

Sports Tuesday

PRO FOOTBALL NFL playoffs

Super Bowl 50 features generational clash

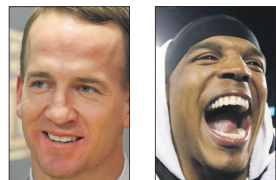
Broncos' Manning looks to add to his legacy while Panthers' Newton aims to start one

By HOWARD FENDRICH
The Associated Press

Today's NFL is all about the quarterbacks, so perhaps it's fitting that the 50th Super Bowl features a matchup between Peyton Manning's Denver Broncos and Cam Newton's Carolina Panthers.

At 39, Manning — the only five-time MVP in history and one of the faces of the league — is the oldest starting QB to lead a team to the big game. Most folks figure his fourth Super Sunday will be the last time he dons a helmet.

"Oh, wow," Newton said.



Manning Newton

"Playing 'The Sheriff.'" Newton, meanwhile, is

part of the new guard. He is expected to be honored as the MVP for the first time — fans chanted those three letters during the NFC championship post-game ceremony — and he'll be playing in his first Super Bowl.

Carolina (17-1) ran away

with a 49-15 victory over the Arizona Cardinals for the NFC title Sunday night, after Denver (14-4) edged the New England Patriots 20-18 in the AFC.

"There's no question, this is a sweet day, this was a

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**CAROLINA (17-1)
VS. DENVER (14-4)**

When: 6:30 p.m. Feb. 7
Where: Levi's Stadium, Santa Clara, Calif.
TV: CBS

AUSTRALIAN OPEN

SPLIT FOCUS

Andy Murray's father-in-law had a health scare, and his wife is pregnant. Meanwhile, he's among the top contenders in Melbourne

By JOHN PYE • The Associated Press

In the darker moments, when the medical needs of his family were becoming more urgent, Andy Murray thought about leaving the Australian Open before the fourth round.

The stress was obvious Monday, when an agitated Murray yelled and berated himself repeatedly and had trouble dealing with Bernard Tomic's unusual style before advancing to the quarterfinals with a scrappy 6-4, 6-4, 7-6 (4) win.

"The last few days were very, very tough. A lot of emotions, things sort of changing all of the time in my head," Murray said. "It's been a stressful few days, but I'll try to rest up the next few days to get ready for the next one."

Murray's wife, Kim, is due to have their first baby next month and he promised he'd fly back to Britain at any time if she went into labor — even if it meant missing a chance at a drought-breaking fifth Australian final.

The two-time major winner was playing in the third round on Saturday when his father-in-law, Nick Sears, who was in Melbourne as Ana Ivanovic's coach, needed sudden medical treatment in a nearby stadium. Sears had to be taken from Rod Laver Arena, where he was watching Ivanovic play, to a nearby hospital by ambulance and was admitted overnight.

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- Federer travels with his family
- China's Shuai beats Keys to continue string of upsets

"I just can't believe something like that happened a few days ago. It's shocking," Murray said. "Nige is an unbelievably fit guy. Very, very scary."

Murray reported that his father-in-law had been released from the hospital, was feeling OK and was heading home. Murray was staying, for now.

"To be honest, when I woke up I felt quite drained, quite tired," he said. "As the day went on and I decided to play, I started to focus a little better. Certainly I was trying to just concentrate on the match when I was out there, but, like I said, it's been a hard, hard few days."

Next up for Murray will be No. 8 David Ferrer, a two-time semifinalist, who held off No. 10-seeded John Isner 6-4, 6-4, 7-5.

In the other quarter of the draw, Milos Raonic persevered with his serve-and-volley game plan and withstood a strong

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Murray



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Jarrett had positive effect on, off court

Former Battery Creek volleyball player Kim Nicholson remembers playing "horribly" one day and her coach, Richard Jarrett, fussing at her, like coaches will do.

But not all coaches are like Richard Jarrett.

"I remembered him fussing at me, thinking it was because of how I played," Nicholson said. "He said, 'I'm fussing at you, not because of how you're playing, but because you're not being what I know you can be.'"

Jarrett died Tuesday at his residence in Beaufort at the age



Jarrett

of 72. But if the adulation of his former students and players is any indication, he made a big difference in a lot of lives before he left.

Jarrett came to Battery Creek from Jasper County in the mid-1990s along with football coach James Stokes. A girls basketball coach with the Jaguars, Jarrett would be the volleyball and softball coach with the Dolphins, along with assistant football and JV basketball duties.

"He had a really big impact on our program," longtime BC athletic director John Drafts said. "His former players are always singing the praises about how much he cared."

"I think Dick had his way of letting the kids know he was in charge, and at the same time he let them know how much he loved them."

Angelina Whalen never even played varsity volleyball for Jarrett. At the time, middle-schoolers couldn't move up and play.

But she got to practice with the JV, and Jarrett had an impact, both on and off the court.

Please see McCOMBS on 3B

GOLF

Fowler eyes major title to merit inclusion among the elite

By STEVE DOUGLAS
The Associated Press

ABU DHABI, United Arab Emirates — Golf's new "Big Three" has been around for only a few months, and already there's talk of the exclusive group being expanded.

Rickie Fowler is back in the conversation after his fourth worldwide victory in the last nine months, over a stellar field at the Abu Dhabi HSBC Championship.

On Monday, the American found himself at a career-high

No. 4 in the rankings, with only Jordan Spieth, Jason Day and Rory McIlroy above him. But to merit inclusion in the sport's golfing elite, Fowler knows he needs to add a major to his increasingly impressive resume.

He gets his first chance at the Masters in April.

"I'd like to jump in and be a part of that crew," said Fowler, sitting beside the huge Falcon Trophy awarded to the Abu Dhabi champion. "The goal right now with where my game's at — it's the best it's

been this early in the season in my career — I'm working on getting ready for Augusta.

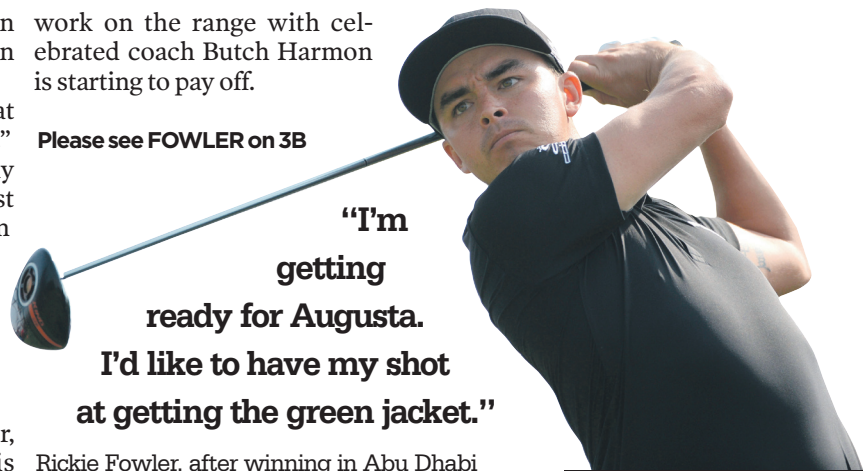
"I'd like to have my shot at getting the green jacket there."

Fowler had never previously won a tournament in the first four months of a year. He's been a slow starter to seasons — he tied for 66th in Abu Dhabi in 2015, 17 shots behind unheralded French winner Gary Stal — making the Masters even tougher to win.

But this is a different Fowler, who acknowledges that his

work on the range with celebrated coach Butch Harmon is starting to pay off.

Please see FOWLER on 3B



"I'm getting ready for Augusta. I'd like to have my shot at getting the green jacket."

Rickie Fowler, after winning in Abu Dhabi