



英汉对照名人传记系列



新华传媒
XINHUA MEDIA



Tiger Woods

泰格·伍兹

【美】简·威廉姆斯◎著

薛鹏◎译

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内 容 提 要

本书是“英汉对照名人传记系列”之一。泰格·伍兹是美国大师赛最年轻的冠军得主,被誉为高尔夫球界的“莫扎特”。本书介绍了伍兹的出身经历和他辉煌的体育成就。

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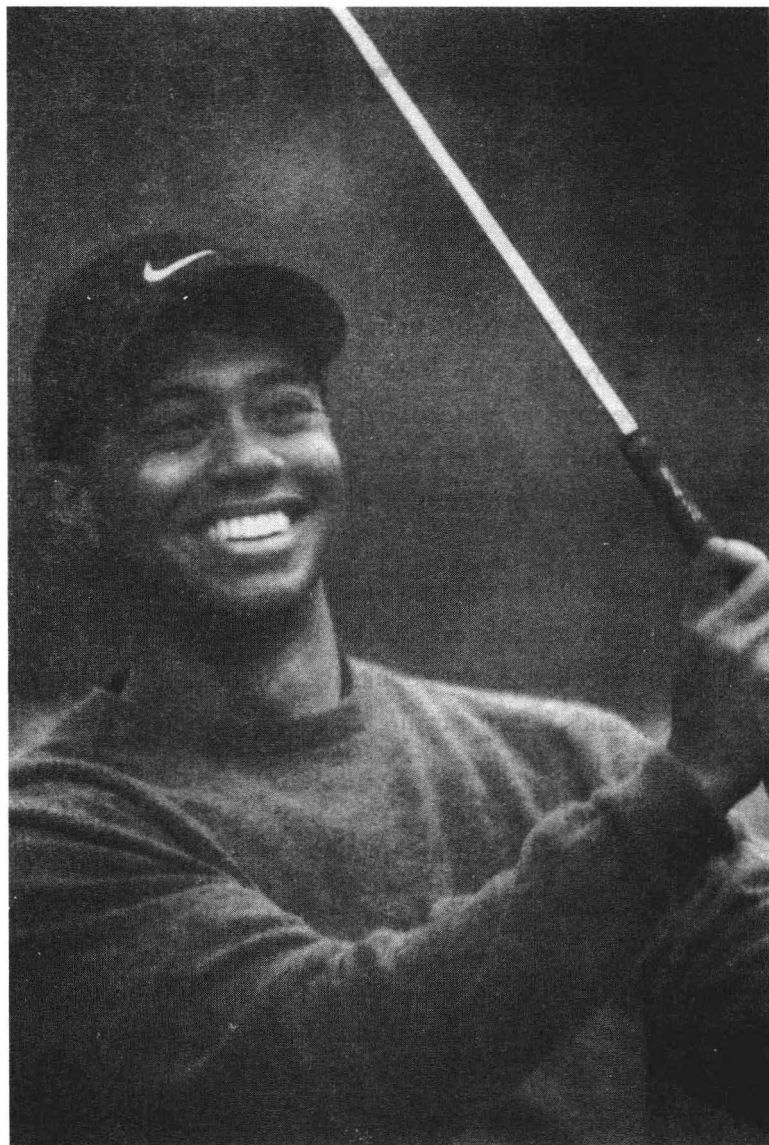
1 CHANGING THE GAME

The year 1996 was a year of change in the staid old game of golf. That year, a young man from California announced that he intended to become a professional golfer, and the game hasn't been the same since. In fact, you might say Tiger Woods doubled the impact that most professional athletes would hope to have on their sport.

Woods not only brought an unusual racial heritage to a game dominated by white athletes, but he has also taken the game to new levels of excellence and popularity. Adults and young people of all backgrounds began turning up at his matches. Even other golf professionals were amazed at what Tiger Woods could do on a golf course. "Tiger has made it cool to be a golfer," said David Duval, his friend and often his rival.

Young Talent

Tiger was still an infant when his father, Earl Woods, introduced him to golf. He was swinging a club before he was even out of diapers. As he was growing up in Southern California, he strove to beat the records set by Jack Nicklaus, considered by many to be the best golfer ever. Now, in future decades, it will be the records set by Tiger Woods that young golfers will have to keep their eyes



A winning smile. Tiger Woods's presence has made golf more popular than ever.
胜利的喜悦。泰格·伍兹的出现使高尔夫变得更流行。

on.

Not only did Woods have a natural gift for golf that his father quickly recognized, but he also had a love for the game. His parents never had to force him to practice. In fact, they sometimes had to keep him from practicing too much.

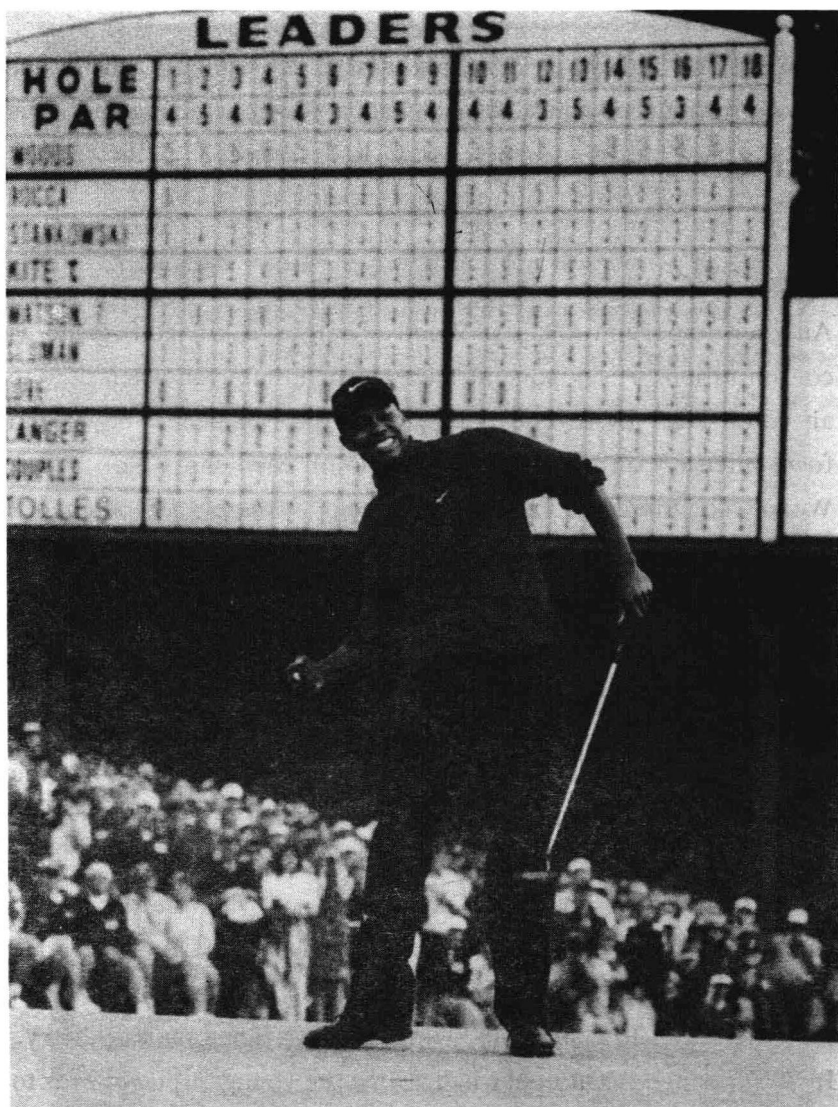
A Focused Game

Another important quality Woods brings to his golf game is concentration. His opponents have learned that even when they're ahead of Tiger by several golf strokes, he can buckle down and focus intensely on what he needs to do on each shot. Not only is Woods likely to catch up to his opponent — there's a good chance he'll end up winning.

But perhaps what really sets Tiger Woods apart from other golfers is his confidence. He allows himself to take risks when other golfers tend to play it safe. For example, he might decide to try and drive the golf ball right over a stand of trees to reach the putting green sooner, while his opponents try to go around the trees. If a shot like that doesn't work, Woods finds a way to learn from it, rather than get angry with himself for trying it.

Woods really showed his self-confidence when he decided to change his golf swing only a year or so after turning pro. He didn't reach that decision because he'd been playing poor golf. In fact, he began to change his swing shortly after a major victory. In 1997, at age twenty-one, he became the youngest player ever to win the prestigious Masters Tournament, and he won it by twelve strokes, the largest margin ever.

But Tiger believed he could play even better golf if he



Pumped up. Woods enjoyed sinking a number of amazing putts for his first Masters win in 1997.

兴奋。伍兹沉浸在多次绝佳推杆入洞的喜悦之中，1997年他首次赢得了大师赛。

improved his swing. For the next year and a half, he won no tournaments, and sometimes he felt stung by the disappointment expressed by fans or the press. However, by the middle of 1999, when Woods got his new golf swing in gear, there seemed to be no stopping him.

Today, Tiger Woods is considered golf's best player ever. It isn't just reporters who call him *the* superstar of the international sports world. Basketball great Michael Jordan has called Woods one of *his* sports heroes. But Woods's arrival at this height of success was no accident.

第 1 章 改变比赛

1996年是古老的高尔夫比赛发生变革的一年。在这一年，一位来自加利福尼亚州的年轻人宣布，他要成为一名职业的高尔夫球手。自此以后，这项比赛就发生了变化。实际上，你可能会说泰格·伍兹使高尔夫的影响力倍增，这种影响力也是大多数职业高尔夫球员一直期盼的。

伍兹不仅使高尔夫运动摆脱了人种限制的传统——高尔夫运动一直是白人占统治地位，他还使高尔夫向着卓越和流行的新水平发展。不同背景的成年人和年轻人开始来观看他的比赛，甚至其他高尔夫职业球员都对泰格·伍兹在高尔夫球场上的表现感到吃惊。他的朋友同时也是竞争对手的大卫·杜瓦尔说：“泰格使成为一名高尔夫球手变得很酷。”

少年天赋

泰格的父亲厄尔·伍兹在泰格还是婴儿的时候就开始教他打高尔夫球。还包着尿布，泰格就已经在挥动球杆了。随着在加利福尼亚南部日渐成长，他通过自己的努力打破了世人公认的最佳高尔夫球手杰克·尼克劳斯创造的纪录。从现在起，在未来的数十年里，年轻的高尔夫球手们瞩目的必定是泰格·伍兹所创造的纪录。伍兹不仅具有他父亲极早就已经发现的高尔夫运动方面的天赋，同时也十分热爱这项运动。他的父母从来没有强迫他去练习，事实上，有的时候他的父母反而劝他不要再练习了。

一场备受瞩目的比赛

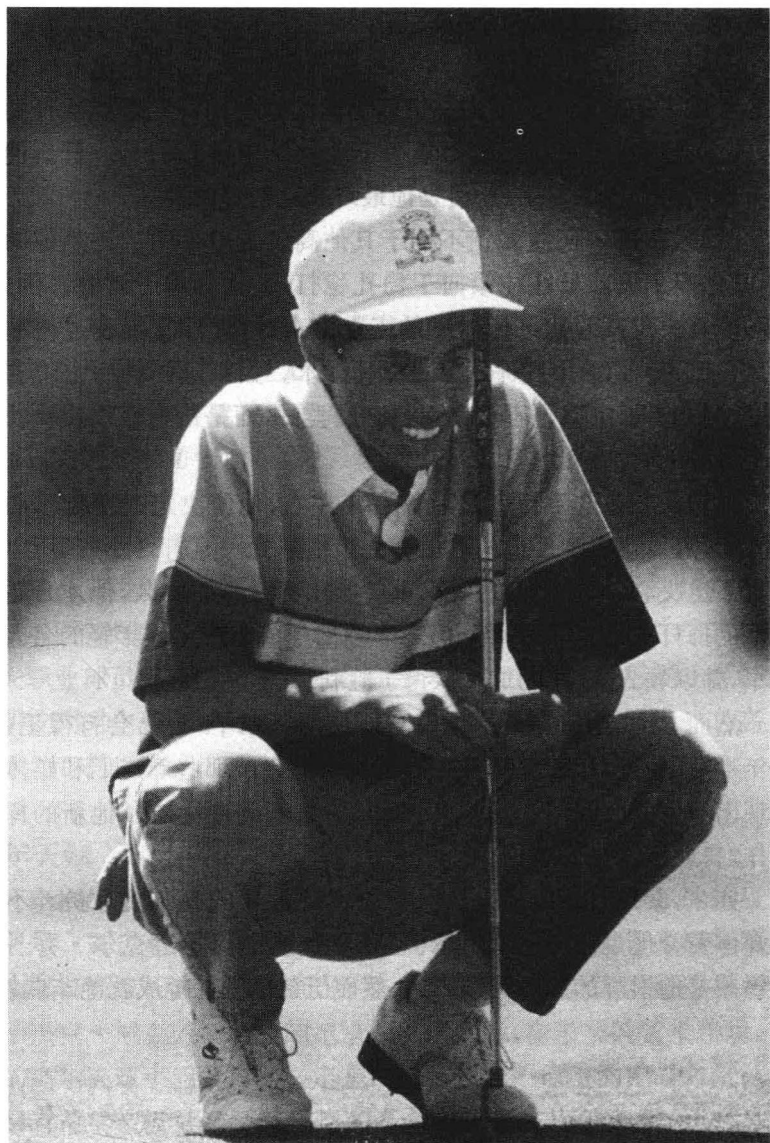
泰格·伍兹在打高尔夫球时的精力特别集中,这也是一种很重要的素质。他的竞争对手也知道即使他们领先他好几个标准杆的时候,他也会特别努力并把精力集中于他接下来要打的每一杆。他完全有可能赶上他的对手,这将是最终获胜的好机会。

然而,泰格·伍兹真正不同于其他高尔夫球手的或许是他的自信,其他高尔夫球员往往倾向于稳扎稳打,而他却勇于冒险。例如,他可能会决定试着朝一片树丛的正上方击球,让球直接越过树丛到达球穴区,而他的对手则会尝试绕过树木。如果这样的一击没有起到预期的效果,泰格也不会懊悔自己的尝试,而是从中吸取经验找到一个更好的方法。

在转入职业选手行列之后仅一年左右,他便决定改变自己的挥杆方式,这真正展现了他的自信。由于他原先一直打得不好,所以他没有下定决心。事实上,在一次重要的比赛胜利后不久,他才开始改变他的挥杆方式。1997年,年仅21岁的他成为史上最年轻的名人赛冠军,并以领先12杆的成绩取得了胜利。

然而,泰格相信如果他提高自己的挥杆水平,自己会打得更好。一年半后,他没有赢得任何比赛,有时候他会被那些球迷们和媒体所表现出的失望所刺痛。1999年中旬,伍兹圆满地完成了他新的挥杆动作,自此他便势如破竹。

如今,泰格·伍兹已是公认的史上最优秀的高尔夫球员。不只是媒体赞誉他是国际体育界的巨星,就连篮球巨星迈克尔·乔丹也说伍兹是他崇拜的运动英雄之一,然而伍兹取得此等成就绝非偶然。



Focused. Woods learned at an early age to concentrate when he played golf.
专注。伍兹在很小的时候就知道打高尔夫球时要全神贯注。

2 A TIGER IS BORN

If it weren't for his determined mother, there might not be a Tiger Woods. Kultida Woods is a native of Thailand. She was a secretary in a United States Army office there when she met Earl Woods, an American officer who was stationed in Thailand in the late 1960s. Earl asked Kultida for a date, and they planned to meet at eight o'clock. Earl arrived at their meeting place at 8:00 in the evening, but saw no Kultida. She showed up at 8:00 the next morning and thought she, too, had been stood up.

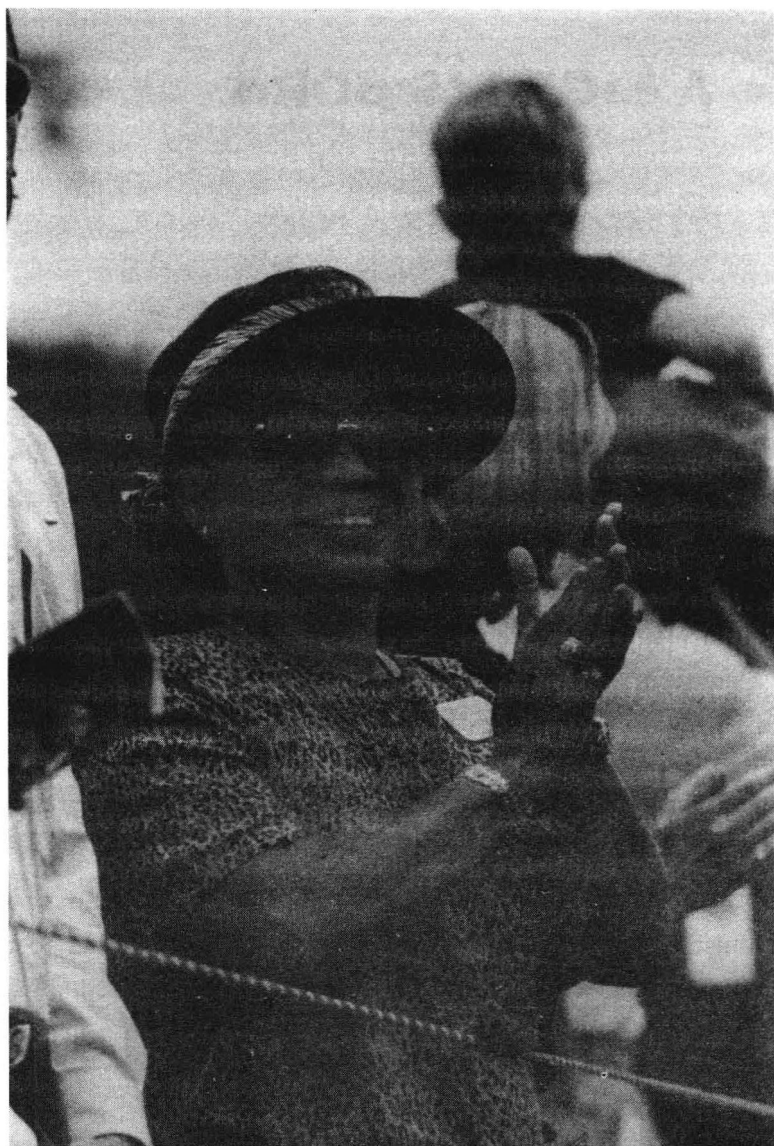
She went looking for Earl. "We had a date," she reminded him when she found him.

"Yeah, last night," Earl answered. It was then he learned that young, single Thai women didn't go out with men at night by themselves.

"We still have a date," she insisted to Earl. Because it was a Buddhist holy day in Thailand, she asked him to take her to the Temple of the Reclining Buddha. Buddhism is the predominant religion in Thailand. That first date eventually led to a marriage proposal.

Tiger's Parents

Earl was a divorced father of three children when he married



A proud mother. Kuldida Woods helped make her son into the determined man he is today.
倍感自豪的母亲。如今她的儿子能成为一个意志坚定的人,库提达·伍兹功不可没。

Kultida in 1969. They moved to Southern California when Earl retired from the army. He took a job with McDonnell Douglas, and the couple bought a home in nearby Cypress in Orange County, California.

The population of Cypress was mostly white. However, Earl Woods is half African-American, one-quarter Chinese, and one-quarter Native American. Kultida is half Thai, one-quarter Chinese, and one-quarter Caucasian. The Woodses soon discovered they weren't exactly welcome in Cypress. At first, limes from local trees were thrown at their windows. Then their home became the target of BB guns. But the Woodses stayed put, and eventually the harassment ended.

Young Tiger

Earl and Kultida welcomed a son on December 30, 1975. They named him Eldrick, a name Kultida created from her and Earl's names. But from the beginning, his parents called him "Tiger," a nickname given in honor of a man who saved Earl's life in Vietnam years earlier.

During the 1960s, Earl served two tours of duty as a Green Beret in the Vietnam War. He worked closely with a South Vietnamese officer named Nguyen Phong. Twice Phong alerted Earl to what would have been deadly strikes — once by a North Vietnamese sniper and once by a poisonous snake. Earl called his friend "Tiger" because "he was a tiger in combat." The war ended two years after American soldiers left South Vietnam, when the North Vietnamese army overran South Vietnam. Though Earl hoped to keep in touch with his South Vietnamese friend, he

never heard from him again. But he wanted to honor Phong by calling his own son “Tiger.”

Earl Woods was a prominent baseball player in college at Kansas State University. However, when he was in his forties, he discovered another game he loved — golf. When Tiger was a baby, he would sit in his high chair and watch his father practice driving balls into a net. Kultida would try to feed Tiger, but he wanted to watch his father. So Earl would stop long enough for Tiger to eat a spoonful of food, then hit another shot. At ten months, when Tiger was still barely able to stand, he picked up a golf club that Earl had cut down to size and executed what looked like a perfect swing. Tiger smacked a golf ball into the net. “I was flabbergasted. I almost fell off my chair,” Earl said later.



Father and son. Earl and Tiger Woods share a love for golf and a special bond.
父亲和儿子。厄尔和泰格都十分热爱打高尔夫球,这是他们之间一种特殊的纽带。

A Gift for Golf

Even at Tiger's young age, Earl realized his son had a gift for golf. He decided that he would do everything to encourage it, and from that point on, Tiger had little use for typical baby toys. His favorite "toys" were a vacuum-cleaner hose, which he pretended was a golf club, and a tennis ball. When he was eighteen months old, Tiger was trying out the driving range. He'd swing an iron club Earl had cut down for him and hit a bucket of golf balls before he was ready to go home, have a bottle, and take a nap. Then Earl let him try playing a hole at the U.S. Navy golf course in Cypress. It was a par-four hole (which means a good golfer should get the ball from the teeing-off point to the hole with four hits of the ball), and Tiger scored an 11. He took eight shots to get it to the putting green, then three putts to get it in the cup.

When Tiger was two years old, Kultida called a Los Angeles television sports anchor to tell him about her son's remarkable golf abilities. The TV station sent a camera crew to the golf course, and Tiger made the local news. A producer for "The Mike Douglas Show," a nationwide talk show, saw Tiger on the news, and invited him to be on the show along with golf-loving entertainer Bob Hope. They had a putting contest, and Tiger complained that the putting green wasn't level, much to the amusement of Mike Douglas and Bob Hope.

During another television interview, he was asked how he'd become such a good golfer. "Practice," he answered. How much did he practice? "About a whole bunch."

The U.S. Navy golf course had a rule that children under age ten couldn't play without an adult, so Kultida looked for another