

editor's
letter

BY
S. MURALI

IN TIME WITH

ROLEX

FORGET THE WOLVERINE, HERE COMES TIGER



Tiger Woods at the final round of the Hero World Challenge at Albany, Bahamas.

Did you watch him?

I was glued to the goggle box after round one.

Yes people, Tiger Woods is back.

I mean, he shot rounds of 69-68-75-68 to finish tied for ninth at the Hero World Challenge early this month.

He competed in a field of the world's best and did not look like a has-been.

He hit a two-iron 272 yards to set up an eagle putt.

And it was his first event since hobbling off the course in February and undergoing anterior lumbar interbody fusion surgery.

But that's Tiger in a nutshell, isn't it?

He defies convention and constantly redefines greatness.

The first hints of his rejuvenation came from the lips of former Tour player Brad Faxon, who, after playing a round with Tiger in November, said that he was driving it past current world No. 1 Dustin Johnson on some holes during a practice round.

A lot of us wondered what Faxon, or perhaps Johnson, was drinking that day.

But now we know it could be true.

As we speak, a pain-free Tiger is trying to write arguably the greatest comeback story in sports.

He is at his home driving range, pounding

ball after ball and prepping himself for 2018.

You know he is not thinking about winning the Genesis Open in February.

We know he is picturing drawing a three-wood down the 13th hole at Amen corner whilst in contention on a sunny April Sunday.

Yes, I am talking about the US Masters at Augusta, a place where he burst onto the world scene in 1997 and dominated on so many other occasions.

I know what some of you are thinking.

Don't be silly.

Tiger, who turns 42 today, would be lucky to win again, forget about a Major.

Yes I know that too.

But this is not some ordinary mortal we are talking about.

If Marvel's Stan Lee and company had grown up watching him, the sabre-toothed Tiger would probably be an indestructible X-Men character, not Wolverine.

I know it doesn't make any sense to expect Tiger to win a Major again, so soon.

But the man who stood atop the world rankings for a staggering 683 weeks (that's more than 13 years, in case you are wondering) does not live by ordinary expectations.

I'm sure I'm not the only one waiting with bated breath to see what comes next.

think we're going to sit down here and we're going to figure out what's the best way for me to build my schedule for the Major championships.

— TIGER WOODS,
SPEAKING AFTER THE HERO WORLD CHALLENGE

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