

### Thursday's results

<b>MLB</b>	
Nationals.....	5
Pirates.....	7
Diamondbacks.....	5
Mets.....	4
Rangers.....	5
Royals.....	6
Brewers.....	9
Astros.....	6
Giants.....	10
Rockies.....	7



MATT SLOCUM THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Steve Stricker hits out of a bunker on the 12th green during the first round of the US Open championship at Torrey Pines Golf Course on Thursday in San Diego.

## Former Illini contend at U.S. Open

### Points, Stricker within shouting distance of leaders at Torrey Pines

BY WES ANDERSON  
COPY CHIEF

With just one swing, D.A. Points did something few golfers had done before him: At 9 a.m. Thursday, the 1999 Illinois graduate hit the opening shot of the U.S. Open Championship at Torrey Pines.

However, sparse galleries in San Diego, Calif., reportedly stood in "near silence" after Points drove his tee shot down the fairway. It came as no surprise — after all, Tiger Woods wasn't teeing off for another hour.

Points took advantage of softer morning conditions and shot an even-par 35 on the front nine. He stumbled as the wind increased and the course hardened, however, and four back-nine bogeys put the Pekin, Ill. native, at three-over-par 74 after his opening round.

Points was among three former Illini competing at Torrey Pines on Thursday.

1990 alumnus Steve Stricker began his day on the back nine of Torrey Pines and flirted with the front page of the leaderboard in the

early going at four-under-par. However, the 18-year tour veteran with three top-five finishes at the Open also stumbled on his final nine holes of the day, shooting a six-over-par 41 to negate his solid start and finish with a 73.

Garrett Chaussard, a 2005 Illinois graduate, shot an 80 in his first-ever round in a U.S. Open after making the field through local and sectional qualifiers. The 24-year-old is currently tied for 136th place and in danger of missing the cut Friday.

However, neither Points nor Stricker lost touch with the leaders on a typically difficult day at the USGA's premier championship. Narrow fairways and heavy rough put an unsurprising premium on accu-

racy, and the speed of the greens befuddled many competitors. Only 18 players in the 155-man field shot par or better in the first round, and 20 players failed to break 80. Defending champion Angel Cabrera, who outlasted the field at Oakland last year, ballooned to a 79.

Woods, playing in his first tournament since arthroscopic knee surgery in April, recovered from two double bogeys to shoot one-over 72. His playing competitors also fared well, as San Diego native Phil Mickelson shot even-par 71 and world No. 3 Adam Scott carded a 73.

Relative unknowns Justin Hicks and Kevin Streelman share the lead at three-under-par 68 with three rounds remaining.

## Illinois standouts chasing dreams of Olympic glory

### Wrestlers head to Las Vegas for Team Trials this weekend

BY JEREMY WERNER  
STAFF WRITER

Two former Illinois wrestlers will compete in this weekend's 2008 U.S. Olympic Team Trials in Las Vegas for the chance to represent the U.S. in the 2008 Olympics in Beijing.

Lindsey Durlacher (55 kg, 121 lbs.) enters the trials as the No. 2

seed in the Greco-Roman competition, while Matt Lackey (74 kg, 163 lbs.) competes as the No. 4 seed in freestyle.

Durlacher, a two-time All-American at 118 lbs. in 1996-97 while at Illinois, was a bronze medalist at the 2006 World Championships and was the runner-up at this year's U.S. Nationals.

He will start competition Friday.

Lackey, the 2003 NCAA Champion at 165 lbs., recently took second in the Guelph Open and fourth at U.S. Nationals.

The Illini graduate had back sur-

gery in March 2007 and did not get back on the mat until September last year.

Despite the "long road back," Lackey said he is relaxed and confident heading into his match on Saturday. He is hoping to fulfill his dreams of making the Olympic team.

"It would really just be the icing on the cake for my career," Lackey said. "Not to be overly confident, but I've accomplished a lot in my career, so I'd be forever proud of what I've done if I make the Olympic team."

Illinois coach Mark Johnson will

serve as Lackey's coach this weekend in Las Vegas.

"It'll be a sense of comfort with Coach Johnson in my corner," Lackey said. "I had him there for me for four years, so I think having him there pushing me will definitely help."

USA Wrestling will also honor Johnson and his 1980 Olympic teammates at the trials.

The team did not compete at the 1980 Olympics in Moscow because of a U.S. government boycott of the games.

Johnson made the Olympic team in the 198-pound Greco-Roman.