



## *Inner City Youth Golfers' Incorporated*

Press Release

### **“Tiger Returned to the 2009 Doral CA Championship But – Didn’t Win”**



Written by: Malachi Knowles, Golf Editor, Westside Gazette

Riviera Beach (USA), March 17, 2009: Tiger Woods, returned to the PGA Tour for the third time since reconstructive surgery on his left knee and the longest rehabilitation period of his professional career. Woods competed the \$8.5 million dollar World Golf Championships-CA Championship at the Doral Golf Resort & Spa, A Marriott Resort, Doral, FL, March 12-15, 2009 but came up short to Phil Mickelson who took the first prize money of \$1,400,000.00 for four days of competition. Phil finished with a score of minus 19 and a total score of 269. Tiger finished at minus 11 with a total score of 277 and tied in 9<sup>th</sup> place.

Mickelson coincidentally was treated by the tournament attending physician after golf on Saturday for “heat exhaustion and mild dehydration.” He was lethargic later after golf as his condition deteriorated rapidly. At 9 p.m., Saturday, he was admitted to Baptist Medical Plaza at Doral where he received two bags of IV solution. Weakened and dehydrated by a stomach virus that sent him to the hospital on the eve of the final round, Mickelson closed with seven straight pars for a 3-under 69 to win the CA Championship. “It took a lot out of me,” said Mickelson, who sipped on energy drinks throughout the round. “I haven’t eaten much in three days. I fought hard. I’ve been playing some of my best golf, and I’m very excited to have finished it off.”

Tiger indicated that he was pleased with the way he was regaining his rhythm. “I got better each and every day, my ball-striking; my feel got better each and every day. I putted well today. I made two putts, but I felt like I’m hitting the putts better.” He

stated when asked during Sunday’s final interview session, whether he was surprised that he didn’t shoot a lower score, “no, I would have to say that I’m surprised that I got the feel for hitting shots so quickly. You know, I’ve been away from the game for eight months, and then to come back and only play two matches out there, which is totally different than playing stroke-play; and, at altitude, too. So that kind of threw out the distance control. And to come out here each and every day and progress, and get the feel of my short game, seeing shots, hitting shots; my distance control got better each and every day.”

He further stated when asked whether he was happy with his playing and he said “I’m very happy with the way I played; I didn’t say the way I finished. But the way I played, I hit the ball, as I said, a lot better than my scoring indicates, I hit it great,” Woods said. “I hit it the best I’ve hit it in a long time. I have not controlled the golf ball that well in a very long time and that was fun. I was hitting shots that I had not been able to hit before which was such a great feeling, unfortunately. I’m just not making any putts.” Tiger and Phil will probably compete again at the Arnold Palmer Invitational at Bay Hill Club & Lodge, Orlando, FL March 26 – 29, 2009.

You could sense from the thousands of spectators that they were indeed pulling for Woods to make a run for the victory. Notables: Alonzo Mourning; Stanley A. Wilson, Sr.; Robert Hart; Jeffery Cunningham and mom, Pamela Cunningham; Jermaine Robert Lee Sims and his father Robert Lee Sims who recently took residency in the United States from “7<sup>th</sup> Army” in Germany were seen among those following the number 1 golfer in the world, Eldrick “Tiger” Woods.



Photos by: Esmeralda H. Knowles, Westside Gazette Photographer. Cutlines:  
Above – Woods eyeballs a putt on # 9. On the side: Tiger booms his driver on # 1.