle at the Harbor-UCLA Medical Center. The leg fractures were "comminuted," meaning the bone was broken into more than two parts, and "open," meaning the broken bone was exposed to open air, creating risk of an infection. Orthopedic trauma specialists inserted a rod into his tibia to stabilize both the tibia and fibula bones, stabilized the foot and ankle bones with a combination of screws and pins, and relieved pressure to the muscle and soft tissue of his leg by surgically releasing the covering of the muscle. His right leg was basically crushed!

The decision to surgically release the covering of the muscle suggests Woods may have been at risk of "compartment syndrome," an issue common after crush injuries when pressure builds up to such a dangerous level that it can cut off blood flow. These surgeons likely believed that if they did not perform this procedure to release that pressure, they were worried that he could lose the limb. Based on the damage at the crash site, it was nothing short of a miracle that Woods was alive. Woods was wearing his seat belt which probably saved his life.

The crash represents a devastating setback to Woods' hopes of returning to golf glory and comes just a month after his fifth career back surgery. And in a life highlighted by his mastery of the golf course, it's the roadways that have proved most destructive: the 2009 car crash that led to the dissolution of his personal life and the 2017 DUI arrest that stemmed from an addiction to painkillers.

As of this writing, doctors have not said anything about Wood's back being re-injured in this latest crash.

Let's all pray that Tiger Woods has a full recovery and can live a normal life.



Tiger Woods Biography

Tiger Woods is a “Superstar” golfer, and his life has been pretty much an “Open Book” since an early age. However, I plan to dig up a few interesting facts that you might not know.

Eldrick Tont Woods, better known as Tiger Woods, was born on December 30, 1975, in Cypress, California, the only child of an African American Army officer father and a Thai mother.

When Woods was a child, his father began calling him "Tiger" in honor of a fellow soldier and friend who had the same moniker.



Tiger's Father Earl Woods and his Mother Kultilda Woods



Tiger Hitting the Golf Ball at Age 2 (inset) and at Age 20

As a young boy, Woods learned to play golf from his father, Earl, who served as his teacher and mentor. By the age of eight, Woods had become extremely proficient at the game, even showing off his skills on television shows such as Good Morning America.

Tiger Woods is the only player to have won 3 consecutive US Amateur and US Junior Amateur titles in a row.



1994 US Amateur Champion



Tiger Woods at Stanford University

In only two years at Stanford, Tiger won a Stanford record tying 11 tournaments, including an incredible 8 wins in 13 starts in 1996. Woods was twice named a 1st team All-American - in both 1995 and 1996. He was the NCAA individual champion in 1996 and was named the Jack Nicklaus national player of the year.

He was named 1st team all-conference in 1995 and 1996. He was the individual Pac-10 conference champion in 1996, and the Pac-10 player of the year in both 1995 and 1996. He was nicknamed 'Urkel' by his college teammate and close friend Notah Begay III.

Woods turned professional in late 1996.

Tiger Woods set an amazing career in motion in 1997, when he won the U.S. Masters at Augusta with a record score at age 21, making him the youngest man and the first African American to earn the title. Woods won another 13 majors and was named the PGA Player of the Year 10 times over the next 12 years, but he struggled to regain his top form after personal problems surfaced in 2009. With his victory at the 2019 Masters, Woods claimed his first major title in nearly 11 years, and he went on to tie Sam Snead's career record of 82 PGA Tour wins later that year.



He is the only player (in the modern era) to have ever won four consecutive major championships in 2000-2001. Wood's 2000 US Open win by 15 shots at Pebble Beach was called 'the greatest performance in golf history'.

Personal Life



Woods married his longtime girlfriend Elin Nordegren, a Swedish model, in October 2004.

They had their first child together — daughter Sam Alexis Woods — in 2007, with their second child — son Charlie Axel — being born in 2009. It was at this point, five years after their wedding ceremony, that the couple's relationship took an unexpected turn.

Cheating Allegations and Car Accident

In November 2009, the National Enquirer published a story that alleged Woods had been having an affair with a woman named Rachel Uchitel, who was a New York City nightclub manager. Both Uchitel and Woods initially denied the allegations.



Rachel Uchitel

But, just two days after that story was released, Woods was involved in a curious car accident that was thought to be brought on by a huge fight between him and Nordegren. Woods was injured when he lost control of his SUV outside his Florida mansion, and a local police chief said Woods' wife used a golf club to smash out the back window to help get him out the house and yard.



The world's No. 1 golfer was treated and released from a hospital in good condition. The Florida Highway Patrol said Woods' vehicle hit a fire hydrant and a tree in his neighbor's yard after he pulled out of his driveway at 2:25 a.m.

In the following month, more allegations that Woods had been having affairs surfaced. Many women came forward to claim that they had personally had sexual relationships with the pro golfer. Over the course of a few weeks, more than a dozen different claims of infidelity emerged against Woods.

In a subsequent interview, Woods spoke about the situation, saying, "I thought I could get away with whatever I wanted to. I felt that I had worked hard my entire life and deserved to enjoy all the temptations around me. I felt I was entitled. Thanks to money and fame, I didn't have to go far to find them. I was wrong. I was foolish."

The Divorce

Their divorce was official finalized in the Bay County Circuit Court in Panama City, Florida, on Aug. 23, 2010. Nordegren received a \$100 million settlement as part of the divorce proceedings. They agreed to joint custody of the two children.

Tiger Woods DUI Arrest

Woods had five drugs in his system, toxicology report shows. He said in a statement that he had been trying to treat his back pain and insomnia on his own but 'I realize now it was a big mistake.'



**Tiger Woods – Under Arrest for DUI in 2017
(Probably the worst picture of Tiger ever!)**

Golf superstar Tiger Woods had painkillers, sleep drugs and an ingredient active in marijuana in his body when Florida police arrested him in May 2017, for driving under the influence (DUI). The report says the five different drugs in his system were: Hydrocodone, an opioid pain medication; Hydromorphone, another type of painkiller; Alprazolam, an anxiety drug also under the brand name Xanax; Zolpidem, a sleep drug also under the brand name Ambien; and Delta-9 carboxy THC, which is found in marijuana.

Later that month, Woods agreed to enter a diversion program that would see his driving under the influence charge dropped later in 2017. The four-time Masters champion pleaded guilty to a lesser charge of reckless driving.

Who is Tiger Wood's latest girlfriend?



Tiger and Erica Herman at a Las Vegas Raider Football Game



Kristin Smith



Lindsey Vonn

Tiger, 45, and Erica Herman, 44, were first spotted together at the Presidents Cup in 2017. She was spotted visiting Woods at the hospital a couple of days after his latest accident.

Woods had previously been linked to Kristin Smith and Lindsey Vonn after splitting from ex-wife Elin Nordegren, who ended their six-year marriage in 2010, mostly because of his many affairs.

Is Tiger Woods the greatest golfer ever?

Well, in my humble opinion, Tiger would be the best golfer 'hands down' if he could drive a little better, stayed off drugs, stayed faithful to his beautiful wife, and had fewer back and leg pain issues!

As it is, most people would agree that the greatest golfer ever is either Tiger Woods or Jack Nicklaus. Let's compare them:



Jack Nicklaus



Tiger Woods

1. The majors

For some people, it's as simple as this. Jack had 18 majors and Tiger has 15 majors, therefore Jack is the greatest of all time. If you accept that golfers are only measured by their performance in the biggest events, it's a slam-dunk argument.

Jack won six Masters, four U.S. Opens, three British Opens and five PGA Championships. Each total, except for his Claret Jugs, is an all-time records (or tied for one).

Tiger has four more majors than any other man and six more than anyone who's played in the last 60 years, but he still can't compete with Jack in the number that matters most.

Advantage: Jack

2. Whose peak was highest?

On the surface, it seems like an easy question. At various points in his career, Jack won three of six majors (1966 Masters to 1967 U.S. Open) and four of eight (1970 British Open to 1972 U.S. Open). Those were stunning achievements that

set the standard – until Tiger arrived and did it even better. He won seven of 11 major championships from the 1999 PGA to the 2002 U.S. Open and then, almost as an afterthought, had a run of four of eight (matching Jack's best) in the majors held in 2005 and 2006.

Mixed in there was the Tiger Slam – his streak of four-straight majors – which will likely serve as the lead on his sports obituary. At the time, we knew it was spectacular even as it felt routine. With every passing year, however, the Tiger Slam becomes more and more remarkable.

Advantage: Tiger

3. Who was better when both were at their very best?

You have one golf tournament to win. You can pick any player from any point in their career. Who do you choose? Come on; there's no debate: It's Tiger Woods in the aforementioned summer of 2000, when he was in a two-month stretch of playing golf as well as anyone has ever played any sport. Tiger won the U.S. Open at Pebble Beach by 15 shots and followed it up a month later by shooting 19-under at the Old Course to win the British Open by eight strokes. That's a 23-shot cushion in two majors. In comparison, Phil Mickelson won his five majors by a combined 10 shots. Nobody ever flew higher than Tiger.

Advantage: Tiger

4. Whose prime was best?

This is where the debate gets interesting and harder to quantify. Nicklaus was on top of the golf world (or close to it) for 18 years. Tiger's reign was 14 years, not including his two lost seasons of 2010 and 2011. How much does Jack's longevity help his cause? Is Tiger's compressed run of success more impressive? The numbers favor Jack, at least in terms of majors.

In his time at the top, Jack won 17 majors. Tiger had 14.

They both had a stretch of winning at least one major title in six of nine years.

Jack had a top 10 at a major in 24 straight years. Tiger had a still-impressive run of 17 straight seasons with a top 10.

This one's mind-blowing: Jack finished inside the top 10 in 31 of 33 majors from 1970-78. (He was 11th and 13th in the two he didn't.) Tiger's best 33-major streak featured 21 top 10s.

Advantage: Jack

5. What about other tournaments?

Championships monopolize the G.O.A.T. (Greatest of All Time) conversations in every sport, but obviously there's a lot more to golf than just four weekends per year. In overall tournament wins, Tiger has Jack by a count of 82 to 73.

(They pretty much won those titles in the same time span, though Nicklaus went 17-straight seasons with a win, compared to Tiger's 14.)

Their win totals are basically a wash given how the modern era of golf has a number of smaller events (WGC and FedEx Cup) and, thus, a better win probability. Still, we give this to Tiger for two reasons:

He won 27 overall tournaments from 1999-2002 and then 25 tournaments from 2005-2008. Jack's best four-year runs were 22 (from 1970-73) and 17 (from 1964-67).

The cut streak: Tiger played on the weekend in a record 142-straight tournaments. Jack's best streak was 105.

Advantage: Tiger

6. The competition

Jack's contemporaries included Arnold Palmer, Gary Player, Tom Watson and Lee Trevino, each of whom won six or more majors. Tiger's biggest rival is Phil Mickelson, a guy best known for his collapses who not only failed to outduel Tiger on a Sunday, he failed to even duel him.

Phil won five majors but none with Tiger in the picture. Aside from him, there are just two other players with three major wins during the Tiger era: Ernie Els and Vijay Singh. The evidence suggests Tiger was beating up on inferior competition.

That's not an indictment of Tiger. The only leaderboard that matters is the one on the 72nd hole. It just says that Tiger's peers never put pressure on him on a Sunday and he never put pressure on them. He dominated in an era of chokers. Jack dominated in an era of legends.

Advantage: Jack

7. The final verdict

It's Jack! Tiger Woods had the greatest run of any golfer who's ever picked up a club, but Jack Nicklaus put together a career that, from start to finish, was unparalleled.

Of course, Tiger Woods is still active if he can recover from his latest accident, which leaves the G.O.A.T. up for grabs. What would it take for a changing of the guard?

Even if you think Tiger will win more majors, getting four and topping Nicklaus is nearly unfathomable. At 45, Tiger would need to replicate Mickelson's entire major career to become the all-time leader. He could make a complete return to form and it still wouldn't guarantee anything. I think Wood's career is pau!

Jack Nicklaus is the G.O.A.T



I know. I know. Many people think Tiger is the G.O.A.T. and the argument will go on forever. That's okay. We need something to talk about at the local bar.

Some Interesting Facts about Tiger Woods

Tiger Woods was the first billionaire athlete. According to Forbes, Tiger Woods became a billionaire in 2009 just before he saw his career go downhill due to his infidelity issues. Today in 2021, Tiger Woods net worth is around \$800 million. Michael Jordan became a billionaire in 2014 and is worth 2.1 billion today. LeBron James will soon become the next billionaire athlete.



Tiger Woods



Michael Jordan



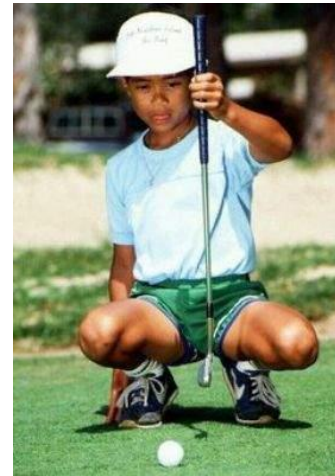
LeBron James

Woods is a practicing Buddhist and credits his religion for giving him the focus he needed to find success in golf.

Woods spent 683 weeks as #1 in the Official World Golf Ranking, more than double Greg Norman who has spent the second-longest amount of time as world number one.

Tiger had a stutter as a child and overcame it by taking classes at school and talking to his dog at nights.

Little Tiger Woods got familiar with golf even before the age of 2 through his father. **When he was 3, he shot a 48 over nine holes at the Cypress Navy course.**



Tiger always considered his father as his best friend. He was greatly affected by his father's death in 2006 after he lost his battle with prostate cancer.



Woods always wears a red shirt on the final day of the tournament, as his mother feels that it's a power color and brings good luck for him.

Woods loves to write, as he wrote a column for Golf Digest magazine from 1997 to 2011. In 2001, he wrote a book called "How I Play Golf," which proved to be the best-selling golf instruction book with around 1.5 million copies sold.

Tiger Woods has had at least 7 major surgeries (5 on his back and 2 on his left knee) prior to his latest crush on Feb 23, 2021. He has also suffered several other injuries as the following picture shows:



Woods favorite movies are Caddyshack, 48 Hours, and all James Bond films. His favorite musicians are U2, Boyz II Men, and Janet Jackson.

Woods can be generous. In 1996, he and his father started The Tiger Woods Foundation, to promote golf among inner-city children. In 2010, he donated \$3 million to Haitian earthquake relief.

Woods can be cheap! Tiger Woods is notoriously bad with his financial green when it comes to tipping servers. From taking back a \$5 tip while playing a \$10,000 blackjack hand to leaving chump change as a thank you for expensive meals, the golfer has cemented himself as one of the worst celebrity tippers.

Woods has declined to identify himself as black, and famously chose the term "Cablinasian" (Caucasian, black, Indian, and Asian) to describe the racial mixture he inherited from his African American father and Thai mother.

Woods only dates, marries, and fools around with white women. When more than a dozen white women were said to be romantically involved with Woods in addition to his blonde, Swedish wife, blogs, airwaves, and barbershops started humming, and Woods' already tenuous standing among many blacks took a beating. One black lady stated, “Thankfully, Tiger, you didn't marry a black woman. Because if a sister caught you running around with a bunch of white hoochie-mamas, she would have castrated you!”



“The Tiger Effect” – Whenever Tiger Woods was on the Leader Board for a major golf tournament, the number of viewers and the TV ratings go up dramatically. Here is an example: ESPN’s coverage of the 2015 Masters (which featured Woods) attracted its largest audience since 2010, which just happened to be the year Woods made his much anticipated return to golf following an embarrassing sex scandal. More than 1.2 million more viewers tuned into ESPN’s opening round telecast in 2015 compared to 2014, when Woods did not play in the event.

Final Comments

Tiger Woods is a great golfer, and he has been great for the game of golf. His personal life, however, has been pretty much a “Train Wreck.” Let’s all hope and pray that Woods can recover from his latest accident and maybe even play some more golf someday.

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